Colby-Sawyer College Commencement

College to Celebrate 168th Commencement

C olby-Sawyer College will celebrate its 168th Commencement on Saturday, May 13, 2006, at 11 a.m., under a tent on Colby-Sawyer’s front lawn. A reception will follow at the Dan and Kathleen Hogan Sports Center. Community members are cordially invited to attend.

The Commencement speakers will include Associate Professor Leon-C. Malan, Interim President Philip H. Jordan Jr., President-elect Thomas C. Galligan Jr. and two members of the class of 2006, Joseph Edward Collins, an English major from Melrose, Mass., and Alyssa Ruth LaBelle, an exercise and sport sciences major from Rome, Maine.

Malan, associate professor in the Department of Business Administration and a resident of Sutton, N.H., will receive the college’s highest faculty award, the Jack Jensen Award for Excellence in Teaching, and deliver the keynote address. The Jack Jensen Award acknowledges the central importance of teaching and each year celebrates a faculty member who has made a distinct, positive difference in the academic climate of the college.

Professor Malan, who joined the college in 1994, teaches and conducts research in the areas of management and organizational theory, business strategy, globalization and environmental studies. His areas of expertise include corporate social responsibility and ethics, global environmental change, labor relations and negotiations, leadership, management of organizations, organizations and the environment, and strategic management.

Known as a challenging teacher, Professor Malan holds his students to high performance standards. In “Strategic Management,” the Capstone course in business administration that he leads, students report that “we have never worked harder or learned more.” As one student wrote, “Professor Malan has taken the time to help us achieve our academic goals, making sure we understand and learn the concepts.” A faculty colleague concluded that “Students respect Leon for his teaching ability, his broad range of knowledge and for the opportunity his classes give them to explore an issue from various viewpoints.”

Interim President Jordan, former member of Colby-Sawyer’s Board of Trustees and president emeritus of Kenyon College, will address the graduates, as well as introduce President-elect Galligan, who will take office in August. President Jordan has served the college since former President Anne Ponder’s departure in September 2005.

The Distinguished Alumni Award will be presented to Leslie Wright Dow, an alumna of the class of 1957 and member of the college’s Board of Trustees. Ms. Dow, a resident of Mooresville, N.C., is an award-winning photographer and writer. She established Wright Communications, which provides architectural photography, writing and public relations consulting to commercial and residential interior designers, architects and builders. Her outstanding photography and writing has graced the pages of prominent national and regional magazines, and she was selected as the primary photographer for the 1991 North Carolina Governor’s Mansion centennial book.

“During her nine-year tenure, Leslie has been a highly effective trustee, especially in her six-year chairmanship of the Buildings and Campus Planning Committee,” said Chairman of the Board of Trustees Anne Winton Black ’73, ’75. “Her aesthetic sense is legendary, and she has used it to its fullest to help guide our campus planning.”

The Town-Gown Awards will recognize Sutton, N.H., resident Joseph “Joe” Cardillo and John Callewaert of Concord, N.H., assistant professor of Social Sciences and Education and director of the college’s Institute for Community and Environment.

As recipient of the Town Award, Cardillo, owner of Flash Photo in New London, N.H., will be recognized for his contributions to the college community. Through his business, he has mentored and provided learning opportunities to generations of Colby-Sawyer students. “This has been a natural alliance,” Mr. Cardillo says of his relationship with the college. “There has been a synergy between what some of the students in graphic design or photography need and the opportunities that we have had in our production, film-process and graphics departments. Students are a great asset to us, especially the way things have changed because of technology.”

Loretta Barnett, chair of the Fine and Performing Arts Department, describes Mr. Cardillo as a generous individual who provides invaluable experiences to the college’s students. When asked to take on interns, “He never says no,” she said. “He fosters confidence in our interns and helps them take on challenges that at first may seem daunting; however, soon the students are working capably at their tasks.”

Professor Callewaert, who joined the college in 2000, will receive the Gown Award for his service to area environmental organizations such as Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust, the Lake Sunapee Protective Association, John Hay National Wildlife Refuge and the New London Conservation Commission. He leads the college’s interdisciplinary program, Community and Environmental Studies, which emphasizes student learning through collaborative ventures with local groups and people.

