Dear Presidents’ Club Members:

As a professor of history and as interim president of Colgate University, I have traced the history of the Presidents’ Club (PC) with great interest.

Since 1965, the Presidents’ Club has grown from 93 members to 3,747 members, raising more than half a billion dollars for the university while establishing a commitment to tradition, leadership, and impact.

Throughout the organization’s 50th anniversary year, we celebrated those three hallmarks. From Hamilton to Los Angeles, Presidents’ Club members gathered at special celebrations to connect with one another and hear from campus leaders. They returned home with renewed energy and excitement that translated into $42,674,891 in gifts — 93 percent of all dollars contributed to Colgate in Fiscal Year 2015.

More than 659 recent alumni contributed to Colgate at the Presidents’ Club level in 2015, and that is an all-time record.

Your leadership continues to be inspiring, and your gifts touch every corner of the university, enabling us to admit a greater number of students in need of financial aid and provide an exceptional liberal arts experience for all of our undergraduates.

I hope that this annual report helps you to reflect on the incredible impact you and others have had on the Colgate community. We know that, in the years ahead, your ongoing leadership and support will be crucial to our students’ success. As with so much of history, the past is prologue.

With many thanks,

Jill Harsin
INTERIM PRESIDENT

Dear Presidents’ Club Members:

It was an honor to serve as Chair of the Presidents’ Club during our 50th anniversary year.

For five decades, our mission has been to recognize Colgate’s most generous supporters. As we’ve grown, our mission has evolved, too. Today, in addition to leadership-level donor recognition, the Presidents’ Club mission formally embraces two additional, important core values.

First, we lead by example. In recent years, we’ve partnered with Colgate’s Center for Career Services to bring new life to homecoming. Last fall, on Friday of homecoming weekend, we welcomed more than 200 alumni, parents, faculty, and friends to Colgate’s fourth annual Career Connections luncheon, where they could interact with students who share similar interests, to help them explore life and career path ideas and options.

Second, we create and sustain opportunities for lifelong connectedness with the Colgate community. In recent years, we’ve partnered with various groups to help students meet alumni and parents and create opportunities for the students to use what they’ve learned in the classroom beyond Hamilton. We’ve built strong partnerships with athletic support groups, affinity groups, and the Colgate Professional Networks.

Through these initiatives and many, many more, the Presidents’ Club not only grows membership and raises more money, but we also work to help all members of the Colgate community understand and benefit from the power of a network of strong relationships, the value of a lifelong connection with the Colgate community.

Thank you for leading by example, and thank you for your tremendous support to Colgate.

Kevin J. Danchy ’83, P’16,’19
CHAIR, PRESIDENTS’ CLUB
2012–2015
Tonight, we celebrate 50 years of Colgate community achievement, and it is an extraordinary story. I am especially proud that so many of the first class of women at Colgate—the Class of 1974—are here with us tonight.

Let me give you my personal summary of our financial story in the past 50 years since the Presidents’ Club was established.

Before World War II, Colgate had practically no endowment. Instead, crucial support came from the Colgate family, who made the university the family’s contribution to the betterment of society by picking up the annual deficit.

World War II, as in so many other ways in American life, brought a fundamental turning point to this part of Colgate’s history. By the end of the war, and in the years immediately thereafter, the role of the Colgate family changed even though several individual members of the Colgate family continued to make significant financial contributions.

Colgate University was competing with top colleges and universities for the best faculty and students, but our competitors had endowments that had been accumulating for decades. The absence of significant endowment was a crippling handicap for Colgate in that competition.

The Colgate community responded in a way that reflects something fundamental about the college and its constituents. Hamilton, N.Y., is a very special place. It draws you in. Generations of Colgate alumni, faculty, and staff have said the same sentence in countless ways: “When I arrived in Hamilton, when I walked across the Colgate campus, I knew I belonged there.” Why did they feel that sense of belonging? Yes, there’s physical beauty, but this is also a community of participators, creators, activists. The members of the college—students, faculty, family supporters, alumni—must create for themselves the activities, the facilities, the experiences that the surrounding community does not yet provide. It’s not a place for spectators and people waiting to be served. The institution is what you create.

