

January 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 January 17-19, 2013, the Alumni Council met in Hamilton for its second 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.

SophoMORE Connections. During the weekend, the Alumni Council participated in a variety of career programs with sophomore students. Modeled after the successful Real World program, SophoMORE Connections offers career discovery panels and networking training to younger students, while introducing them to the Colgate alumni community.

State of the 'Gate Panel. Executive Secretary Timothy Mansfield introduced four panelists: Murray Decock '80, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, Debra Townsend, Vice President of Communications, and David Hale '84, Vice President of Finance and Administration, and Douglas Hicks, Provost and Dean of the Faculty. The panelists provided updates on their divisions and topics of relevance to alumni including: 1) the Year of '13 funding priorities for alumni & parents, 2) update on the branding/identity project, 3) financial health of the university and 4) strategic planning committees on technology in the classroom and "living the liberal arts".

Discussion with President Jeffrey Herbst. After the State of the 'Gate panel on Saturday morning, President Herbst addressed the Alumni Council on a variety of topics. He noted the challenges that Colgate faces with the cost of higher education and advances in online learning, countered with the strong position that Colgate holds in the admissions market. Colgate received over 8,000 applications and we only accept 28-30%. "Technology is disrupting higher education and not all colleges and universities will survive that disruption. Colgate, however, will be prepared for the changes and opportunities that technology brings", said Herbst. He also thanked the Alumni Council for their role in helping to shape some strategic planning objectives last January, including issues on globalization, athletics, and technology.

Admissions Committee. Chairman Copeland Bertsche '63 introduced Gary Ross '77 Dean of Admissions and Lynn Holcomb '92, Senior Associate Dean of Admissions. Ross and Holcomb presented the current admission data for the Class of 2017 and also reviewed the application process by tracking a sample "common application".

Athletics Committee: Committee Chair Thomas Dempsey '72 introduced the newly appointed director of athletics Vicky Chun '91 and Pat Campolieta '02 (Assistant Director of Athletics for Advancement).

Chun reviewed the current health of the athletic program and her vision for leadership, while Campolieta gave an overview of funding for athletic support groups.

Awards Committee. Committee chair William Sweeney '01 led his committee through the final round of annual award selections for alumni. Recipients will be announced at Reunion for Maroon Citations, Distinguished Faculty, Ann Yao' 80 Young Alumni Award, Wm. Brian Little Award for Distinguished Service, and Humanitarian.

Career Services Committee. Committee chair Robert Johnson '94 introduced Michael Sciola, the Associate Vice President and Director of Career Services. Sciola led the committee in a discussion on affinity groups, undergraduate mentorship, and internships. The committee held small group discussions to provide feedback and recommendations to the center for career services.

District Clubs Committee. Committee chair Kathryn Roberts '01 introduced eight district club leaders to the meeting as special guests. They included Brian Suiter '00 (Columbus), Christian Teeter '95, (East Bay, SF), Maddie Watrobski '10 (Rochester), Bruce Feron '73 (Savannah), Karl Fries '09 (Boston), Sue '76 and Harry Horwitz '76 (Philadelphia), and Sue Dolly Lathrop '88 (Chenango Valley). Tim Mansfield, director of alumni relations, began the meeting with a presentation on engagement metrics and overview of district clubs. The committee held small groups discussions to address the strengths and challenges of district clubs.

University Relations Committee. Committee chair Amy Leo '03 introduced Dr. Suzy Nelson, Vice President and Dean of the College. Nelson began the meeting by introducing two faculty members and two of her senior staff who are leading the work on "living the liberal arts": Lesleigh Cushing (Religious Studies), Spencer Kelly (Psychology), Scott Brown (Dean of Students) and Sue Smith (Associate Dean of the College). During their presentation, they addressed faculty/student interaction outside the classroom and the other tenets of residential education. The university relations committee held small groups discussions to provide feedback and recommendations to these administrators.

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The Alumni Corporation's next meeting will happen April 12-14, 2013. The annual meeting will be held during Reunion Weekend on June 1, 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