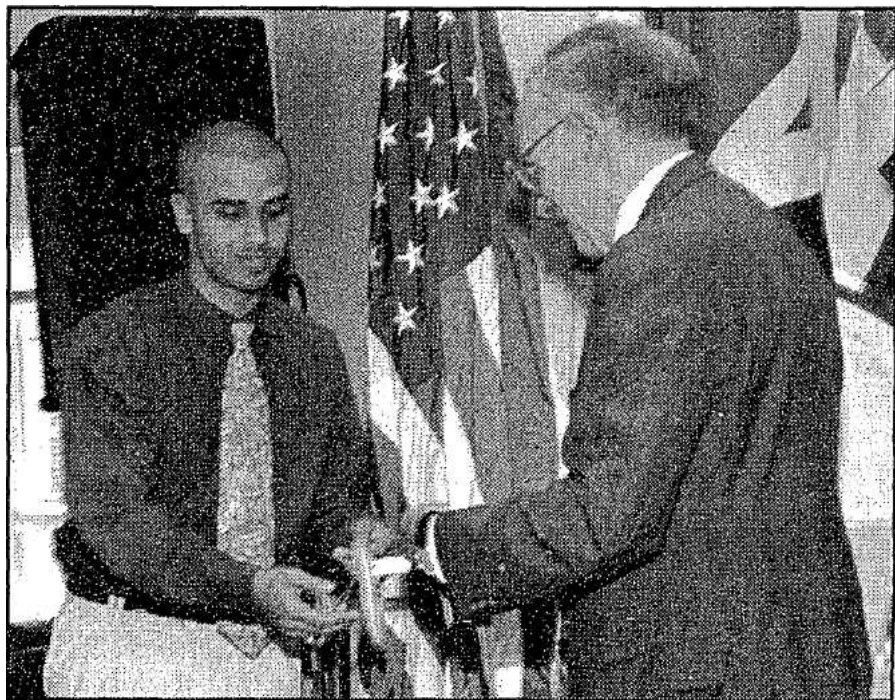


Pugh Center Celebrates Grand Opening



Echo photo by Jennifer Atwood

President Cotter gives Stu-A President Josh Woodfork '97 a piece of the ribbon from the opening ceremony.

BY RENEE LAJEUNESSE
News Editor

The new Pugh Center addition to the Student Union was teeming with activity on Friday, September 20. The Grand Opening celebration, highly attended by students, faculty and community members alike, kicked off at 12:30 p.m. in the common room.

The new 7000 square foot addition to Colby was a direct result of

campus discussions about the need for a multicultural venue, initiated by the requests of the Students of Color United for Change in the Spring of 1994. The Trustee Commission on Multicultural and Special Interest Housing, specially formed to study this request, recommended the construction of what is now the Pugh Center as an alternative to a multicultural residence hall.

Addressing the crowd at the cel-

ebration on Friday, President William Cotter spoke of the Pugh Center as a further step in making Colby an increasingly diverse college community.

"Our work is not done at the college," said Cotter. "This is a symbol of our challenges - a day of renewal of commitment."

Cotter said the Center is just one answer to the general question "How can we be supportive of our increasingly diverse student body?"

Josh Woodfork '97, president of the Student Association (Stu-A), and also one of the students originally involved in the petition for this multicultural addition in 1994, spoke to the crowd on the power of the day. "This is a tangible, visible commitment in the center of the campus," said Woodfork.

Now that Colby has taken this step and built the Pugh Center, though, Woodfork raised the important questions of how the College is going to use it, what it is going to become and what it will represent. He stressed the need to fight the belief that the Pugh Center is only for "special multicultural students," for, as he said, "I'm not sure who 'they' are."

Lawrence Pugh, a member of Colby's Class of 1956 and chair of the college's Board of Trustees, proceeded to address the crowd after *See PUGH on page 3*

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Woodfork. Pugh, and his wife Jean Van Curan Pugh '55, contributed the leading gift for the new building and then urged other Colby trustees to provide additional financial support. Other Pugh family members and supporters of the Center were also present at Friday's ceremony.

