FALL 2026

ASCENT

A PUBLICATION OF THE COLBY COLLEGE OFFICE OF GIFT PLANNING

Donor Spotlight

Terry, The Law, and Colby

John '68 and Terry Leopold

"Colby is a huge part of who I am today," says John Leopold '68, reflecting on his time at Colby, where he majored in government. Although John grew up in Pennsylvania, his summers at camp in Maine sparked a lifelong love of the state. John is grateful that he found his way to Waterville—and that his Colby experience helped shape the person and professional he became.

To honor that experience, John and his wife Terry Leopold have named Colby as a remainder beneficiary of their will, with their gift designated to support the libraries. Libraries hold special meaning for both John and Terry, who built careers in law and academia and shared fond memories of studying in libraries throughout their lives.

While at Colby, John took a Thanksgiving trip to Boston to visit a Maine summer camp friend who was attending law school at Harvard. That trip helped set him on the path to a lifelong legal career. After law school, John spent 13 years running his own practice, followed by 19 years as a trial judge in Colorado. He is now completing his work with JAMS (Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services), focusing on mediation and arbitration. Throughout his career, John says the well-rounded liberal arts education he received at Colby was invaluable, giving him a broader perspective when approaching the law.

As John puts it, "If someone were to look deep into my soul, they would find Terry, the law, and Colby engraved there." The couple's gift is both an expression of gratitude for John's Colby education and a tribute to the enduring value of libraries and to Terry's career as an academic librarian.

Establishing their legacy gift has given John and Terry the peace of mind of knowing their wishes are clear and that their philanthropic vision for Colby will live on.

Colby | DARE NORTH WARD

From Gift Planning Staff

Dear friends,

The fall semester has started and the leaves have changed color. Fall in Maine is always one of my favorite seasons!

Libraries have long been at the heart of a thriving academic community. More than places to house books, they are vibrant spaces where curiosity is sparked, ideas are exchanged, and lifelong learning begins. Every student who walks through the library's doors has the opportunity to discover new perspectives, deepen their understanding, and build the critical thinking skills that will serve them throughout their lives.

While the ways we access information continue to evolve, the role of the library remains as important as ever. Today's libraries provide access to cutting-edge technology, digital collections, collaborative study spaces, and expert librarians who guide students through an increasingly complex information landscape. They foster creativity, encourage meaningful research, and create a welcoming environment where every learner can thrive.

For alumni, the library often holds cherished memories—late nights preparing for exams, spirited conversations with classmates, or the excitement of uncovering a source that transformed a project or inspired a new passion. These experiences become part of the foundation upon which careers and lives are built.

Yours in gratitude,

Brooke

Brooke Sukhavasi
Director of Gift Planning
Colby College

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.

Succession planning for donor-advised funds

Naming a successor beneficiary for your donor-advised fund (DAF) is an important part of creating a lasting charitable legacy. By designating a family member, loved one, or charitable organization to receive the remaining assets in your DAF, you can ensure your philanthropic values continue beyond your lifetime. Taking this simple step today provides clarity for your family and helps ensure that the charitable causes you care about will continue to benefit in the future.

1. PROTECT YOUR INTENT
A succession plan ensures your charitable wishes are carried out according to your values.

2. PROVIDE CLARITY FOR LOVED ONES
Naming a successor removes uncertainty and helps your family avoid difficult decisions later.

3. ENSURE CONTINUED IMPACT
Your DAF can continue supporting the causes you love, even after you're gone.

4. SUPPORT FUTURE GENERATIONS
Involve family members or next-generation donors in your philanthropic legacy.

5. MAKE IT SIMPLE, MAKE IT LAST
Designating a successor beneficiary is easy and can be updated as your plans evolve.

In Memoriam

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

Ceylon L. Barclay '62
Robert C. Fischer '54
Gail Gerrish '62
Kennard Hirsch
Roger Landay '56
Josephine P. McAlary '44
Susan K. Moxley '70
Mary-Alice R. Symmes '58, P'81
Kathleen M. Vogt '56
Judith A. Webb '62
Margaret T. Wescott

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

L Slingluff

Beyond the Bookshelves

The Evolving Role of Colby Libraries

We had the opportunity to connect with **L Slingluff,** the Michael and Eugenia Wormser Director of Libraries, to learn about the ever-present impact and future of the Colby Libraries.

What is your vision for the Colby Libraries over the next five to ten years?

The Colby Libraries exist to do one thing: connect you with the tools, expertise, and space you need to do great work. That's why our buildings are packed with research tools and new tech. Over the next decade, we aren't just keeping up with new technology, we're staying ahead of it, ensuring Colby students always have what they need to think critically and create something new.

What do you think Colby does particularly well in its libraries, and where do you see the greatest opportunities for growth?

