

ASCENT

A PUBLICATION OF THE COLBY COLLEGE OFFICE OF GIFT PLANNING

Alum Spotlight

Class of 1975

Creating a joint legacy for financial aid

Inspired by the Class of 1974, the '75 committee is creating a group-funded scholarship. Leading the effort are class chair **Laurie Fitts Loosigian '75**, gift chair **Deborah Marson '75**, and gift planning chair **Susan Conant Cook '75**.

Deborah, who made an outright gift, said, "Three generations of our family have had the benefit of a Colby education, which opened doors to careers, influenced the communities in which we live, and importantly resulted in invaluable lifelong friendships. It is my great honor to be able to extend the Colby experience to deserving students who I hope will seize the opportunities of a Colby education."



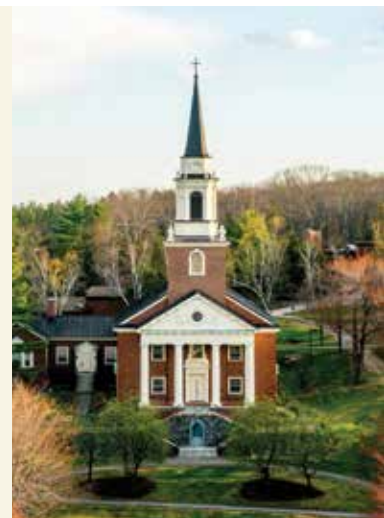
Class of 1975 at their 45th reunion on campus.

As a former Colby Advancement staff member, Sue knew she could support her class goals with a deferred gift. She decided to designate a charitable gift annuity; the gift will pay income to Sue and her husband Jim Cook '78, then the proceeds will add to the fund. "I am grateful for all that Colby gave me and want to help future students have the financial support to attend Colby," she said.

According to Laurie, she was "a scholarship recipient and a Maine kid from a blue-collar family." She

attended Colby with the help of a generous financial aid package: "I thrived at Colby in women's ice hockey and other sports, dorm leadership, and my campus job in the Annual Giving office, where I learned how important unrestricted gifts are to the wellbeing of the college." Noting her commitment to making a gift to the Colby Fund as well as a bequest to the scholarship, she wrote, "My heart is deep in the scholarship effort for a class gift for our 50th reunion."

Advancement staff members are here to help any class realize their dream of leaving a lasting impact at Colby College.



Dear friends,

As a born-and-raised Midwesterner, I share with New Englanders a feeling that what we achieve in life is a combination of luck and hard work. For example, meeting my husband through a friend in college was luck, but keeping up that long-distance relationship senior year was work! Similarly, Colby came into our lives through luck, but we all arrived at Colby through a great deal of hard work.

If you've been to campus recently, you know we aren't much for sitting still. Transforming Mayflower Hill and downtown Waterville has required work, planning, and long-term investment. Such a transformation has also depended on the loyalty and support of folks like you – which, of course, we are lucky to have. Your support and involvement matters.

In the coming year, we hope to get out into regions of the United States (and internationally) to express our gratitude for that support. We as staff are looking forward to the programming as a way to meet our community, and bring a little of Maine and Colby to you where you live.

And no matter how long it has been since your last trip to campus, you belong and are welcome. We will always be happy to see you.

Yours in gratitude,

Valerie Sherman, JD, CFP®
Assistant Vice President,
Major and Planned Giving



We're here to help.

Contact us at 1-800-809-0103 or
giftplanning@colby.edu.
You can also find us online
at giftplanning.colby.edu.



Colby Legacy Society at Reunion 2024

Every year, the Colby Legacy Society hosts a brunch for members of the community who have included the College in their financial plans. This year, our speaker was Kevin L. Smith, the Michael & Eugenia Wormser Director of Libraries, who spoke about academic libraries in the 21st century. Attendees learned about the important role of libraries like Colby's regarding digital collections, unique holdings, and scholarship support. We all breathed a collective sigh of relief when Kevin confirmed, "Libraries will survive!"

In attendance were several alumni celebrating their milestone 50th Reunion, five Colby couples, 13 legacy society members who have given to Colby for 40+ years, five former staff members, former student athletes of 13 different sports, and former members of several key volunteer groups on campus, including the Board of Trustees, Board of Visitors, and the Museum



Colby staff Valerie Sherman, Beth Bridger, Brooke Sukhavasi, and Brendan Doherty.

Board of Governors. Many blue families also attended: we hosted 12 parents, five grandparents, six children, and seven siblings of Colby graduates!

In Memoriam

Colby College acknowledges alumni and friends who have recently passed away, leaving thoughtful bequests to the College:

Robert J. Bruce '59, GP'10
John F. Church Jr. '59
Gerard Gehrke
Franklin E. Huntress '56
Carolyn Nelson '56

Donald E. Nicoll '49
Anne Palmer '55
Andrew Wheeler
William B. Williamson '71

Bequest gifts from alumni, parents, and friends enable future generations of students to thrive at Colby.

An Interview with Randi Maloney '09, Vice President and Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid, on Colby's Drive to Provide Access



Q: Can you share an overview of the admissions process at Colby?