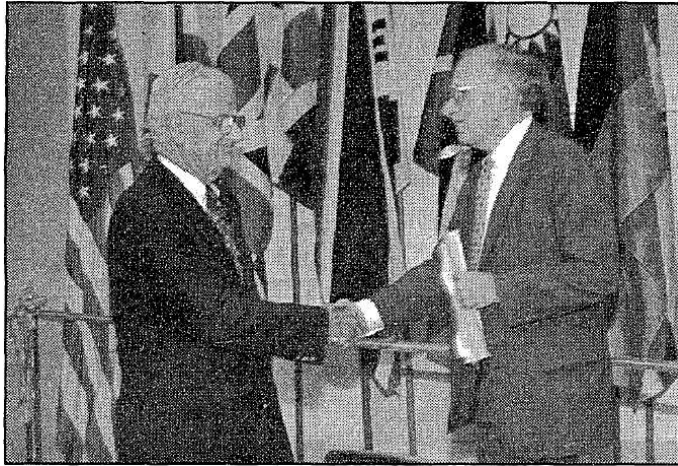
"I think this college can set a terrific example of what diversity is all about," said Pugh, who said he was extremely proud of the building that holds his name and what it represents.

After Mr. Pugh concluded, the cornerstone box ceremony took



Echo photo by Kate Dunlop

Micheal Winfield of Cabildo taught a percussion workshop.



Echo photo by Jennifer Atwood

Lawrence Pugh '56 and President Cotter both spoke at the opening

place. The cornerstone box, which reads "1996," signifying the year of construction, will hold memorabilia of the people who were working on the building. At Friday's celebration, each of the fourteen groups housed in the Center contributed something of significance to this time capsule.

Amnesty International contributed a candle wrapped in barbed wire, a logo which represents prisoners of conscious who are denied freedom today. The Asian American Student Association presented a friendship ring which, according to Jill Morneau '99, president of the group, "is symbolic of the maintenance of ourselves as Asian-Americans as well as Colby students."

The Bridge, Colby's gay, lesbian and bi-sexual organization, gave a rainbow flag, the traditional gay pride symbol, and a Maine shaped pin with a pink triangle in the center, once a symbol of degradation now turned into one of pride.

The Colby Christian Fellowship contributed a three stranded chord, representing their "hope that we can work together to be a chord of three strands that is not broken."

The Four Winds, the Native American group on campus, contributed a piece of beadwork and a braid of sweet grass, while Hillel gave a yamulke to show "our faith

that this center will bring the campus together," said Sarah Olbrich '97.

Both the International Club and SOBHU, Students Organized for Black and Hispanic Unity, contributed globes, signifying unity. The Women's Group, in showing how feminism means something different for all individuals, gave a framed picture of themselves.

SOAR, Students Organized Against Racism, presented a song by Janet Jackson which they believed conveyed their message, while the Newman Council contributed a meditation which they read aloud.

Nizar Al-Bassam '97j, of the Muslim Students, contributed a book of prayers for all occasions. "[The book of prayers] definitely meant a lot to me and I'd definitely like to have it at Colby," said Al-Bassam, referring in the dedication to the fact that Colby has had so few Muslims on campus.

Woodfork contributed the documents and history of the Pugh Center, while the Asian Cultural Society was temporarily unable to contribute.

After the ribbon-cutting ceremony, each group was able to leave with a piece of the multicolored fabric.

Later in the day, Michael Wingfield, director of the Afro-Caribbean percussion group Cabildo, presented a hands-on percussion workshop outside of the Pugh Center from 3-5 p.m. to introduce participants to his instruments, rhythms and songs of the African new world.

"Drumming is a language... to retain knowledge, to retain history," said Wingfield. Participants were taught how to play the Conga drums, as Wingfield explained the way in which African songs and religion have flourished and remained throughout so many changes in history.

Cabildo also presented an Afro-Latin Jazz Dance Celebration later that night in the Page Commons Room at 9 p.m. □



Echo photo by Kate Dunlop

The Pugh Center opening brought many members together to celebrate.