Under Professor Callewaert’s guidance, students engage in internships and individual and group projects with local organizations. In the 2004-2005 school year, Community and Environmental Studies Program juniors collaborated with the ASLPT on a year-long project to identify conservation priorities. “The information Colby-Sawyer’s students provided has helped us prioritize which projects to take on first,” said Deb Stanley, ASLPT executive director. “The relationship we have developed with John and the college is a win-win for both of us.”

Clinical Instructor Peter J. Thurbur, a resident of Canaan, N.H., faculty member in the Exercise and Sport Sciences Department and assistant athletic trainer for the Athletic Department, will receive the Nancy Beyer Opier Award for Excellence in Advising. Each year, a
faculty and student committee selects an academic advisor who assists stu-
dents in their college and profession-
al planning and in their adjustment to the
academic community.
Professor Thurber, who joined
Colby-Sawyer in 2003, has taught a
variety of courses in the Athletic
Training Program and advises about a
dozens ESS majors each semester.
In their recommendations, students cited
Professor Thurber’s generosity with
his time, attention to individuals’
needs and respect for students’ deci-
sion-making skills. “If you need help
or advice about a major or graduate
advising, but he takes great pride in creating a per-
sonal relationship between advisor and advisee.”
Another student noted that
Professor Thurber always makes time
in his schedule for his advisees. “Peter
knows that everyone is different, and
he helps you based on, and what you
want, not what others did or want you
to do.”
Two members of the class of 2006, Joseph
Collins, and Alyssa Ruth LaBelle, were selected as
this year’s Commencement student speakers.
Collins has been involved in the Colby-Sawyer
Play/Theater Group and with WSCS, the student-
run radio station, where he served as a committee
representative and a member of the governing
board. LaBelle was a member of the basketball
team, the Exercise and Sport Sciences Club,
Academic Council, and was president of both the
Junior and Senior Class Boards. In her senior year,
she served as the manager of the basketball team.
Colby-Sawyer College
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Elizabeth Marie Norris
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Timothy James Bradley of
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Achievement Awards, which
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themselves through active leadership in cocur-
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The Colby-Sawyer Award, presented by
the faculty to a student whose intellectual growth and
contributions to the college’s mission and message and strength-
ful skillful leadership, she accomplished
tasked to university I have to say. He will always help you see
both sides of a story, which makes it easier to come
to a decision.”
According to students, Professor Thurber
helps his advisees to weigh their options and pre-
pare for life after college. “He has not only
advised me academically but professionally as well,” wrote
another student. “Having the chance to talk to Peter
also serves as a reminder that this is very important to me,
and I have great trust in him. I know that no matter
where I end up, he will have played a large role in
that decision. Not only is Peter suited for academic
advising, but he takes great pride in creating a personal
relationship between advisor and advisee.”
Colby-Sawyer College will present its highest
award, the Susan Colgate Cleveland Medal for
Distinguished Service, in absentia, to Anne Ponder,
who served as the college’s seventh president from
1996 through September 2005. During her decade
of extraordinary service, President
Ponder led Colby-Sawyer through a period of unprecedented growth and change, in which enrollment nearly
doubled and the college successfully completed the largest capital cam-
paign in its history and improved and expanded its academic programs and facilities. She now serves as chancel-
lor for the University of North Carolina at Asheville.
When she became president, Anne Ponder set out to improve Colby-
Sawyer’s academic standing in a stu-
dent-centered manner, to mobilize sig-
nificant philanthropy and to build a
strong rapport with the community,” said Trustee Chairman Black.
“Through intelligence, grace and
skilful leadership, she accomplished
these goals and so much more.”
As Colby-Sawyer’s self-described
“portable cupola,” President Ponder
powerfully conveyed Colby-Sawyer’s mission and message and strength-
ed the sense of community on cam-
pus and among the college’s extended family of
alumni, parents, friends and neighbors. Through
her engagement with area communities—exempli-
ﬁed by a president’s advisory board made up of
local residents and the donation of the Academy
Building to serve as New London’s town ofﬁces—
President Ponder nurtured a close and collaborative
town-gown relationship. Her far-reaching vision
for the future, in which the college would reach a
new level of excellence, attracted a transformative
level of investment from friends and foundations,
trustees and neighbors alike.
“Anne Ponder believed so much in Colby-
Sawyer and in the power of this community and
its potential and promise, that we all came
to believe it too,” said Interim President Jordan.
“And as she built consensus around her vision
for the college, her dream became the impressive
reality we see today.”

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