

## Thoughts on our Antarctica Adventure

**By Amy Louis '84**

When I booked our Antarctica trip in the summer of 2009, I had no way of knowing that our experience would personalize and deepen our connection to news headlines that would dominate world media in early 2010. Shortly after returning to land we were confronted with news of Haiti's devastating earthquake. Next came crippling snowfall in the mid-Atlantic, an earthquake in our hometown (Chicago) and then disaster in Chile. Our trip time in Antarctica allowed us to understand these events on a much deeper level because our knowledge of global climate change and tectonic plate movement was greatly expanded during our trip to Antarctica. Kudos to Professor Siddoway.

Colorado College strives to provide its students with a "unique intellectual adventure". The Antarctica trip Colorado College made available to its alumni was certainly that – a unique intellectual adventure. That the trip was unique is fairly obvious. That it was intellectual may require explanation. Each day participants had the opportunity to attend shipboard lectures with titles ranging from The History of Antarctica Exploration to Antarctic Marine Mammals, to Greenhouse Antarctica. We were educated on the natural history of Antarctica, its human history, its role in global climate, its delicate marine balance were even treated to a reading of *The Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner*. Following our formal learning sessions we had the opportunity for "hands on" exploration and that is where the "adventure" came in. Not surprisingly, we spent considerable time observing penguins but we also had the chance to scamper to volcanic summits, slide down steep ice chutes, plunge in polar water and even relax in thermal pools.

Our days were full but still allowed for making new friends. The members of the Colorado College community that assembled on *The Corinthian II* included faculty, alumni, trustees, parents of alumni and children of alumni and we had great fun getting to know each other. Watching Professor Siddoway engage the children and grandchildren of alumni on the lip of an ice-covered volcano was incredible. She certainly engaged the next generation of students.

#  
#  
#