A Historical Presentation:
1969-2010
The very beginning...

Following Martin Luther King Jr’s assassination on April 4, 1968, the social climate was in tumult. This proved true for Colgate as well. The Friday following his death there were no classes, as well as a memorial service in his honor. These events only increased tension amongst racial groups on campus.
The morning of April 7, 1968, the campus woke to the news that two black students had been challenged by two white students at Sigma Nu just passed midnight.

Charges were filed when the two fraternity brothers fired a starter’s pistol at the black students (a gun often used at swim meets).
Though one of the offending students was removed from campus the Association of Black Students (ABC) feared that the other shooter was still around.

As a result, William Robinson ’69 (president of ABC) led about 25 students to the fraternity to prevent any other violence from occurring.
After this incident Colgate President Barnett and faculty met to discuss the issue.

As a result of this talk and discussions with ABC, Sigma Nu’s charter was suspended.

These talks also brought attention to another fraternity.

Phi Delta Theta was indicted for “discriminatory selection procedures.”
As a result ABC presented President Barnett with an ultimatum:

Revoke Phi Delta Theta’s charter and disperse the brothers or they would “confront the administration.”

The president was uneasy to meet such demands because the other fraternities may have also been discriminatory.
Consequently, that Wednesday there was a rally on Whitnall Field, which led to an occupation of the administrations building.

Both Phi Delta Theta and the president made moves to work with ABC and better the organization.

Eventually Phi Delta Theta’s charter was revoked (for 2 years).

Only after President Barnett released two clarifying statements did the sit-in end after 100 hours.

Statement given by Phi Delta Theta (April 1968)

“We, the brothers of Phi Delta Theta Fraternity, have freed ourselves from our constitutional restrictions in membership selection based on race, color, creed, or national origin.”
Colgate students were not the only ones to act out in 1969.

On April 19 black students at Cornell University took over the president’s office (Willard Straight Hall).

The 36 hour sit-in was a protest against “racist attitudes” at Cornell.

The protest brought national attention because thousands of students (black and white) became involved.

Eric Evans leading students out of Straight.
15 hours into the occupation a fight broke out when White students attempted to expel Black students from the hall.

Guns were brought in for the protesting students’ protection.

Despite a bout of violence the takeover did end peacefully.

As a result of the protest in-depth discussions about community and race began.

Soon after the Africana Studies and Research center was established.
Talk Begins at Colgate University...

After the 100 Hour Demonstration members of ABC brought up the idea of an “Afro-American Cultural Living Center.”

When these discussions slowed down in the Spring of 1969, Gregory Threatte ‘69 and some of his peers became frustrated. He and others acted by leading half of the student body and faculty to Merrill House.
There the students occupied the building for 3 days.

Members of ABC claimed the building, hoping to encourage Colgate University to give them their own cultural center.

ABC thought extreme measures were necessary after the administration did not keep initial promises.
The university responded to the sit-in by stating that if the students didn’t “end their occupation...the police would be called in and injunction proceedings begun.”

On April 28, 1969, three days after they had entered Merrill House, forty members of ABC ended their protest.

ABC and Colgate University were able to reach an agreement about creating a “Black Ethnic Cultural Center.”

Stipulations of the agreement outlined that $50,000 would be given by the university and another $50,000 must be raised by ABC.
A Multi-Cultural Purpose

- An additional $200,000 more was also to be jointly raised by ABC and Colgate in order to maintain the building and sponsor programming.

- After a great deal of fundraising a maintenance building was refurbished and the first cultural center was founded.

- It was at this point that the purpose of the cultural expanded to include

  "educational programs and resources which demonstrate the contribution of ethnic groups for the benefit of Colgate students, faculty, staff, residents of Hamilton and other educational and urban institutions."
Colgate Officials Give Ultimatum to Blacks

Colgate University yesterday told students who seized Merrill House, the school’s faculty club, to end their occupation or police would be called in and injunction proceedings begun.

Officials set a deadline of 10 p.m. yesterday for members of the Association of Black Collegians (ABC) to vacate the club, but they did not believe court proceedings would begin until this morning.

Colgate Trustees met yesterday in New York City and decided to follow policy adopted of last May 25 which instructs the school to act against disorders.

Raymond Chapman, father of Raymond Chapman of 134 Virginia Ave, Hempstead, one of the rebel students, represented ABC at the meeting.
The center continued to grow in influence and importance on campus.

In the late 1980’s William Moynihan, Dean of the College, began discussions of a building a new cultural center.

The action and persistence that founded the cultural center in the 1960’s came to a culmination in 1989.
That spring a new cultural center building was rededicated to its original purpose.

George Langdon, then-president, stated that the center was a “commitment to diversity.”
Todd Brown ‘71, one of the students who fought for the cultural center, was later hired as its second director.

He described the transformation of the cultural center. At first "a safe haven for African-American students" it became a "thriving community venue for all people of diverse backgrounds."

This change is represented in the renaming of the center to ALANA Cultural Center in 1996, which stands for African, Latino, Asian and Native American.
Discussion of ALANA’s Founding

In March 2010 and Gregory Threatte ’69 and Todd Brown ’71 spoke at ALANA. They discussed the circumstances surrounding the founding of the cultural center:

Todd Brown ’71 (right) shares a light moment with Gregory Threatte ’69 during a discussion about the founding of ALANA. (Photo by Janna Minehart ’13)
In the early years of the center Adam Clayton Powell '30, Ralph Abernathy, and Muhammad Ali, along with others, came to speak at Colgate.

