

## September 2012 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 13-15, 2012, the Alumni Council met in Hamilton for its first meeting of the 2012–2013 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.

**Discussion with President Jeffrey Herbst.** During the General Session on Saturday morning, President Herbst addressed the Alumni Council on a variety of topics. He noted the successful end to the capital campaign and announced the official celebration on November 9 in New York City. Colgate continues to invest in its faculty, citing a 9:1 student/faculty ratio. President Herbst discussed Colgate's recent rise in USNWR ranking, stating that ranking are intellectually indefensible but still an important aspect in admissions. He also noted that structure of higher education will change in the future but believes Colgate is positioned strongly.

President Herbst answered questions about the Hamilton Initiative, the university's strategic plan, and career services before turning the floor over to the General Session.

**Discussion with Dr. Douglas Hicks, Provost and Dean of the Faculty.** Dean Hicks joined the Alumni Council during their luncheon on Friday afternoon to discuss three strategic priorities: 1) learning & teaching, which includes incorporating technology with the liberal arts, 2) internationalization, which includes new study groups and the PPE Institute, and 3) intellectual engagement, which includes residential living/learning communities and inspiring students to "love ideas" and civic engagement.

**Networking Reception.** On Thursday night, the Alumni Council met with over 120 registered senior students for a networking reception in the Ho Science Center. The event was sponsored by the Center for Career Services.

**US News and World Report Rankings.** At the Council's request, Brendt Simpson, Director of Institutional Research, presented data on the USNWR and other similar comparative tools. Colgate moved up from 21<sup>st</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> in highly selective arts colleges, due (in part) to smaller class sizes and higher alumni giving rate. Mr. Simpson highlighted the interpretive nature of the rankings but reassured the Council of Colgate's position of strength.

**State of the 'Gate Panel.** Executive Secretary Timothy Mansfield introduced four panelists: Murray Decock '80, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, Gary Ross '77, Vice President and Dean of Admission, Debra Townsend, Vice President of Communications, and Vicky Chun '91, Interim Director of Athletics. The panelists provided updates on their

divisions and topics of relevance to alumni including: 1) the Year of '13 for alumni & parents, 2) admissions data on the Class of 2016, 3) update on the website redesign and the effort to build an institutional identity, and 4) new coaches and staff in athletics.

**Awards Committee.** Committee chair Bill Sweeney '01 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 Robert Johnson '94 introduced Michael Sciola, the new Associate Vice President and Director of Career Services. Now reporting directly to advancement, the career services staff will be increasing its external engagement with alumni and parents to support student career needs. Teresa Olsen, the Director of Operations and Strategic Planning will maintain student programs and career development. Mike Sciola was warmly welcomed and he encouraged alumni to participate in all Real World Series programming. At the January meeting, the Alumni Council will participate in SophoMORE Connections (similar to Real World, but for sophomores). Senior students will enjoy a year-long series of career programs with alumni, including the fall and spring meetings.

**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.

A) Metropolitan Club Awards: New York City – MVP; Washington D.C.- special recognition for innovative programming

B) Large Club Awards: Chicago – MVP; Philadelphia - special recognition for sustained excellence

C) Medium Club Awards: Denver - special recognition for innovative programming; Los Angeles - special recognition for sustained excellence; Rochester - special recognition for sustained excellence; Atlanta – Most Improved Program

D) Small Club Awards: Minneapolis – MVP; Palm Beach – Most Improved Program

E) Gateway Club Awards: Columbus - special recognition for revitalization; Orange County, CA - special recognition for positive momentum

F) RuthAnn Speer Loveless 'MA '72 Award - Joanna Allegretti '05 (NYC)

**Nominations Committee.** Committee member Kevin Rusch '85 led the committee meeting to continue the review process for 2013 candidates to the Alumni Council. (Chairwoman Kay LaBanca '04 was unavailable for the meeting). Members of the committee accept nominee names from alumni & staff each year and review over 300 potential candidates during the summer and fall. A proven commitment to Colgate over time is a key qualification for consideration to the Council. See the full qualifications here: <http://www.colgate.edu/alumni/stay-involved/alumni-council>. Nominees for open positions will be announced in the winter edition of the Colgate Scene.

**University Relations Committee.** Committee chair Amy Leo '03 introduced Dr. Suzy Nelson, Vice President and Dean of the College. Dean Nelson recently served at Harvard, and prior to that at Cornell University and Syracuse University. She presented the Alumni Council with the principles of residential education which was constructed before her arrival. She discussed her interest to foster academic partnerships, develop a sense of community between all students, and understanding the Colgate culture. Dean Nelson, who has an extensive background in managing Greek letter systems, was asked about her support of those organizations. She cited her commitment to strengthen the existing chapters before the board considers expansion.

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The Alumni Corporation's next meeting -- as well participation in the SophoMORE Connections program -- will happen January 18-19, 2013. The spring meeting will be held April 13-14, 2013.

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

Best,  
Christine Cronin Gallagher '83  
Alumni Council President