April 2014

From the Hill

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Recommended Citation
Boyle, Gerry; McCarthy, Jacob; Mailman, Erika; Mackenzie, G Calvin; and Leonard, Elizabeth (2014) "From the Hill," Colby Magazine: Vol. 102 : Iss. 4 , Article 8. Available at: https://digitalcommons.colby.edu/colbymagazine/vol102/iss4/8
Whether I decide to wake up early on a weekend and get first tracks on the mountain or simply choose to go for a run through the woods, my time spent in nature is my time to be silent. I opt out of being “plugged-in” and leave my headphones at home. The sound of ripping through powder, my footsteps on the trail, and my own laborious breathing are the only soundtrack I need. In a world filled with noise, I make room for silence. —Hannah Kwasman ’17

PHOTO BY CLAIRE EDELMAN ’15

This excerpt is from an essay written for the environmental studies course The Story of People and Nature: American Environmental Writing, taught by Visiting Assistant Professor of English Susan H. MacKenzie ’80. Kwasman’s essay was voted best in the class by her peers.
Hats off to CAPS

“EXTRAORDINARY” SCIENCES PROGRAM GIVES STUDENTS FROM UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS THE TOOLS TO SUCCEED

Shamika Murray ’14 was a high-achieving science student from a big public high school in Philadelphia. But soon after arriving on Mayflower Hill she learned that Colby academics were at a whole new level. “I had a really tough freshman year,” she said. “Academically, I wasn’t ready for the workload. It was nothing like my high school. I probably only made it through because of CAPS.”

A Colby Achievement Program in the Sciences (CAPS) scholar, Murray spoke from Australia, where she was spending a semester abroad last fall. The psychology-neuroscience major does laboratory research at Colby on addiction and plans to go to graduate school in psychology. But Murray remembers vividly the nervous student of four years ago—and now makes sure to dispense advice to younger CAPS scholars. “I tell them, ‘This is going to get better. You’re going to get used to this. It’s okay,’” Murray said.

“It’s been more than okay for participants in CAPS, which for the past four years has given selected students from underrepresented groups a jump start in the sciences—and now is seeing its first class approach graduation.

“Academically, I wasn’t ready for the workload. It was nothing like my high school. I probably only made it through because of CAPS.”

Colby / SPRING 2014

Colby donor funds CAPS for five more years

The intent is to remove obstacles that have historically kept minority students from succeeding in sciences, especially rigorous study in chemistry and biology. “This is a national problem,” said Charles Terrell ’70, who spent his career working to increase diversity in the nation’s medical schools.

Colby, by all accounts, has found a fix. The summer before their first year, CAPS scholars come to Mayflower Hill for six weeks of work in the classroom and the laboratory. Once classes begin, CAPS students have a ready-made group of science-leaning friends, connections to faculty, and enough momentum to carry them through the most difficult stages of the science majors. Grant funds are available for summer research jobs. “I had come in knowing I was going to do chemistry, and this whole process, this support system, helped me stick with it,” said Courtney McIntosh-Peters ’14. “I just kept going. Head down.”

And while CAPS students kept their heads in their books, the numbers went up. In the 25-year period leading up to CAPS there were just 43 African-American and Latino/Latina science majors, Tilden said. This year alone there are 86 science majors among African-American, Latino/Latina, and Native American students at Colby. The science grade point average for students of color before CAPS was 1.8. The science GPA for current students of color is 2.7 and climbing.

Pre-CAPS, “students were just not feeling that they belonged in the sciences,” Tilden said. “And when they did start to struggle, as nearly all first-year students do, instead of coming to us for help, they felt more or less alone and isolated.”

That’s no longer the case, and the results were evident with the first class. “It was really successful right from the start,” said Associate Professor of Chemistry and program codirector Jeffrey Katz.

“CAPS 1, as the first group is called, began with 13 students. One student withdrew for personal reasons. Of the remaining, 10 have majored in a science (including a religious studies double major), one in sociology, and another in human development—and several said CAPS has been the key to their academic and general success. “I think it gave me a
Charles Terrell ’70 spent his career working to “change the face of medicine to reflect the face of America.” A Colby trustee who formerly worked in minority recruitment at Boston University Medical School and the Association of American Medical Colleges, Terrell says the Colby Achievement Program in the Sciences (CAPS) is, in fact, changing the face of science. “What Colby has done I believe is extraordinary to a great degree,” he said. “It may even be revolutionary.”

