First-Year Reflection

ON THE 2014 SUMMER INSTITUTE

The Class of 2018 has had a great first year. Their experience living in residence at Curtis proved to be a positive one. They are integrating well into the Colgate community and are active in a number of student activities. Nineteen of the first-year OUS Scholars have been offered the opportunity to participate in the Sophomore Residential Seminar (SRS) next year. This is just a glimpse into their overall achievement. Many of them reflected back to their first days in the Summer Institute (SI), and how excited they were to be a part of OUS program and Colgate.

Mimi Ballard ‘18 (Summit, NJ) shared that her favorite Summer Institute class was Topics in Organismal Biology with Professor Frank Frey. She shared, “I have always enjoyed learning about the body and behavior, and this course really opened my eyes. I learned that we all are taught gross misconceptions at some point in our lives. These fallacies are further propelled by unsupported data and hearsays.”

Taylor Huffer ‘18 (Dallas, TX) mentioned that her favorite class was Francophone Literature from Africa in Translation with Professor Hélène Julien. She noted, “The name is a mouthful, but the content is so fulfilling. I had the chance to explore the struggles of others that I hadn’t seen or heard of before. I also had the chance to practice writing. Professor Julien brought the class to life, which had to be my favorite part. Actually, Professor Julien influenced me so much. She allowed us to write about our personal experiences. Through writing about my personal story, not only did I have a better grasp of where I was coming from, but also where I wanted to go. I was able to see in which direction I wanted to take my college experience.”

Jehdeiah Mixon ‘18 (Columbus, OH) agreed that Francophone Literature was also a favorite class of hers: “because of all the amazing books we read and analyzed — and all the amazing discussions we had about concepts I had no idea about.”

She further noted that History of the Atlantic World with Professor Antonio Barrera was equally influential, and she was able to have a better understanding of what history is about, and how to really study for it.

Valeria Felix ‘18 (San Diego, CA) also had a very positive experience in Professor Barrera’s class. She noted, “Without a doubt, Professor Barrera impacted my experience the most during the summer. Through sleepless nights because of his papers, I was able to really bond with fellow classmates. Also, his invitation to have dinner at his house made me realize how special Colgate is. Going to a state school back home, I never would have been able to make a connection with my professors as much as we did here. Plus, those cupcakes were delicious!”

Many other OUS scholars also felt that the connection with Colgate faculty was instrumental in their transition to campus.

Sydni Bond ‘18 (Mission Viejo, CA) shared that “there were two professors who really had an impact on my OUS Summer Institute experience: Professors Frey and Spires. Outside of class, each one opened my eyes to what OUS and Colgate are really like — the people, the social life, and the education.”
Jesus Velazco-Salazar ’18 (Immokalee, FL) also had positive things to say about the OUS faculty: “Professor Frey and Professor Tumulty were amazing! Both of them expanded my curiosity in Biology and Philosophy. I enjoyed every minute of class — challenging but entertaining! Professor Frey changed my entire perspective of science, and Professor Tumulty challenged me to analyze the text and to consider all possible scenarios in a situation.”

Lefeka Reubens ’18 (Silver Spring, MD) shared that three professors really impacted her experience in SI: “The first was Professor Julien, because she was one of the people who helped me to cope with being away from home. The second was Professor Spires, because he made me challenge my thought process. The final professor was Professor Barrera, because he made me remember something that I tried to forget from high school which is to question the so called ‘facts’ as there are two sides to every story.”

Tiffany Castillo ’18 (Munroe, NJ) noted, “My biggest fear about college before I started the Summer Institute had to be building a relationship with professors. Everyone has stressed how important it is, but walking up to a smart and respectable figure can be very daunting. It wasn’t until I sat down and had a conversation with Professor Spires that I realized that having a great student-teacher relationship wasn’t so hard after all. I have to say that he impacted my experience the most! He really helped me transition from a high school student into a first-year college student, both personally and academically.”

Robert (Bobbie) Howie ’18 (Fort Edward, NY) summed it up well: “I feel as though I could trust and go to any of the faculty and staff within OUS for any problem I have and be helped. OUS really helped set up a good support system for me to use; as a result, I do feel very connected with the faculty and staff on campus.”

Throughout the summer, the OUS Scholars did not just focus on classwork, they also did find time for fun.

Dayanara Salazar ’18 (Los Angeles, CA) remembered the trip to Darien Lake fondly. She stated that, “I really felt like I needed a breath of fresh air and needed to find a way to de-stress myself especially after mid-terms. Just by being there and away from an academic environment that we were in for the OUS program took my mind off all the work that I needed to do. I was just focused on having fun, and on getting on the roller-coasters that not even the rain could stop me from enjoying my day.”

Tasnim Ali ’18 (Schenectady, NY) really like the bowling trip, which was a favorite for many as well. She shared that she has never been to bowling before, and she had fun trying something new.

Kristy Saldana ’18 (Trenton, NJ) recalled her favorite trip as the ropes course. She shared that this was the first time she has ever done something like that. She was appreciative of getting out of her comfort zone.

Brandon Gonzalez ’18 (Queens, NY) also enjoyed the ropes course. He stated, “We were able to trust and rely on each other to progress through each of the challenges. Because I am from the City, this was the first time I was able to use harnesses and climb trees.”

One of the goals for the Summer Institute is to ensure a smooth transition for students into the fall semester. By the comments of our OUS scholars, this certainly was fulfilled.

Eric Alvarado ’18 (Chicago, IL) remarked, “I feel much more prepared for freshman year after SI. I feel like I know a lot more things about the school that most students might never learn their four years here. I know who to go to for help, and where are some of the best spots to do my homework. I am a lot less nervous for the year to begin.”

