

September 2013 Meeting Summary

The Colgate Alumni Council consists of 55 alumni nominated for their exemplary volunteer service to Colgate. Its members represent the approximately 31,000 alumni in the Colgate Alumni Corporation, and each member strives to be a "Colgate ambassador": enhancing the experience of all Colgate alumni by becoming deeply familiar with the state of the college; promoting robust communications, interesting and useful programming, and other modes of connection and engagement; and providing venues for alumni to discuss Colgate issues.

Please read what the Council is working on, follow the links to additional information, and feel free to contact us: we're eager to hear your thoughts and suggestions.

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From September 6-8, 2013, the Alumni Council met in Hamilton for its first meeting of the 2013–2014 academic year. The Council's work is conducted through its committees and meetings of the entire Council. Below is a summary of the Council's work.

Welcome to new members. New members to the Alumni Council include Pat Apelian '76, Carmella Alvaro '98, Vaughn Crowe '02, Sean Devlin '05, Bob Glendening '71, Robert Grossman '96, Harry Horwitz '76, Anne Huntington '07, Christian Johnson '02, Guy Martin '57, and Eric Seidman, 84.

Discussion with President Jeffrey Herbst. During the General Session on Sunday morning, President Herbst addressed the Alumni Council on a variety of topics. He opened his remarks by citing the impressive statistics of the Class of 2017 including their academic profile and global representation. President Herbst also discussed the 2019 bicentennial, the search for two Vice Presidents (Finance and Communications), and an update on his strategic plan for Colgate. The cost of a college education, emergence of technology, and the diminishing high school population all present challenges to higher education, including Colgate. By reducing the need for full pay students (i.e. moving toward "need blind" admission) and improving the value on investment, Colgate will be positioned strongly against the coming disruption in higher education. President Herbst is attending 15 different "consultative dinners" with alumni volunteers this year to discuss his strategic plan and answer questions.

Mission of the Alumni Council. Copeland Bertsche '63, Treasurer, led the full Alumni Council on a discussion of the Council's mission and how effectively the Council is meeting its charge. It was a productive exchange that included new usages of technology, committee structure, and communication with the larger alumni body.

State of the 'Gate Panel. Executive Secretary Timothy Mansfield introduced three panelists: Murray Decock '80, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, Suzy Nelson, Vice President and Dean of the College and Vicky Chun '91, Director of Athletics. The panelists provided updates on their divisions and topics of relevance to alumni including: 1) updates on the James B. Colgate Hall renovation and athletic facility construction, 2) the objective of increasing the alumni engagement index from 55.7% to 57.7% in 2014, 3) Living the Liberal Arts, and 4) the growth of alumni athletic support groups.

Awards Committee. Committee chair Robert Fawcett '91 led his committee through the first round of annual award selections for alumni. Working from a list of over 250 names, they will make final decisions at their January meeting for Maroon Citations, Brian Little

Award for Distinguished Service, Humanitarian, Ann Yao Young Alumni, and Distinguished Teaching Awards.

Career Services Committee. Committee chair Chris Gavigan '84 led a discussion on the role of the Career Services Committee to support Colgate and the [Professional Networks](#). He addressed the need for specific outcomes and action steps that members should take to meet the goals of each network.

District Clubs Committee. Committee chair Kathryn Roberts '01 led her committee in their annual award deliberations. Winners for each of the district club awards were announced at the General Session, along with the RuthAnn Speer Loveless MA'72 Distinguished Volunteer of the Year.

Metropolitan Clubs

MVP- Northern CA/ East Bay

Special Recognition - Continued Excellence – New York City

Special Recognition - Philanthropic Efforts - Washington DC

Large Clubs

Special Recognition - Philanthropic Efforts- Chicago

Special Recognition - Creative Programming- Los Angeles

Medium Clubs

Special Recognition - Revitalization – Albany, NY

Small Clubs

MVP- Gold Coast Palm Beach, FL

Special Recognition - Continued Excellence- Chenango Valley

Special Recognition - Continued Excellence- Twin Cities

Gateway Clubs

MVP- Columbus, OH

RuthAnn Loveless Distinguished Individual - Christian Teeter '95- Northern CA/ East Bay"

Nominations Committee. Committee chair Robert Seaberg '69 led the committee meeting to continue the review process for 2014 candidates to the Alumni Council. Members of the committee accept nominee names from alumni & staff each year and review over 300 potential candidates during the summer and fall. Nominees for open positions will be announced in the winter edition of the Colgate Scene.

Terry Egler '77, President, appointed two alumni to fill two one-year unexpired Council terms (ERA I and an at-large position). The Alumni Council approved both appointments by a majority vote. Sean Devlin '05 accepted the at-large position. The ERA I position will be announced upon acceptance of the appointment by the candidate.

Communications Committee. Committee chair Melissa Coley '79 introduced interim Vice President of Communications Barbara Brooks to discuss the university's branding project and recent alumni survey. Brooks revealed some early findings on the university's identity in several admissions markets and answered questions on the value of a liberal arts education to high school students.

The Alumni Corporation's next meeting -- as well participation in the SophoMORE Connections program -- will be held January 17-18, 2014. The spring meeting will be held April 12-13, 2014.

Questions? Comments? Please write to [Tim Mansfield](#), executive secretary for the Alumni Council and director of alumni relations.

Best,
Terry Egler '77
Alumni Council President