The formidable task is to change the climate in the sciences in American higher education, which Terrell says is often not welcoming to students from underrepresented groups. Many of those African-American, Latino, and Native American students have been prepared in school systems where science resources are inadequate. “On top of being college-ready, being able and prepared to work in the sciences is yet another hurdle for underrepresented groups,” Terrell said.

Even for those who excel in high school, challenges remain, he said, with stereotypes that tell them they won’t succeed and few role models to show otherwise.

Colby’s science faculty has come up with a solution, he said, with professors committing time and energy to solving a problem that many institutions have addressed with far less success.

“’To find the kind of faculty openness that the Colby science faculty is providing is absolutely unheard of,'” Terrell said.

That plan worked for the CAPS 1 group, which is still close four years after arriving. “It’s like a little family,” Robinson said.

Added Ebunoluwa “Benji” Benjamin ’14, “Everyone struggles at Colby … and it takes time to find your niche. We had each other to lean on.”

The group still eats dinner together and studies together in the science buildings. According to Tilden, they’ve drawn other students to them. “It’s international students. It’s students of color who were not in CAPS. You see students working together in ways that we’ve always wanted to see our students do.”

If students do leave the sciences, it isn’t because they don’t feel welcome or comfortable, she said. “They just found something they loved more.”

Most have found a niche in science, though. For Benjamin, it’s microbiology and public health, which she studies with Professor Frank Fekete.

Benjamin, who is from New Jersey and studied in Cork, Ireland, said she sorely missed her CAPS 1 friends and professors when she was abroad. “Relationships I’ve built with people in CAPS,” she said, “are something I’ll cherish for the rest of my life.”

Not only do CAPS scholars have faculty mentors and a solid group of science-oriented friends, but they are go-to students for others looking for tips on how to cope. Murray advises non-CAPS students to find what she has: a solid support system of students and professors. “You can always come talk to them,” she said.

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What Birds Tell Us
BY PLAYING THE SONGS OF CHICKADEES, KATERINA FAUST ’14 MAY REVEAL FOREST SECRETS

JACOB MCCARTHY STORY BARB WALLS PHOTO

On a Monday morning during Jan Plan, Katerina Faust ’14 started her day with a walk in Colby’s Perkins Arboretum. There was snow on the ground, and freezing rain was falling. The temperature was 19 degrees. She placed a small plastic speaker on a mound of frozen earth and took out her notebook. “This will take about thirty minutes,” she said. “You really shouldn’t talk or move.”

For the next half hour, she stood still, eyes trained on the branches of fir and pine above, and she occasionally played a brief prerecorded chickadee call. A biology major from Bainbridge Island, Wash., Faust is trying to get a better idea of how things like temperature and tree cover affect chickadees and other birds.

The conditions she works under aren’t always comfortable, but ornithologist and Arey Professor of Biosciences Herb Wilson, who oversees the project, said her work could be a valuable addition to what scientists know about black-capped chickadee winter ecology. Additionally, because chickadee calls are often used to assess the populations of other bird species, knowing what may skew those numbers up or down could yield more accurate counts in the future, he said. “She’s doing something that has implications for a methodology used by a wide range of researchers.”

For her study Faust carefully selected 13 spots in which to capture data about bird behavior. They are all on campus, but some are in areas that seem like deep woods. She hits each spot about twice weekly to run through a careful schedule of waiting quietly, playing a quick call, and taking note of what happens. “I try to write down everything I observe as I observe it,” she said, demonstrating a waterproof notepad and special pen that allow her to record data in the cold, wet conditions a field researcher expects in Maine.

Wearing a parka, knit hat, and fleece-lined boots, Faust took her mittens off only to write or swipe her smartphone to instruct the Bluetooth-connected speaker to play the calls. Different calls have diverse effects—a low threat call might elicit a response from other birds, while a territorial call can clear chickadees out of the area. Some calls she uses she recorded on Mayflower Hill using a microphone setup. “Basically I walk around in the woods with a big plastic cone and a recorder box,” Faust said. “I get some weird looks from other people when I go out.”

This isn’t Faust’s first foray into serious ornithology. Last summer she lived on Eastern Egg Rock, a seven-acre treeless island in Maine’s Muscongus Bay, to observe puffins for the Audubon Society. She intends to continue her study in the biological sciences in graduate school.

When Faust moved to her second spot of the morning, it was still 19 degrees. The wind was strong, and the freezing rain came down faster and in bigger drops. A red-tailed hawk was circling the rugby field when she emerged from the woods and set up under an apple tree. “They’ll usually come right into this tree,” she said, looking up at the branches just over her head.

