LEGENDS DINNER – FEB. 23, 2007

Good evening. It is my very special honor to welcome you to this very special event—the Legends Society Dinner and this evening’s recognition of four new Colby-Sawyer Legends. When I was a boy I loved Greek mythology. I saw the gods, the heroines, and the heroes as they were: bigger than life. They were my legends. What they accomplished; what they stood for; what they symbolized taught me lessons about life and lessons about humanity and the human condition that have stayed with me to this day—bravery, wisdom, compassion, self-sacrifice, humility, and more.

Later, I came to learn of and appreciate other legends and many of them were historical figures: George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Mother Teresa, Lech Walesa, Florence Nightingale, Harriet Tubman, William Shakespeare, John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr., John Muir, and more. Like the Greek heroes and heroines I had loved, these people did great things. Unlike the characters in Greek myths, these human legends were real people who did real things.

They did real things to make the world a better place. Their empathy; their dedication to a cause; their selflessness truly made the real world a better, fairer, safer, more humane place in which to live. Their acts and their thoughts opened up horizons and possibilities to improve the quality of life for others. Their acts improved the lives of many and gave hope to many more. Perhaps that is what made them legends.

To those of you who are members of the Legends Society at Colby-Sawyer; you have improved the lives of Colby-Sawyer students, faculty, staff, and friends. Your belief in us; your confidence in what we do—always asking how will students benefit; your faith in our mission and our implementation of that mission has made and will continue to make an incredibly positive difference to us.

Your generous support has allowed us to dream and to turn those dreams into reality. It is impossible to overestimate the many ways in which your gifts have and will continue to make Colby-Sawyer College a better place. And, given the importance that education continues to play in our nation and world today, we know that by making our college and our students’ experiences here better and more fulfilling you do much to better our region, to better our nation, and to better our world. Your support of Colby-Sawyer College is critical to our success and to our ability to achieve our goals and to hope to achieve even more for our students tomorrow than we do today. It allows us to continue to dream and to turn realistic dreams into a better educational reality for our students.

Through your philanthropy to our college, you show your compassion, your self-sacrifice, your generosity, your altruism, and your commitment to a greater good. By what you do for us, you inspire us and you inspire others to believe in the power of education and to believe in the
improvement of the human condition. For what you do for us, we thank you and we know that you are our Colby-Sawyer Legends.

And, tonight we recognize and welcome four new Colby-Sawyer Legends: Irene Hicks, Rebecca Kittedge Johns, and Robert and Mauri Schwartz.