

July 20, 2010

Dear Parents of the Class of 2014:

On behalf of the student affairs staff I am pleased to welcome you to the Colby family. I hope this letter finds you well and that you are having a good summer as your student prepares to join us on campus on August 31. Preparations on campus are well under way in anticipation of the arrival of the Class of 2014 in what promises to be an exciting year ahead.

In selecting Colby, your student has chosen to pursue a liberal arts education in the context of a residential college. I point this out because the "residentialness" of Colby is an important part of what makes this experience unique and special for our students. There should be no doubt in your mind that the academic endeavor is at the center of the student experience. But instruction and learning at Colby extends beyond the classrooms and laboratories into every corner of the campus and throughout the full range of activities and involvements in which students participate. Colby 360, the College's integrated plan for student life, provides focused opportunities for students to develop critical life skills and engagement with issues and ideas that will be essential for their success in the world of the 21st century. (To learn more about Colby 360 go to [http://www.colby.edu/administration\\_cs/studentaffairs/colby360plan.cfm](http://www.colby.edu/administration_cs/studentaffairs/colby360plan.cfm).)

The student affairs division oversees most aspects of the student experience that take place out of the classroom including advising, residential education and living, campus activities, outdoor education, career development education, multicultural affairs, international student programs, health services, counseling services, and spiritual life. During the on-campus orientation period the Class of 2014 will begin the process of getting acclimated both personally and academically to the Colby experience. We have in place an extensive network of both professional staff and student peer mentors who, along with students' academic advisors, help to guide and assist first-year students. Students learn quickly that Colby is a caring community where support is both readily and easily accessible.

You will hear us say in many ways over the coming months and years that we aim to treat our students as the young adults they are and that in doing so we will direct most of our contact and correspondence to them. (Enclosed is a copy of Colby's "Statement of Community Expectations" which may help to illustrate the College's values regarding student life.) Similarly, if and when students encounter difficulty in one form or another, our hope and expectation is that they will initiate contact with us and take the lead in resolving the problem. We believe that those moments of challenge offer valuable opportunities for students to develop skills they will need at Colby and beyond. The Advising Dean Program ensures that all students and their parents have a point of contact for advice and counsel throughout their tenure at the College. Each student is assigned one of the five Advising Deans in the Dean of Students office from whom they may seek information and counseling regarding their lives as students at Colby. You can find out the name of your student's advising dean in the hard copy letter that was recently mailed, or ask your student to log into myColby and that information will be available under the Academic Records tab on the left-hand side of the page.

We know well that you as parents and family members will also have questions and will be making adjustments when the Class of 2014 moves onto campus at the end of the summer. Accordingly, we have put together a special orientation program geared to you (see enclosed schedule) that will take place on first-year student arrival day – Tuesday, August 31. Each session on that day is designed to provide you with information and insight into Colby that will

help you to best support your student over the next four years. I would draw your attention to, and encourage you to make every effort to attend, the Family Assembly at 2:15 p.m., when President William Adams will address remarks directly to parents and families of students in the Class of 2014.

We also invite you back to campus for our Family Homecoming Weekend on October 22 - 24. This is a special weekend filled with faculty lectures, athletic events, a reception with the President and faculty, cultural events, open forums on financial aid and financing options, and programs and information to help answer questions regarding your student's transition to college life. In the next few weeks you will receive a welcome from the Colby Parents Association along with a brochure that contains helpful information for first-year parents.

We have a particular interest in ensuring that incoming students engage in a thoughtful way the issue of alcohol use on campus. Accordingly, Colby requires all entering first-year students to complete an online educational program entitled AlcoholEdu. Students will receive information about the program around August 1. We would like to share this opportunity with you as well and have enclosed information describing how you can access this program. I would encourage you to experience the program firsthand and use it as a catalyst for a conversation with «stu\_first».

You will want to know that semester grades are not automatically available to parent(s). If you wish to receive grades directly, please ask your student to authorize you; instructions for doing so are located on the Class of 2014 portal at [http://my.colby.edu/ics/Class\\_of\\_2014/](http://my.colby.edu/ics/Class_of_2014/) under the "Set up Parent Access" screen. Whether or not you have access to grade reports, you will be notified if «stu\_first» attains Dean's List grades or is experiencing academic difficulty and has received action by the Committee on Academic Standing.

On the enclosed calendar you will find dates for breaks and College closings. Classes end the evening prior to the date listed and resume the morning following the date listed. Also, students are expected to depart campus 24 hours after their last final each semester. A final exam schedule, when available, will be posted on the Registrar's Web page at [www.colby.edu/registrar/](http://www.colby.edu/registrar/).

We look forward to seeing you on August 31.

Sincerely,



James S. Terhune  
Vice President for Student Affairs and  
Dean of Students

Enclosures: Parent and Family Orientation Schedule, AlcoholEdu Information Sheets, ColbyCard ID Information, College Calendar, Statement of Community Expectations