For a half hour she waited, but no songbirds appeared. The hawk or the weather might have deterred them. “I’ll try to come back some other time, to see if the hawk had an effect,” she said, brushing snow off her speaker for the walk back to Arey Life Sciences Building, where she would she would plan her next foray.

“But it’ll have to be when the weather conditions are similar, unfortunately.”

Katerina Faust ’14 listens to bird calls in Perkins Arboretum after playing chickadee calls in the woods. The reaction of birds to the calls, linked to temperature and other conditions, will help gauge the effectiveness of other studies.

Philanthropy at Work
In choosing a college, Katerina Faust ’14 found Colby’s student research opportunities attractive, but she knew she’d need solid financial assistance to make it work. That help came in the form of the Colby Twentieth Century Alumni Scholarship Aid fund. Created with a $1-million commitment in 1994 and now, with subsequent gifts, valued at more than $5 million, the fund has made Colby possible for 23 students. “It was a major deciding factor,” Faust said, “because I wouldn’t graduate with tons of loans. That kind of debt would make it pretty hard to keep going in graduate school.”
Exploring Common Ground

Jorge Olivares and Writer Reinaldo Arenas Found Parallels in Their Pasts and Presents

Many writers grow close to a subject after years of research, poring over documents and papers, parsing works line by line. Jorge Olivares felt tied to the subject of his latest book, the Cuban writer Reinaldo Arenas, before the project even began.

Olivares, the Allen Family Professor of Latin American Literature at Colby, has devoted much of his life’s work to studying Arenas, whose success was squelched as punishment for political dissidence and being openly gay in Castro’s Cuba. A refugee in the United States, Arenas committed suicide in 1990. The title of Olivares’s new book, Becoming Reinaldo Arenas, refers to the way Arenas grew into literary fame, but it is also a nod to the significant parallels in Olivares’s and Arenas’s lives.

Like Arenas, Olivares was a child in Cuba, though the Olivares family lived in an educated, upper-middle-class world in Oriente province (his father was a mechanical engineer educated in the United States), while Arenas’s childhood was marked by poverty. Like Arenas, Olivares fled Cuba (Arenas by himself as a 37-year-old man, Olivares at 12 with his family), and both were made to feel unwelcome in the United States. “Back then,” said Olivares, of the era before multiculturalism in Miami, “we were treated like shit.”

The list of commonalities goes on.

Both gay men lost their fathers early in life. Olivares’s father died in 1960 when Jorge was 10, two years before his mother packed up the family to move to the United States. Arenas lost his father when he was abandoned as a child, and the psychological repercussions of that betrayal flood his work and are essential to understanding his oeuvre.

These correspondences ally the two men, who knew each other. “We didn’t become close friends, but we were in some contact,” Olivares said.

Early in his book Olivares explores a connection Arenas felt for a forebear writer of several generations earlier, Fray Servando. Arenas wrote of Servando, “You and I are the same person.” And when he inscribed a book to Olivares, Arenas wrote, “[You know] how to dig deep into the twists and turns of my hallucinatory world, which is ours.”

Olivares can pinpoint the moment his exploration of that world began, more than 30 years ago. He was reading Arenas’s memoirs and came across a passage in which Arenas describes his only interaction with his father, at a riverbank when he was 5 years old. “His mother starts throwing rocks at his father, who gives him two pesos and walks away. That moment crystallizes a profound feeling of loss—not just for his father, but for his fatherland.” By the time Arenas was writing his memoirs, he had left his beloved but troubled Cuba. “I realized that passage touched me in ways no other text has,” Olivares said. “I could see my own search for my father and my fatherland, padre and patria.”

Olivares’s book recounts Arenas’s lifelong struggle and examines his novels, a mixture of biography and analysis.

In his suicide note, Arenas blamed Castro: “There is only one person I hold accountable: Fidel Castro. The sufferings of exile, the pain of being banished from my country, the loneliness, and the diseases contracted in exile would probably never have happened if I had been able to enjoy freedom in my country.”

To illustrate the depths of misery faced by gay men under Castro’s regime, Olivares writes that in the mid-1960s Castro established work camps for nonconformists. “Work will make you men,” said signs posted in the camps, eerily reminiscent of the signs on the entry gates to Auschwitz and other Nazi concentration camps—“Work will make you free.”

Olivares quotes literary critic Gerald Martin, who wrote, “Had he been born outside of Cuba, Arenas would probably have become one of the most successful Latin American exponents of the Magical Realist mode.” In other words, Arenas would have been in the ranks of Gabriel García Márquez, Isabel Allende, Jorge Luis Borges, and others.