Brown, who helped organize these talks said

"We were able to attract folks of this caliber because we got noticeable attention for what we had done. People were interested in the actions of this small group of students in upstate New York."
Powell, a graduate of Colgate University, later became a Baptist minister in Harlem, NY.

He was elected into the U.S. House of Representatives in 1945 (where he was one of two African-Americans in that position).

In these roles he began a long fight against racial segregation.

A leader, he helped pass such bills as the minimum wage act, antipoverty acts, and bills to gain federal aid for education.

(1908-1972)
Ralph Abernathy

- A civil rights leader and pastor (1926-1990).

- In the 1950’s and 60’s Abernathy became Martin Luther King Jr.’s chief aide.

- He and King organized the 1956 Montgomery bus boycott.

- He was a crucial figure in the Civil Rights Movement.
Diane Ciccone ‘74

- Ciccone was in the first class of women to attend Colgate University.
- After graduation she entered Hofstra School of Law.
- An administrative law judge, she also became a member of Colgate’s Board of Trustees and Alumni Board.
- Her daughter, Kali McMillan ‘10, is also a graduate of Colgate University.
- Today ALANA has a library dedicated to her in the lounge (Diane Ciccone ‘74 and Kali McMillan ‘10 Library).

“[While] I have worn many hats at Colgate from student, alumni board member, and trustee, one of my greatest joys is being a Colgate parent.” – Diane Ciccone ’74 (The Colgate Scene)
Harlem Renaissance Center (HRC)

- Founded in 1982 by Erick Bowon ’84, Ken Frazier ‘85, and Kirk McDaniel ’85.
- McDaniel outlined the reasons behind his proposal for the HRC
  
  “To promote and heighten awareness of black culture on Colgate campus, and to increase the interaction between blacks and non blacks in a residential atmosphere in order to generate interaction on the whole campus.”
The HRC continues to fulfill these goals by welcoming all students to participate.

HRC members are required to attend Nia gatherings*, perform community service, and help improve the center.

*Nia gatherings – Aim to learn collective histories, contemporary issues, etc. through meetings with Colgate faculty and guest speakers.

The HRC has been affiliated with ALANA since its founding.

The facilities have collaborated together to bring about more discussion and interaction between diverse groups on campus.
ALANA Cultural Center
Colgate University

An Overview of Programs & Initiatives
Mission Statement: Then

Chairman of ABC, Naceo Giles ’70, wanted a cultural center in order to “retire from the white community” during a time when there were few other such spaces on campus.

Naceo Giles ’70 – president of ABC and originator of the idea for a Colgate cultural center.
However, the meaning behind the center soon expanded to encompass other ethnic groups beyond Colgate’s African-American students.

In 1980, Director Mae Henderson felt the center could "function as an educational and intellectual resource for minority students but also for the Colgate community at large."

30 years later ALANA is still driven by this mission.
This drive for cultural understanding is evident with the renovation of the 1934 House.

The house was founded seven years after women had been formally admitted to the university.

In 1977, the Francis Payne Bolton House opened its doors as a women's center.

The house was a residence initially focused on developing a community for women.
A New Mission: 1934 House

- As a result of student interest, the house has become co-educational and is now a “rotating theme” house.

- This academic year (2010-11) 12 students will be living in 1934 House to foster more diversity focused housing.

- Residents will have programming and events to continue the cultural education initiative.

- These events will involve Broad Street and the broader Hamilton community.
Such interaction will help foster deep connections between Colgate students and the rest of Hamilton.

For the Colgate community the 1934 House will be a continuation of the legacy that was begun by the ABC in 1969.
Besides diverse housing there are also many cultural programs that have spread ALANA’s influence throughout campus.

Breaking Bread – Funding that allows student groups to connect with other groups in order to collaborate on events during the semester.

Student Ambassador Program – 10-15 students who are responsible for the operation and planning of events for the center.
Heritage Month Celebrations
Throughout the year various cultural celebrations take place (African American, Hispanic Heritage, Asian Awareness, and Native American History).
Alumni of Color Organization (AOC) – ALANA works with Alumni Affairs to connect Alumni with the Colgate community. These events provide mentors and inspiration for current students.

VISION Meetings – Members of different multi-cultural and Greek Life organizations gather to discuss programming and campus issues. This creates a more supportive and open community.
Calendar of Events

- **August** – Fresh Friday
- **September** – ALANA Palooza, Diversity Week, Hispanic Heritage Month, VISION Reception
- **October** – Homecoming, Halloween Party, Syracuse Mix and Mingle
- **November** – Native American Festival & Dinner, Off-campus trip, Winter Gala
- **December** – Finals Week Study Break
Calendar of Events

- January – MLK Week, Annual Syracuse MLK Dinner, VISION Reception
- February – Black History Month Dinner
- March – Africana Women’s Week, Caribbean Student’s Week
- April – Asian Heritage Dinner, Spring Soiree
- May – Finals Week Study Break
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Works Cited

- Residential Life Archives (HRC History).
Pictures

- ALANA Archives.
- “Looking Back, Moving Forward.” Image from “Africana Studies & Research Center @ 40.” <http://asrc.cornell.edu/asrc@40/index.html>.