

October 2014 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.

* * * * *

From October 9 – 11, 2014, the Alumni Council met in Hamilton for its first meeting of the 2014–2015 academic year. During its summer meeting, the Executive Committee chose to select a theme for the fall meeting on campus: *"Diversity & Inclusion"*. 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 included James Aston '57 (beginning his own full term), Andrew Roffe '68, Claudia Stephan Braden '80, Carmine DiSibio '85, Craig Dana Jr. '91, Brian Suiter '00, Taylor Buonocore '08, Sean Devlin '05 (beginning his own full term), Denniston Reid '94, Christian Teeter '95, Lesley McNamara '01, and Ashley Kepping '07.

Meet with OUS and Konosioni students. On Thursday night, the Alumni Council joined students from the [Office of Undergraduate Studies](#) (soon to be named office of university scholars) for dinner. Many of the students shared their scholarly research, activities, and interests with the alumni. Professor Frank Frey, Director, gave an overview of the program and thanked the Alumni Council for their support.

Afterward, the Alumni Council joined student members of Konosioni for an informal reception and networking. The Council learned about issues facing students and how the Konosioni honor society was responding. They also learned about partnership programs with the [Upstate Institute](#).

Luncheon with President Herbst. On Friday afternoon, President Jeffrey Herbst joined the Alumni Council for a luncheon and discussion on "diversity & inclusion". He thanked the Alumni Council for addressing these important issues at their fall meeting. He also shared an overview of the recent student sit-in and [response](#) from the university. Several hundred students protested the climate on campus which they perceived as exclusive and (at times) divisive, particularly from fellow students. President Herbst reiterated the importance of these issues facing our student body and higher education at-large. He emphasized the university's commitment to inclusivity and encouraged the Alumni Council to evaluate the changing demographics of our alumni community.

Academic and Intellectual Engagement. On Friday night, Professors Douglas Johnson (Psychology) and Karen Harpp (Geology) joined the Alumni Council for dinner. President Herbst and other guests were also in attendance to discuss online learning and technology. Specifically, the Alumni Council was interested in online academic and intellectual engagement for alumni. Professor Johnson discussed the challenges and opportunities for online learning, but emphasized the core strengths of a Colgate education: interpersonal instruction, debate, and dialogue that cannot be replaced by technology. The university's new [contract with edX](#) presents some new possibilities for education, which we are sampling with Living Writers and Professor Harpp's course on the Atomic Bomb.

Mission of the Alumni Council. The Alumni Council continued a discussion on its mission, which began last April at their spring meeting. The Council is considering developing an ad hoc committee on diversity, to examine communication strategies to all alumni. The Council also expressed interest to serve as mentors to students in various capacities (first generation, international, multicultural students).

Election Report. On Saturday morning, Mark DiMaria '84, Election Chair, provided an overview of the 2014 Alumni Council election. He reported that all of the Council nominees were elected and reviewed the breakdown of costs for the election which showed a significant savings over the prior year. Mr. DiMaria noted that the lion share of expenses is attributable to printing the ballot and mailing it to the more than 33,000 alumni. He reported that we will continue to explore further ways to reduce costs. President Terry Egler '77 restated the Council's position on contested alumni elections, which are provided for by the corporation's bylaws and certificate of incorporation. Alumni are strongly encouraged to submit nominations of themselves or other qualified alumni to the Alumni Council for consideration by the Council's Nominations Committee. All candidates are closely reviewed to identify balanced representation of the alumni body with nominees who have a proven record of service to Colgate.

Nominations Committee. Robert Seaberg '69 and his committee selected its 2015 slate of nominees, to be announced and voted at the winter meeting. Like past years, the committee accepted nominations from the entire alumni body last spring and summer, reviewing over 300 candidates for open positions.

Awards Committee. Robert Fawcett '91 and his committee began reviewing the 2015 alumni award winners. Final selections will be made at the winter meeting for the William Brian Little '64 Award for Distinguished Service, Ann Yao '80 Young Alumni Award, Distinguished Faculty Awards, and Maroon Citations.