Olivares was among a handful of scholars to whom Arenas sent copies of his last manuscripts. Two months later Olivares was sitting in his faculty office in Miller Library at Colby when a colleague handed him a clipping from the New York Times—Arenas’s obituary.

But Arenas’s death was not the end of his literary career. In 1993 his photo appeared on the cover of the New York Times Book Review: “When I saw that, I started laughing,” Olivares said. “He hated the New York Times; he thought it was too much to the left.” Since then, Arenas has been embraced by The Advocate magazine and others, and his autobiography has shown up on lists of the 100 best gay books.

“He became a superstar,” said Olivares. His book will help sustain Arenas’s literary reputation, ensuring that the works and life of the man and writer who provided such inspiration will be recognized long after his death.

Allen Family Professor of Latin American Literature Jorge Olivares has found parallels in his life and that of fellow Cuban-American Reinaldo Arenas, a renowned writer who fled Cuba and Fidel Castro’s policies that persecuted gays and others determined to be “nonconformists.”
Another Century, in Real Time

DORIS KEARNS GOODWIN ’64 EXPLORES A TIME WHEN UNLIKELY REFORMERS Fought THE GOOD FIGHT—AND WON

G. CALVIN MACKENZIE REVIEW

Imagine a country where children and women work long hours in gruesome factories for pennies a day, where food and drugs are produced in unsanitary facilities and marketed unscrupulously, where railroads control state legislatures, tyrannical party bosses dominate elections, and corrupt political machines run nearly every large city. That was America in September of 1901 when an assassin’s bullet killed William McKinley and made Theodore Roosevelt president. That was the America that Roosevelt and the Progressives of the era sought to reform.

Readers of Doris Kearns Goodwin’s Bully Pulpit soon come to realize that this was no small task. The wealthiest and most powerful forces in the country were staunch defenders of the status quo. The reformers had few weapons and fewer precedents for success. And yet, remarkably, they managed to turn the instruments of government to their own purposes and to begin the long process of protecting vulnerable Americans from the excesses of both politics and capitalism.

This is a rich and complex tale peopled by large extended families as well as politicians, businessmen, and journalists. But Goodwin tells it so well that it reads like a thriller.

The first decade of the 20th century was a pivot point in American history, and in this richly researched and beautifully written book Goodwin brings it to life. Teddy Roosevelt—hyperkinetic, polymath, elevated to ever-greater ambitions by victory, undaunted by defeat—dominated the era.

But Roosevelt, we learn, was not the only player on this large stage. We get to know William Howard Taft, a much more complex character than conventional histories have portrayed. No match for Roosevelt in personality but very much his equal in intelligence, judgment, and character, Taft is the indispensable man, the competent yin to TR’s very loud yang. Their friendship guides and informs Roosevelt’s presidency; their falling-out undermines Taft’s and, in its extremity, leads to the end of both political careers in 1912.

Reform requires substantive purpose, not merely political energy, and much of the agenda for this era of Progressive reform was set in the offices of McClure’s Magazine in New York. Sam McClure led one of the greatest teams of journalistic talent ever collected in one publication. Ida Tarbell, Lincoln Steffens, Ray Stannard Baker, and Jacob Riis dug deeply into the ills and excesses of the time. Their investigative reporting forced the public and its politicians to confront the monopolistic practices of rapacious corporations, the extent of big-city corruption, the miserable living conditions of immigrants, and a long list of profound dangers to public health. So vivid and accurate was their reporting that no respectable society could turn its back on these problems. And America did not.

This is a rich and complex tale peopled by large extended families as well as politicians, businessmen, and journalists. But Goodwin tells it so well that it reads like a thriller. The research is so seamlessly integrated into the narrative that one feels like an eavesdropper on the conversations of the main characters. We hear the words of TR and Taft and Tarbell. It seems like we’re right there, in real time, not simply poking through century-old curiosities. The issues compel us because they speak powerfully to many of the problems we face right now.

Goodwin’s earlier books have earned her a reputation as our leading tour guide through the complexities of the American presidency. Bully Pulpit embellishes that reputation. This is history at its best, weaving the times and the people who risked, ruled, failed, and tried again into an opulent tapestry that elucidates the past and informs the present.

—G. Calvin Mackenzie is the Goldfarb Family Distinguished Professor of American Government at Colby.

