

Accent on Cooperation

By Sally Baker

Colby, Bates and Bowdoin don't give each other any quarter on the playing fields or when it comes to recruiting students and faculty. But, as exciting as their various competitions can be, Maine's three leading liberal arts colleges show equally impressive results when they pool their talents to reach a goal.

Colby, Bates and Bowdoin have cooperated on

many efforts to improve academic, technical and social programs on all of their campuses. The latest could make a wider variety of foreign language studies available to CBB students and will build structures for future cooperation among the schools.

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation of New York has awarded a joint, \$910,000 grant to enable



Gifts & Grants

faculty and students from the three colleges to explore—and invent, where necessary—new teaching methods for foreign language study. Enrollments in language classes, especially Spanish, are rising dramatically at each college, and hiring additional faculty to deal with the demand isn't always feasible.

"The consortium will allow us to teach more efficiently and more effectively, and we will realize some cost savings," said Colby Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations Randy Helm. "We're always trying to find ways to be more productive, and this is one example of that effort."

Cooperation among CBB faculty will give more students the opportunity to study more languages at higher levels than ever before. This is increasingly important as graduates take their places in the global education and employment arenas, and it supports the colleges' commitment to foreign study. At Colby, more than two thirds of all students spend part of their college careers studying in another country; Bates and Bowdoin also send significant numbers of students abroad.

The grant, to be administered by Colby, will allow language faculty members from the three colleges to investigate and develop a common platform for language study, develop new teaching methods and purchase compatible equipment for each campus. The trio also will share technical support for the project.

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All Part of the Plan

The George I. Alden Trust of Worcester, Mass., has offered Colby a 3:1 challenge grant to improve a biology laboratory. The Office of Corporate and Foundation Relations sought the grant as part of the College's ongoing drive to make its science facilities second to none among peer colleges. This effort, called "the plan for the sciences," has netted gifts from the F.W. Olin Foundation and the Kresge Foundation, among others.

The \$75,000 Alden Trust grant, to be paid if Colby raises \$225,000 in matching funds before November 30, 1996, will be used to relocate, renovate and update equipment in the Arey Building's introductory biology laboratory. The matching funds must come from new donors or through additional gifts from current donors.

"Introduction to Biology, taken by both science and non-science majors and the largest course in the Natural Sci-

ences Division, is of great importance to our students because it lays a firm foundation upon which our biology majors build their academic careers and because our non-science majors, who may never take a science course again, become scientifically literate citizens while gaining fundamental knowledge of the life sciences," wrote President Bill Cotter in the grant application.

The Alden Trust was established in 1912 by George I. Alden, who was an early member of the faculty at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, where he taught for 28 years. In 1885, he and another WPI professor joined Worcester-area businessmen to found the Norton Emery Wheel Company. In his estate, Alden devoted his share of the company income to the trust, which has education as its primary interest. In 1994, the trust pledged nearly \$5 million to a wide variety of nonprofit organizations. ♦

The Good Life

Want to give the College a major gift *without* winning the Irish Sweepstakes first? Look into a life income plan.

Such arrangements allow donors to receive income from cash or property gifts while Colby benefits from the principal. "This allows alumni and other friends who might otherwise think themselves unable to give a significant gift to the College to do so," said Steve Greaves, planned giving director. Greaves added that some people who give such annuities already have made Colby a beneficiary in their wills. Life income gifts, he said, "accelerate those plans."

One recent life income gift came from Thomas G. van

Slyke '36, professor of guidance emeritus at Boston University and a retired U.S. Army colonel. Van Slyke's gift will establish the Madeline Frances van Slyke Memorial Scholarship, named for his late wife, and in the meantime will provide an income for him throughout his lifetime. Van Slyke is a long-time class agent and a former member of Colby's Alumni Council.

Foresight: The Colby Guide to Planned Giving offers details about life income gifts and other ways to donate funds to the College. For a copy, call or write Steve Greaves, Director of Planned Giving, Colby College, Waterville, ME 04901; 207-872-3212.

technical support the grant offers," said Helm, who explained that after faculty members have selected and/or designed appropriate software, the colleges would share three technical support specialists. "Without that support, this kind of collaborative teaching arrangement wouldn't have happened,

because faculty don't have time to spend troubleshooting software."

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation was established in 1969. Its grant-making program is focused on institutions of higher learning, cultural organizations and groups concerned with public affairs. ♦

Dollars for Scholars

Two new gifts to the College benefit students from specific communities while enhancing Colby's endowed scholarship funds.

Edith and Thomas LaVigne '58 and their family (including Thomas Jr. "Toby" '88 and Kate '94) have pledged \$50,000 through the Greater Worcester (Mass.) Community Foundation earmarked for Colby students from the Worcester area. And Joan and Bill Alford '72 of Boston have endowed a similar scholarship through the Waterville Area Boys & Girls Club for students from 34 central Maine towns.

The LaVignes and the Alford, long-time financial supporters of Colby, also have been active in various College groups. Bill Alford, an executive with Dexter Shoe Company, is a Colby overseer; he served most recently on the Overseer Committee to Physical Education and Athletics. Tom LaVigne, president of LaVigne Press in Worcester and a resident of Paxton, has been a member of the Alumni Council, a class officer, chair of his reunion committee, an alumni club

officer and chair of the Alumni Council Awards Committee.

"Tom and Edith were engaged and active parents when Toby and Kate were students here," said Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations Randy Helm, "and we look forward to Toby and Kate carrying on the family tradition into the next generation. The LaVigne Family Scholarship Fund is a wonderful way of making sure that other deserving young people can enjoy the kind of education that has been so important to the LaVigne family."

In a statement announcing his family's gift, Bill Alford said, "I went to the Boys Club when I was young and I benefited greatly. Colby College provided me with a great education. The collaboration between Colby and the club will be a wonderful marriage. Our Boys & Girls Club members are great kids with grit and determination, and they deserve this financial support. Joan and I want to see them get ahead with a solid education at Colby." ♦



Breaking New Ground

James Harris '98, representing the Student Organization for Black and Hispanic Unity, addresses guests at the groundbreaking September 23 of the Pugh Center Addition to the Student Union. Preparing to dig in behind Harris are Mayra Diaz '98 (SOBHU), Vaj Muas '97 (Asian-American Student Association), Adrienne Clay '97 (Society Organized Against Racism), Associate Dean of Students for Intercultural Affairs Jeri Roseboro and Miguel Leff '98 (International Club).

Student leaders praised the College for its decisiveness and commitment to inclusiveness at the ceremony. "I always thought that students could make a change, but until now I never really had any proof," said Lawaun Curry '97 (Roxbury, Mass.), a leading student proponent of the new facility.