Maria Vorobyeva ’18 (Huntington Beach, CA) also concurred: “I am so grateful to OUS! It is such a relief knowing that I’m coming into college knowing what to expect. I am fully prepared for the workloads and have learned better time management than I have had before SI. It is also great knowing that I have faculty and friends waiting for me when the fall semester starts. I would have been so nervous coming into Colgate if not for OUS.”
The following 29 OUS Scholars have achieved a 3.30 or higher GPA while successfully completing at least 3.75 course hours during the Fall 2014 semester. Congratulations to these scholars for their academic excellence.

Dahiana Acosta ’16
Astonya Talisha Ambrose ’17
Mekedelawite (Maya) Atakilti ’15
Alexis Shiana Beamon ’17
Christelle Myriame Boursiquot ’15
Ashley Moriah Brekke ’16
Abril Faustina Cardenes ’17
Tiffany Lizeth Castillo ’18
Nina Natasha Cook ’17
Lokelani (Loke) Michiko Cummings-Watanabe ’15
Valerie Enid Garcia ’15
Nicole Denise Jackson ’18
Alan Kim ’15
Jia Bao (JB) Lei ’17
Roxanne Alanna Maduro ’17

Shemuel Ramon Malave ’18
Manuel (Manny) Bienvenido Medina ’17
Jehdeiah Essence Mixon ’17
Noufo (Stephanie) Nabine ’16
Tram Phuong Nguyen ’16
Estrella Rodriguez ’17
Cyriera Oneida Odessa Roldan ’16
Crystal Davanie Savh ’15
Yogita Telhu ’17
Solomon (Solly) Gezahgne Tesfaye ’15
Sherry Tran ’15
Jesus Everardo Velazco-Salazar ’18
Maria Vitalyevna Vorobyeva ’18
Sahara Yvette Zamudio ’17

Congratulations Prof. Frey!
The Colgate University Alumni Corporation recently announced the recipients of the 2015 Alumni Distinguished Teaching Award. Dr. Frank Frey, associate professor of biology and environmental studies, and director of the office of undergraduate studies (OUS) is one of the two distinguished professors being recognized this year. The other is Dr. Lesleigh Cushing, Murray W. and Mildred K. Finard Associate Professor in Jewish studies and associate professor of religion, as well as the director of the Jewish studies program.

The award will be presented at the annual Awards Ceremony during Reunion Weekend on Friday, May 29, 2015.
Konosioni

Providence Ryan
Joe Aiken
Charity Whyte

Konosioni Senior Honor Society “recognizes outstanding leadership, dedicated service to the community, and the preservation of tradition.” The history of the society can be traced back to 1934, where “two secret societies, the Skull and Scroll and the Gorgon’s Head, resolved to end their rivalry and joined to form Konosioni. Colgate students chose the name Konosioni, which literally means ‘people of the long house’ to honor the living traditions of the Iroquois (Haudenosaunee) Confederacy, an important presence in central New York. Each class is composed of peer-selected 26 members, representing 13 from each original society.”

Amongst the inductees for the Class of 2016 are three OUS Scholars: Joe Aiken, Providence Ryan, and Charity Whyte. The following are their reflections in joining this illustrious group.

Joe Aiken commented, “Honestly, I was prompted by a friend. Initially, I was not sure if I met the qualifications. Once I did my research, I was happy to know that I could help bridge the gap between Colgate and Hamilton through Konosioni. As the Philanthropy Chair for Phi Kappa Tau, I realized that being on Konosioni would give me the platform on a larger scale to continue my work in philanthropy.”

Providence Ryan remarked, “One of the reasons I’m most looking forward to being in Konosioni is due to the make-up of its members. In Konosioni, you have 26 folks who are involved in multiple organizations, but who find themselves in corners of campus that are different from one another. There is power in having a group of people like that in one room. We can utilize our campus connections and our various styles of leadership to bring a multitude of different groups on campus together in collaborative ways. We can bring together organizations that might never have otherwise thought to work with one another. We can start to bridge some gaps on this campus. I believe that a huge part of our academic experience at Colgate is about how effectively we can communicate our ideas and arguments to others, and Konosioni can be a place where we start to get different organizations together who haven't yet interacted with one another, in a way that they can begin to communicate and collaborate on campus events.”

Charity Whyte shared, “If someone told me that I would be in the Colgate University Senior Honor Society five years ago, I would have laughed in disbelief. I love my Colgate family and look forward to serving my campus community as a senior. I am honored and so excited to be in a group with so many of my peers that inspire and encourage me to be the best that I can.”
Aicha Ba ’17 - French club trip to Canada

Jimmy Juarez ’15 - Study Abroad in Bolivia

Bladimir Martinez ’16 White Privilege Conference in Seattle

Ashleandra Opoku ’17 SRS trip to Costa Rica

Kevin Iglesias ’17, Roxanne Maduro ’17, Estrella Rodriguez ’17, Dahiana Acosta ’16, Cynthia Vele ’17, Ibrahim Shah ’15 - Madrid Study Group

Manny Medina ’17, Melissa Meléndez ’15 - Jamaica Study Group

Luis Pastor ’18, Valeria Felix ’18, Marjorie Pegnia ’17, Abril Cardenes ’17 - Miami Spanish Debate Tournament

Allana Edwards ’17, Aishwarya Teegala ’16, Angie Wauthion ’16, Brynn Hinnant ’15 - London Study Group

Ashley Brekke ’16 - Study Abroad Morocco
OUS Word

Adventurous
[ad-vén-chér-uh s]

adjective
1. inclined or willing to engage in adventures; enjoying adventures.
2. full of risk; requiring courage; hazardous:

Dictionary.com Unabridged