The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and the Golden Age of Journalism
Doris Kearns Goodwin ’64
Simon and Schuster (2013)
Slavery Played a Key Role in the War—of 1812

ELIZABETH LEONARD REVIEW

Readers may be familiar with the idea of the War of 1812 as an afterthought of the American Revolution, but they avoid assuming that historian Alan Taylor's new book is pro forma. In fact, Taylor's meticulously researched, compellingly written, and richly illuminating work examines this under-studied conflict from several fascinating, interconnected perspectives.

The Internal Enemy—whose title refers to white Virginians' awareness that "their exploitation and domination" of blacks "had bred an internal enemy who longed for freedom"—explores how (and why) during this war thousands of slaves in the American South took flight, transforming their own lives and British military strategy and undermining the security and economic well-being of white Southern slaveholders as well as their faith in the federal government as a reliable guardian of the "peculiar institution."

Taylor '77 begins with a reassessment of the role that slavery and the international slavery debate played in inspiring white Virginians' commitment to the first war for American independence. He also reassesses the Revolution's role in stirring American slaves' faith—well beyond Yorktown—that the British king was, or could be, "their protector."

The book then details developments in the years before 1812 that only exacerbated the slaves' yearning for emancipation. Taylor highlights the Virginia legislature's abolition of traditional inheritance laws that had previously "inhibited the breaking up of [slave] families by sale" and their substitution with new laws that encouraged cash-hungry slave owners to sell human property without regard to the family relationships of slaves—many of whose stories Taylor has researched with uncommon patience. These new laws enhanced slaves' desire for freedom not just for its own sake but increasingly as the only sure way to keep their families intact.

No wonder, then, that some 5,000 slaves took their chances with the freedom-promising British invaders during the War of 1812, providing strategic intelligence, access to supplies, general labor, and even military might in the form of organized units of black marines serving under white officers.

Without giving away too much of the heart of the tale, it is worth mentioning one more of this excellent book's many striking features: the important and persuasive connections Taylor draws between the War of 1812 and the brutal sectional conflict that began in 1861. These include the tensions the war intensified between heavily Federalist New England and the predominantly Republican South; the lasting resentment it fostered in Virginia toward the federal government, which demonstrated little apparent interest in protecting the state from invasion or preventing the slaves from running away; the willingness of the enemy to deploy black men in organized military units and otherwise to gain the victory; and white slaveholders' postwar determination to extend slavery westward to protect it.

Taylor leaves readers shaking their heads that 19th-century scholars ever could have considered the War of 1812 unimportant and dull.

—Elizabeth D. Leonard is the John J. and Cornelia V. Gibson Professor of History at Colby.

The Internal Enemy
Alan Taylor '77
W. W. Norton and Company (2013)

The Adventures of a Regular Colby Guy, at Home and at War

The odd thing is that Ed Mowry's formative years, detailed in this fast-moving memoir, weren't all that unusual for the time.

Now a California veterinarian, Mowry '66 grew up in Seattle and New Jersey, where he had a rambunctious childhood with his oldest brother. He came to Colby intent on playing football, discovered literature, bicycled around Europe, tried scuba diving for treasure, worked at a Seattle zoo, and decided to enlist in the Marine Corps rather than leave his fate to the British military—or to the CIA.

In short order Mowry survived the grueling gantlet of Officer Candidate School at Quantico and helicopter flight training, and he was sent to Vietnam to pilot the CH-46, the twin-rotor workhorse of that war. Not long after being an adventurous Colby student, Mowry found himself ferrying wounded Marines to offshore hospital ships, inserting troops into hostile territory, and once, he writes, delivering mercenaries to Laos for the CIA.

One "routine" mission called for Mowry to extract a Marine reconnaissance team pinned down by the enemy on a mountainside southeast of Da Nang. With planes and helicopters delivering covering fire, he maneuvered the chopper into position so a ladder could be lowered through the jungle canopy and the five Marines could clip on.

As I approach the [position], the flares go out, and there's only darkness. If I turn on my landing lights, to provide a visual reference, I'm a bull's eye. The Marines could set off a flare but they're sort of busy at the moment, also trying to be inconspicuous and not get shot. ... As luck would have it, there's a small secondary fire in the high elephant grass surrounding the recon team. The fire provides just enough light to allow me to hover, and we lower the ladder.

The Marines are hoisted up and flown to safety, still clipped to the dangling ladder. Another day in the war zone.