In that spirit, the community attacked this problem of the missing endowment. But the remarkable thing was that breadth of the response, the numbers of participants who have done their part, the sense of personal responsibility.

When the Presidents’ Club was created in 1965, the endowment was approximately $12 million. That $12 million endowment now is just under $1 billion. If we sustain our efforts, we also sustain our ability to create and build—to look at what needs to be done, where our strategic priorities and the demands of liberal arts education lie, and implement the changes that will take us forward into our third century. What an achievement that will be!

We all know this is not the end of the road. The road so far should inspire us for the challenges that lie ahead, just as it inspired the founders of the Presidents’ Club, who built the foundation for your accomplishments, which we celebrate here tonight.
A call to connect

People don’t tend to dwell on the power of community until they need it. When my journalist husband, Bob Woodruff ’83, was injured covering the war in Iraq, support from the greater Colgate community rippled out to surround us in profound and tangible ways.

Over the years, I have tapped into the Colgate network for advice, to find jobs, suggest mentors, and to connect people with opportunities. A group of us Colgate gals have been part of one another’s lives since freshman year. We make it a point to gather annually, and they remain my dearest friends. After Bob’s miraculous healing, our family founded The Bob Woodruff Foundation to support injured post-9/11 veterans and their families. My Colgate community was among the first to stand up and ask how they could support the mission.

From the professor’s dedication and the campus’s physical beauty, to the web of opportunities. A group of us Colgate gals have been part of one another’s lives since freshman year. We make it a point to gather annually, and they remain my dearest friends. After Bob’s miraculous healing, our family founded The Bob Woodruff Foundation to support injured post-9/11 veterans and their families. My Colgate community was among the first to stand up and ask how they could support the mission.

The strength of those relationships is only one of the reasons that the university remains an important part of my life. “What is it with you Colgate people?” folks routinely ask, with a mixture of curiosity and jealousy. An enduring sense of connection doesn’t begin to explain it. It’s almost impossible for me to accurately articulate what distinguishes the Colgate experience.

Joining the Colgate University Board of Trustees was an opportunity to say thank you to a place that had given so much to me. It’s not a role I take lightly. And that experience has positively impacted my life in more ways than I ever envisioned. It’s also opened my eyes to the intricacies of running a university, the often complex and tangible ways in which to view an issue or tackle a challenge.

Bruce Selleck ’71

A rock-solid example of impact

Undergraduate engagement in hands-on research alongside faculty is one of Colgate’s great strengths. To make this happen, we rely on external grants from agencies like the National Science Foundation; but many of our summer research students are funded by our generous alumni and friends.

This summer, I had the good fortune to work with three geology majors in the class of 2016. Teymoor Tahbaz, Ann Preston, and Rebecca Siladi were involved in the project, which started in the south-central Adirondacks near Wells, N.Y., where we worked in a rock quarry, measuring and describing cores and outcrop sections. This sort of fieldwork, fundamental in the geological sciences, also involves engaging with a work-site setting, communicating with the site managers and workers, ensuring safety for ourselves and others, and keeping on task to get the job done within the allowed time frame.

Following our fieldwork, we returned to Hamilton with data and samples and began lab work using the facilities and analytical equipment in the Robert H.N. Ho Science Center. One of our goals was to determine if a particular unit within the limestone sequence was in fact a volcanic ash bed.

We used x-ray diffraction and scanning electron microscopy to determine the minerals present in the bed and examine mineral grains, which could be used for radiometric age dating. The three students will carry the work forward during the fall as they develop their senior thesis projects. The funds that support this work come from endowment gifts made by alumni and friends — these include the Douglas W. Rankin ’53 Endowment for Geology Research and the Robert Linsley and James McLellan Endowment in Geology, which pay student stipends to offset the loss of summer earnings, and gifts to the Colgate Geology Discretionary Fund paid the costs of our lodging and travel while in the field.