What makes the Colby Libraries exceptional is a reflection of what we do best across our entire campus: personal connection and deeply rooted relationships. I love walking across Miller Lawn with a librarian and watching them greet students, faculty, and staff by name, asking how a specific research project or senior thesis is progressing. We excel at providing personalized academic support and finding innovative ways to help our community achieve their goals.

The information landscape is growing exponentially more complex. What began with the rise of search engines like Google has now evolved into the era of AI, bringing forward critical questions regarding ethics, intellectual property, and the nature of learning itself. Concurrently, the proliferation of mis- and disinformation online has made the demand for rigorous information literacy and critical thinking skills more urgent than ever. We view this shifting landscape as both a challenge and a profound opportunity for leadership.

How do you see the library contributing to the overall Colby student experience?

Libraries at Colby continue to serve as an incredibly valuable 'third space' for our community. While they are essential for individual and collaborative study, they also play a vital role in fostering connection, socialization, and a sense of shared belonging. This is the true power of a liberal arts education, and it is fully embodied by the library as a physical place: a vibrant environment designed to inspire curiosity, exploration, intellectual courage, and creation.

What role do you think the Libraries should play in the future of a liberal arts education?

The Colby Libraries continue to be essential to the fabric of a liberal arts education. The distinct advantage of a Colby experience lies in its power to expose students to multiple disciplines, enabling them to examine complex global issues through diverse perspectives and rigorous analytical frameworks. As we look to the future, a liberal arts education must continue to anchor itself in these core values while exploring new frontiers of knowledge.

Where do you see the greatest opportunities for philanthropy to make a meaningful difference?

Philanthropic leadership can make a profound and lasting difference through:

- **Transformative capital improvements** for space enhancements within both Miller and Bixler libraries
- **Enduring collections and increasing access** to continue providing a full slate of high-quality resources despite rising market costs
- **Specialized labs, institutes, and endowed personnel** can be embedded within the library
- **Direct student impact and institutional agility** to fund **endowed student research fellowships,** allowing undergraduates to engage in paid, deep archival research alongside our expert archivists

What is an exciting project you have been working on this year?

Historical Colby is an interactive platform celebrating the unique stories, history, and physical evolution of the College throughout the years. Phase I is now complete, bringing the original downtown campus along the Kennebec River to life through interactive mapping. Work is currently underway on Phase II, which focuses on mapping the development and history of the Mayflower Hill campus.

Campus Calendar

Nov. 5	Goldfarb Center: A Conversation with the Honorable Tina Nadeau
Nov. 7	Colby Jazz Band: The Groove Continuum
Nov. 10	Colby Wind Ensemble: Between Rhythm and Reflection
Nov. 12	You're Speaking My Language: Spanish and Filipino
Nov. 13	*Persistence*—A one-act family drama
Nov. 14	Elm City Small Press Fest
Nov. 14	Choirs at Colby: Celebrate Love and Joy!
Nov. 20	Lasell Trio
Dec. 4	*Light Forms: Modern American Photography from the Colby Museum*
Dec. 5	*The Sun Never Sets: Photographs and Prints of Cuba, the Philippines,and Puerto Rico from the Hispanic Society Museum and Library*
Dec. 5	Winter Sports Celebration
Dec. 5	Colby Symphony Orchestra: Journey to the Classical Era

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

Lessons Learned in Estate Planning

Valerie Sherman, J.D., CFP®
Colby College Advancement

When we include provisions in our financial plans, we expect our wishes will be carried out. In my 20 years of working with estates (both as a lawyer and a fundraiser), I've seen instances where that couldn't happen, and I'm sharing so that you can avoid these pitfalls.

Using Inexact Names

Northwestern University and Northwestern Memorial Hospital are different entities, but when people wrote "Northwestern Medicine" in their plans, it created a question as to which entity was meant. Same with Saint Mary's College: there are a lot of them!

If you're including a provision for Colby, use "President and Trustees of Colby College" and include our tax ID (01-0211497).

Not Sharing Your Provisions

Did you know that in most states, financial and insurance firms are not obligated to tell your beneficiaries that they are included in your plans? The longest gap I've seen was 11 years between an alumnus's passing and the day I completed his gift with his insurance company.

We trust financial advisors, but companies can sometimes seek to hold assets under management as long as they can to the detriment of charitable beneficiaries. If you share your plans with Colby, especially the name of the firm that manages your assets, we can proactively contact the company after your passing.

Elder Abuse

It's unfortunate, but it happens. In one case I worked on, we were able to preserve the donor's gift because he had shared them with us in advance. In fact, we kept records of the alumnus's caregiver refusing to allow our gift officers to meet with this long-time friend of the university.

As we age, it can become tough to maintain relationships, particularly if a person becomes cognitively impaired. But keeping in touch with friends, classmates, and even the staff at your favorite charities means we can be better equipped to notice if something has gone wrong.

Thanks for reading!

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