This and other accounts are delivered with a self-effacing matter-of-factness, as are Mowry's reflections on the war, which he declares "ugly, immoral, pernicious," despite the courage of young Marines. Much has been written about Vietnam, and this unassuming memoir adds one story that ultimately is much greater than the sum of its parts. —Gerry Boyle '78
**On Goddesses, Aliens, and Avatars**

Since her debut novel in 2011, *Bloodspell*, Amalie Gosine Howard ’97 hasn’t looked back, publishing three additional young-adult novels, including two already this year. The Caribbean-born French and international studies major moves easily from fictional world to fictional world, inventing an undersea princess who fights to save her kind and her kingdom, the human avatar of an immortal Indian goddess, and a girl soldier from a parallel universe whose mission lands her in the strange world we know as Earth. All in a year’s work for Howard, who has lived and traveled in North America, Europe, Asia, and Australia, and who delights in using her experiences as the seeds for her shape-shifting fiction. The stories involve witches, oceanic aliens, and veterans of android wars, but the lessons aren’t lost on today’s earthbound teens who sometimes must bridge different worlds of their own.

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**Silhouette**

*The Bohemian Quartet*

Stan Renard

As violinist and arranger of all the songs on the Bohemian Quartet’s CD *Silhouette*, released in December, Colby Orchestra Director Stan Renard brings Romany, AKA “Gypsy,” music to shimmering, vibrant, energetic life with three accomplished collaborators. The challenging melodies and meters, fluid tempo changes, and soaring glissandi showcase Renard’s virtuosic mastery of his instrument. The music is so technically challenging that few could aspire to keep the classic Eastern European folk traditions alive and available to North American audiences. But Renard and the quartet not only succeed in that, they’ve embroidered upon it, turning the dark minor keys and soaring dance melodies into an aural tapestry that is complex, contrasting, and compelling. Visit bohemianquartet.com for details, including concert dates throughout the eastern United States—SBC

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**Style Bible: What to Wear to Work**

Lauren A. Rothman ’99

Bibilomotion (2013)

Renowned for her column on style and politics, “Fashion Whip,” for the Huffington Post, Lauren Rothman guides interns and CEOs alike toward the perfect balance between appropriate and stylish in the workplace. *Style Bible* is the ultimate style resource for busy professionals and a go-to source for understanding dress codes by industry, city, and gender. The “styleauteur’s” advice, anecdotes, and rules of thumb prevent fashion mistakes at the office, and her shopping strategies help readers build a versatile, fashion-forward wardrobe with the right thing to wear for every occasion. With a decade of experience in the fashion industry, Rothman helps the modern professional dress for success and dress to impress. —Christina Dong ’17

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**The Little Rippers**

*Rebecca Munsterer ’01*

**Novel Nibble Publishing (2013)**

This chapter book for younger readers introduces brother and sister Max and Molly on their annual ski weekend with their grandfather at Powderhound Mountain. The pair worry about keeping up with the Little Rippers ski group, but soon the kids find themselves off the trail and entangled in a backcountry ski adventure they won’t ever forget. Readers are rewarded with a family pancake recipe, a ski game, and craft projects to round out their experience.

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**Wicked Hard**

*David Surette ’79*

**Keenisha Publications (2013)**

Surette is back with his fourth book of poems, which is really a memoir of growing up in Massachusetts with hockey and rock ‘n’ roll, rambunctious brothers, and girls who mesmerize like mythological Sirens. But Surette, a high school teacher and coach, knows that these moments, strung together, are our lifeblood, even if it’s blood spilled during a playground fight. A girl at a junior high dance is “beautiful/ for sure, but like a movie ghost, I could walk/ right through her.” A motorcycle damaged in a fatal crash is “on its side/ like someone resting on one arm.” Turns of phrase illuminate a teenager’s life rendered here by the filter of Surette’s sympathetic but unflinching sensibility. It’s like being reminded that these things you remember are, as you half suspected, ultimately the stuff of life itself.

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**Extraordinary Jane**

*Hannah Smith Harrison ’01*

**Dial (2014)**

Harrison is both writer and illustrator of this, her debut children’s book for ages 3-5. Her publisher describes her as a “talent to watch,” and certainly *Extraordinary Jane* is a picture book to read aloud to a child while poring over the rich illustrations. The story is about Jane, a circus dog whose family stars in the big top. Trapeze artists, strongmen, acrobats, and stunt dogs, the rest of the fuzzy gang brims in talent. Jane attempts these circus skills but fails miserably, leading the circus master and readers to the conclusion that the pup’s real skill lies in being “a really good dog.” It’s a sweet tale that will leave adults smiling as well.