Without this generosity, opportunities for student summer research would be much more restricted. Thanks to those who give to Colgate, our students — like Teymoor, Annie, and Becca — have access to invaluable research experiences.

Lee Woodruff ’82, P’13, H’07

Member, Board of Trustees

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It’s been interesting to hear how the Colgate legacy has imprinted itself on so many different alumni. One Colgate friend gives annually to financial aid because he understands that, without aid himself, he would never have achieved all that he has both professionally and personally. Another alumna in my town hosts an accepted-student reception every year, drafting a bunch of her friends to volunteer.

Each one of us has our own relationship with Colgate, which means that we all have an opportunity to demonstrate our support in whatever ways we can. Time, money, talent — no amount is too small. Showing gratitude is a gift that boomerangs back in wonderful and sometimes surprising ways. I urge you to think about the many ways in which you can connect. You never know what might happen next.

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Lee Woodruff ’82, P’13, H’07

Member, Board of Trustees
Exploring all that Colgate has to offer

Chris Higham ’18 is the epitome of a liberal arts student. If he’s not on the rugby field, you’ll probably find him researching in the lab or writing an article on just about any topic imaginable.

Higham admits that his financial aid award was a huge influence in his college decision process. “The financial aid was the main reason I ended up coming to Colgate, the offer was so generous,” he said.

Higham was accepted to Colgate as an Alumni Memorial Scholar, so he receives a grant, unrelated to financial aid, to further his education outside of the classroom.

“I have to put up a proposal, and as long as it’s something academic that will enhance my learning experience, I have up to $6,000 to do with as I please,” he said. Not surprisingly, he adds, “I’m very happy I chose Colgate.”

The New Jersey native declared his major in cellular neuroscience last March and works as a research assistant helping two seniors with their thesis projects.

When not in the lab, he works with the student organization called S.C.O.P.E., or the Student Committee on Project Entertainment, which organizes concerts on campus throughout the year. One of those concerts grabbed Higham’s attention last year, because it featured one of his favorite bands, Ball Park!

“If they could do that, I wanted to see what else they could do, so I ended up joining,” Higham said.

Higham also joined the rugby team his freshman year, and plays as a lock, or forward, on the team. “This semester I’ve been pretty [relaxed] with it because of my course load, but it’s definitely one of the best decisions I’ve made,” he said.

If Higham wasn’t busy enough, this year Higham decided to write for The Odyssey, an online student-led publication. For his first article he wrote about religious equality and atheism. Next up: an article about presidential candidates as Star Wars characters.

“I’ve always liked writing, and I’m not taking that many English or other humanities classes, so it’s a way for me to still write and express myself, despite being a science major,” he said.

Higham is looking forward to studying abroad, hopefully on the National Institutes of Health program his senior year or on the Manchester program next fall. He’s currently on the pre-med track at Colgate, and is planning on going to medical school after graduation.

—JESSICA RICE ’16

Living outside of ordinary

Anna Heil ’16 considers herself a true believer in the liberal arts and in community, small class size, and individual attention. That’s what interested her in Colgate, along with the highly rated Outdoor Education program (OE).

“I knew I was interested in the outdoors, and then I read about Colgate’s Outdoor Education program,” said Heil. “It was a really big draw for me. I hadn’t had that much exposure beforehand and it really gave me the opportunity to expand my interest.”

Heil joined OE sophomore year, and has been teaching myriad courses ever since—ranging from caving to kayaking to backcountry cooking.

Taking advantage of all that Colgate has to offer, this environmental geography major and film and media studies minor has found a way to tie her Colgate activities together with a common thread: her love of the outdoors. Originally hailing from San Diego, Calif., Heil has taken the shift in weather in stride—even appreciating the harsh winters of central New York. After all, they give way to ice climbing and skiing.