Career Services Committee. Associate VP & Director of Career Services Mike Sciola met with the committee to discuss outreach strategies for diverse student needs. He also introduced the Council to a new online mentoring program, called College Switchboard. More details on this platform will be available in the coming months.

District Clubs Committee. Tim Seamans '02 led the District Clubs Committee during its annual review of alumni club awards. The award descriptions are as follows:

- The Carlton O. Miller '14 Memorial Cup for Outstanding District Club
- The Harold S. Merrell '42 Memorial Award for Most Improved District Club
- Special Recognition Awards honor outstanding individual club programs or projects.
- The RuthAnn Speer Loveless MA '72 Award for Distinguished Individuals – recognizes the achievements of individual club volunteers who display outstanding efforts, initiative, innovation, and commitment to district club activities.

Gateway Clubs

Miller Cup for Outstanding - St. Louis, MO

Small Clubs

Miller Cup for Outstanding - Chenango Valley

Merrell Award for Most Improved - Dallas/Ft. Worth

Special Recognition: Continued Excellence - London

Medium Clubs

Miller Cup for Outstanding – Albany, NY

Merrell Award for Most Improved - Heart of Carolina (Raleigh/Durham)

Special Recognition: Creative Programming – Rochester, NY

Special Recognition: Social Media – Cleveland, OH

Large Clubs

Miller Cup for Outstanding – Chicago, IL

Merrell Award for Most Improved - The Rockies (Denver)

Special Recognition: Revitalization – Westchester, NY

Special Recognition: Social Media – Southern California (Los Angeles)

Special Recognition: Innovative Programming – Philadelphia, PA

Metropolitan Clubs

Miller Cup for Outstanding - New York City

Merrell Award for Most Improved – Boston, MA

Special Recognition: Positive Momentum - East Bay (California)

RuthAnn Speer Loveless MA '72 Award for Distinguished Individuals

Bob Fenity '06 (Washington, DC)

Dan Solomon '05 (Chicago)

Advancement, Communications, and Admission Committee. During this panel presentation, the three committee chairs welcomed several staff guests: Rachel Reuben (Vice President of Communications), Sara Groh (Director of the Annual Fund), Lynn Holcomb '92 (Senior Associate Dean of Admission), and Kathryn Hollerbush '09 (Assistant Director of Alumni Relations).

Following the meeting theme of “Diversity & Inclusion”, the panelists were asked to address how the university attracts diverse student populations, how the university communicates with diverse alumni

populations, how the university solicits diverse alumni populations, and what strategies are used to engage diverse alumni populations.

University Relations Committee. Dean Suzy Nelson, Dean of the College, was introduced by committee chair Bart Hale '04. Nelson discussed the campus climate around diversity and inclusion, particularly following the student demonstration. She detailed the layers of support for underrepresented students and also how her staff is responding to particular needs. When asked about how the Alumni Council can help, she suggested an integrated alumni mentor program for students from non-traditional backgrounds.

Athletics Committee. Ann-Marie Guglieri, Senior Associate Director of Athletics joined Christina Turner, director of recreational sports and physical education to discuss their programs. Guglieri discussed NCAA Governance within the Big 5 Conferences, who want autonomy. 28 schools (including Colgate) voted against that structure; 75 votes needed to block. Colgate's nay position was based on how it will impact ability to recruit quality scholar athletes. Guglieri also discussed the university's [head injury reduction](#) policy.

Turner provided some details about student fitness at Colgate: 45% of student body participating in club or intramural sports (75% when varsity programs are included), 40 active club sports which travel to other schools for competition; Intramural sports have 850 individual participants (mostly male); there are 24+ fitness classes per week for students, faculty, and staff.

* * * *

The Alumni Corporation's next meeting -- as well participation in the SophoMORE Connections program -- will be held January 16-17, 2015. The spring meeting will be held April 10-11, 2015.

Questions? Comments? Please write to [Tim Mansfield](#), executive secretary for the Alumni Council and Associate Vice President for Advancement and Alumni Relations.

Best,
Terry Egler '77
Alumni Council President