A: Our admissions and financial aid team is second to none, in my opinion. We practice a holistic review process, carefully evaluating each applicant as an individual within the context of their unique background. Our goal is to identify talented, impactful, intellectually curious students who will contribute to Colby's vibrant community, take advantage of the opportunities afforded them, and be ready to tackle the most complex challenges facing our world.

We believe applying to college should not be expensive or complicated, and we've taken steps to simplify our processes to reflect this. The College eliminated its application fee and supplemental essay requirements more than a decade ago. And since 2018, students have been able to choose whether or not they include their SAT or ACT scores with their application.

Q: Why do you think Colby's application pool has grown so much over the last decade?

A: These days the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid communicates directly with millions of students worldwide, compared to around 30,000 when I first started working

in admissions. We've formed partnerships with school counselors and community-based organizations and built meaningful networks with programs and organizations such as QuestBridge, the American Talent Initiative, and the Small Town and Rural Scholars Network. We've also benefited from a number of extraordinary and distinctive campus initiatives and investments—the Lunder Institute for American Art, DavisConnects, the Davis Institute for Artificial Intelligence, the McVey Center for Computational and Data Sciences, the Gordon Center for Creative and Performing Arts, and the Harold Alford Athletics and Recreation Center, to name a few.

Q: How does Colby provide 100-percent aid to those in need?

A: Colby has more than doubled its financial aid budget since President Greene arrived in Waterville, from approximately \$28 million in 2014 to more than \$60 million today. This growth has come not only through donations to the Dare Northward campaign, but also from intentional leadership decisions aimed at ensuring Colby can recruit and enroll the most talented students from all backgrounds.

Importantly, we've also taken steps to simplify what is often a complex and challenging process for students and families. Our policy ensuring a \$0 parent or guardian contribution for

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Class of 2028

19,187
APPLICATIONS
IN 2024
(compared to 5,148 in 2014)

7%
ACCEPTANCE
RATE

628
TOTAL
ENROLLEES

17%
FIRST
GENERATION
STUDENTS

17%
PELL GRANT
RECIPIENTS

40
STATES

50+
COUNTRIES

14%
NON-U.S.
STUDENTS

An Interview with Randi Maloney '09 (continued)

44% RECEIVE  **FINANCIAL AID**

families earning up to \$75,000 with typical assets, as well as our recently expanded Fair Shot Fund policy to support middle income families often left behind in these efforts, have sent a signal about Colby's deep and ongoing commitment to access and affordability.

Q: As an alumna who received financial aid, tell us how it feels to lead this effort for the next generation!

A: As a first-generation-to-college student from rural western Maine, my experience at Colby opened my eyes to the world and changed the entire trajectory of my life. So many people played a part in making that journey possible, from the faculty and staff who nurtured my growth, to the donors who supported Colby and my education, to the extraordinary alumni and friends who opened doors and offered guidance along the way. It is an incredible honor to play one small part of that for the next generation.

Campus Calendar

- Oct. 19** Colby Symphony Orchestra: Brahms and Poulenc
- Oct. 21–25** National Estate Planning Awareness Week
- Oct. 22** F. Russell Cole Distinguished Lecture in Environmental Studies: Jenna Jambeck, Ph.D.
- Oct. 23** Colby Gift Planning virtual event: Estate Planning with Matt Getty '04
- Nov. 2** Colby Jazz Band: Vocal Jazz with Big Band
- Nov. 9** *Into the Wind: American Weathervanes* (new Museum exhibition)
- Nov. 14–16, 18** Colby Theater and Dance Companies: *Break, Burn, Build*
- Nov. 22–24** Winter Sports Celebration
- Dec. 6** *Square + Triangle: Home in the Colby Museum's Collection* (new Museum exhibition)
- Dec. 6** Last day of classes
- Dec. 7** Colby Symphony Orchestra: Dvorak and Stravinsky

For a complete list of events, visit events.colby.edu.

Guest Column

Peace of Mind

Two years ago, I joined the gift planning team at Bates College, where I work closely with estate attorneys to realize deferred gifts to Bates. In this role, I have had the pleasure of getting to know the gift planning team at Colby, since there is great collaboration within the "CBB."

Soon after starting this role, I realized the importance of having an estate plan and contacted my attorney about updating our will. The last time I had thought about a will was when my two kids were babies. I was most concerned about establishing guardianship in case something happened to my husband and me. Fast forward twenty years, my kids are now out of college and guardianship is no longer an issue. Our focus has changed to sorting out what should happen to our assets. Most importantly, sorting out estate plans does not have to be a



Candace Killmer Corey '93

focus on end-of-life, but rather a time to reflect on what is important to you.

Who are the most cherished people in your life?

What organizations have been instrumental in shaping who you are or what organizations are having an impact on the causes that mean the most to you?

Reflecting and documenting your thoughts allows loved ones to feel confident about carrying out your wishes. Importantly, creating a will does not mean your decisions are set in stone. As we all know, life can be unpredictable. Wills are revocable: as life circumstances change, so can your will. I have peace of mind knowing our kids do not have to make tough decisions and that our will can be easily updated.



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