In order to be more in touch with campuswide environmental issues, Heil joined Students for Environmental Action (SEA). This has given her an outlet to discuss important questions such as those about divestment, carbon neutrality, and sustainability.

Through the geography department, Heil received the Kevin Williams ’10 Endowed Memorial Fellowship, which made it possible for her to travel—allowing her to work in the field, interacting with people and the environment. In the fall of 2014 Heil spent a semester in Panama, participating in SIT Panama: Tropical Ecology, Marine Ecosystems, and Biodiversity Conservation. This program allowed her to explore critical issues affecting conservation and ecology in the diverse ecologies of Panama, including rain forests, coral reefs, highland canopies, and coastal mangroves.

She also spent three weeks in Western Australia enrolled in GEOG/PCON 327: Population in Environment/Australia’s Stolen Generation, the goal of which was to address issues of population vulnerabili ties and cultural resilience by considering Aborigines in Australia.

“Financial aid has helped me immensely in pursuing higher education,” said Heil. “It’s helped introduce me to some of the amazing opportunities [outside of the classroom]. The Kevin Williams Scholarship was wonderful because it made me feel connected to the geography department as a community, and I really did feel like I was honoring Kevin in a small way by taking advantage of the privileges afforded to me.”

In addition to her involvement in OE and SEA, Heil is a photography intern in the Office of Communications and captain of the club water polo team. She serves as a Lampert Associate, meaning that she is actively involved in programming done by the Lampert Institute for Civic and Global Affairs. She was also recently inducted into the Gamma Theta Upsilon International Geography Honor Society.

Following graduation this May, Heil is interested in following her passion for the outdoors before eventually attending graduate school.

“There are a lot of different things I want to pursue,” Heil said. “I’m very interested in the interplay of different disciplines, such as between art and environment.”

—EMMA LOFTUS ’16
Continuing the voyage

When Andy Sia ’17 first saw the brochure for the Sea Education Association (SEA) Semester, a study-abroad program that focuses on learning about the ocean and environmentalism, he didn’t think too much about it. But in the following days, the idea started to grow on him. It’s not very often that a student gets to conduct intensive research while sailing around New Zealand, and Sia realized that this wasn’t an opportunity that he could miss.

At the program’s base camp in Woods Hole, Mass., Sia spent the first half of the fall 2015 semester taking classes to help him prepare for his ocean voyage. He learned about aspects of marine culture and environment, such as ocean circulation, the history of whaling, and navigational techniques for use at sea.

The second part of the course Sia set sail on November 15, 2015, heading for the South Pacific in an oceanographic research vessel. Sia’s research will help develop a better understanding of the impact of ocean acidification on sea butterflies. Their shells, which are made of calcium carbonate, dissolve in acidic conditions, so he will be looking into how current trends in pH values are affecting their abundance, health, and diversity.

For Sia, this journey began with a class that he took during his first year at Colgate—Evolution: Dinosaurs to Darwin—and it continues with the help of the financial aid.

“I chose to come to Colgate because of the generous financial aid offered as well as its academics,” said Sia. “The class made me want to become a geology major to uncover the many mysteries and complexities of our world.”

Since then, Sia has been involved in research projects on both paleontology and mineralogy. Last summer, he conducted research in the Adirondack Mountains on forest soils, so he is well prepared for the intensity of the research he will do at sea.

One of his favorite aspects of life at Colgate is the beautiful countryside of upstate New York, which is the perfect place for him to enjoy the outdoors, go for a run, and practice yoga. Despite the amount of time he spends outside and staring at rocks, Sia is definitely a people person, and the people that he has met at Colgate are what has truly made his experience here great.

He knows that those people will be his friends for a lifetime, and his experiences working with his classmates on the school literary magazine, The Colgate Portfolio, and singing in the newest a cappella group, the Mantlephonadies, will be memories he will carry forever.

He also points to his professors as an important aspect of his Colgate experience.

“They have always been supportive of my academic and personal endeavors, and their immense knowledge always amazes and inspires,” he said.

Sia embarked on his deep-water adventure looking forward to seeing how his friendships with his classmates would develop on their journey together. Having never sailed before, he was immensely excited to see what is in store for him at sea.

When he returns to campus next semester, he’ll be ready to dive right back into all of the opportunities that Colgate has to offer.

— MEREDITH DOWLING ’17

Finding home

Transferring to Colgate during the second semester of her first year, environmental science and economics double major Kristina McNamara ’16 quickly became involved in the university community.

McNamara originally attended SUNY Binghamton but drove north to pursue opportunities at Colgate because she desired a small classroom setting with an interdisciplinary approach.

“I was fortunate to be accepted and to be awarded a significant amount of financial aid,” McNamara said.

Upon arrival, McNamara sought out involvement in philanthropic organizations and environmental groups. Through the Max A. Shacknai Center for Outreach, Volunteering, and Education, McNamara quickly found a home with the Green Earth Gang. Now leading the organization, she recognizes it as a way to combine two of her passions: philanthropy and environmental sustainability.

Her passion for philanthropy is furthered by her involvement with the philanthropy committee of her sorority, Kappa Kappa Gamma. She is also employed by the Colgate Fund as an office assistant and as a manager for the student-calling program.

“Working for the Colgate Fund has given me an even greater appreciation for the efforts of so many individuals who make a Colgate education possible for students on financial aid,” McNamara said. “I always enjoy the conversations that I have with alumni because, although each had a different experience at Colgate, most still share many of the same fond memories of their four years in Hamilton.”

Like many of her classmates, McNamara desired an experience studying abroad yet faced the challenges of transferring credit and financial aid. Fortunately, she found an appealing alternative in W. Bradford Wiley Professor of Economics Jay Mandle’s extended study course ECON 238: Economic Development. The course studied the role of NGOs in economic development and she traveled to Bangladesh with Professor Mandle for first-hand research — an opportunity that was financed by her scholarship.

No stranger to working closely with faculty and embracing the small classroom setting, McNamara is currently writing an honors thesis for the environmental studies department under the guidance of Professor April Baptiste. During her junior year, she served as a research assistant for Professor Baptiste to help with research on an economic development project taking place in Jamaica.

When not working on her thesis, leading Green Earth Gang, or organizing philanthropic events for Kappa Gamma, McNamara stays active by running. She spends time in New York City while off campus; enjoys brown bag lunch series events; attends guest lectures and the Kerschner Family Series Global Leaders at Colgate; and loves opportunities to network with alumni.

These world-class experiences and close relationships remit McNamara of her gratitude for her financial aid package. She sees these experiences as unique to a Colgate education.

McNamara takes great pride in being a student on financial aid, gratefully recognizing the opportunities she can access thanks to the support, understanding, and flexibility of the financial aid office as well as the generosity of the Colgate community.

“I never felt the pressure of being on financial aid — it does not define my Colgate experience," McNamara said. “Rather, it has facilitated the experiences I view as imperative to a successful college career.”

— LAUREN CASELLA ’16

Step through the PC Gateway

Presidents’ Club members have a special connection to the university — and to each other. We’ve strengthened that connection via the Presidents’ Club ‘Gateway, which allows members to search for each other not only by name, class year, and location, but also by event attendance.

Visit colgate.edu/pgateway today and log on.

Check in with fellow members to compare notes, share inspiration, and perhaps do a little networking even as you demonstrate the commitment to leadership, tradition, and impact that make the Presidents’ Club so crucial to Colgate’s success.
The financial health of the university remains strong, in large part thanks to the leadership support from our Presidents’ Club members. Your generosity makes it possible for Colgate to continue to thrive.

BRIAN G. HUTZLEY
VICE PRESIDENT FOR FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Charting our course

Colgate’s fiscal well-being rests in the hands of generous alumni, parents, and friends. Through sound economic management, the university has stewarded your support, deploying it to expand financial aid and bolster countless programs that make the Colgate experience second to none.

Of the 42.6 million raised during fiscal year 2015 (July 1, 2014–June 30, 2015):

- 50% supported financial aid
- 16% supported capital projects
- 10% supported academic (spendable, non-endowment)
- 8% supported non-financial aid endowment (primarily academics)
- 5% supported athletics (spendable)
- 3% supported the internship fund
- 2% supported operation & maintenance

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Presidents’ Club Membership Comparison by Class Year

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Growth of Colgate Endowment

- Endowment market value
- Value without gifts and associated investment return

The financial health of the university remains strong, in large part thanks to the leadership support from our Presidents’ Club members. Your generosity makes it possible for Colgate to continue to thrive.
Mission and Membership

The mission of the Presidents’ Club: The Presidents’ Club exists to provide financial support to the university through the development of a culture of leadership-level giving by all members of the Colgate community. The approach to establish and sustain a culture of leadership by example, to create lifelong connectances from the matriculation on, and to recognize our leaders.

Highlights
Members of the Presidents’ Club (PC) are engaged, passionate, and committed people. As Colgate alumni, parents, and friends, we share a lifelong commitment to Colgate. Membership in the Presidents’ Club also offers:
• Special occasions to connect with other Presidents’ Club members and campus leaders at regional and on-campus events and through our new online community, the Presidents’ Club ‘Gateway’
• Regular, exclusive, personalized communications from the university including the PC Newsflash, a members-only e-newsletter with up-to-date information on programs, issues, and events at Colgate.
• Special attention and recognition during Reunion and Family weekends.
• Involvement with students through a partnership with Colgate’s Career Center
• Opportunities to join the Colgate University Presidents’ Club Facebook Group and network with other PC members.

Initiatives
Family membership: Families enjoy regular benefits of Presidents’ Club membership including VIP seating for some on-campus special-events.

Installation giving: Simple monthly credit card deductions spread out membership payments.

colgate.edu/makewithit

Matching gifts: Matching gifts count toward membership in the Presidents’ Club. Submit your matching gift form with your gift, and we will count both toward your cumulative giving total for the year.

matchinggifts.com/colgate

1819 Circle: The 1819 Circle celebrates alumni who have invested in the university for three or more consecutive years.

How to join
To make a Presidents’ Club gift to Colgate, follow the membership level guidelines and ways of giving. Your gift entitles you to membership for one year. Any and all gifts to the college during the fiscal year count toward membership.

Check
Mail in a business reply envelope

Online giving
colgate.edu/makewithit

Credit card or monthly installments
Call 1-800-668-4428, deductions offered each month

Appreciated securities
Call 315-258-7784 for details

Life income agreements
Call 315-258-7740 for details

For additional information:
Jennifer Stone
Director of Annual Leadership Giving
colgate.edu/presidentsclub

Presidents’ Club levels
July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2016

James B. Colgate Society
(Carousel lifetime gift)
$1,000,000

Membership in Perpetuity (Carousel alumnus donor)
$500,000

Benefactor
$250,000

Fellow
$50,000

Donor
$20,000

Member
$10,000

Partners
$5,000

Member (listed prior to 1866, widows, and Holocaust survivors and staff)
$1,000

New giving levels for recent alumni

Class of 2006
$1,000

Class of 2007 and 2008
$750

Class of 2009 and 2010
$500

Class of 2011 and 2012
$350

Class of 2013, 2014, and 2015
$250

Undergraduates
$13

Enclosed full-time in a graduate-level program
$10

Enclosed full-time in an undergraduate program
$5

To view a list of donating institutions, please call breast cancer of Colgate at 1-800-292-7247 to make this gift.

colgate.edu/makewithit

To check out our websites:
colgate.edu/presidentsclub
Colgate

The Presidents’ Club
2014–2015 Impact Report

Colgate University
13 Oak Drive
Hamilton, NY 13346