



**Colgate University Alumni Council**  
September 2021 Meeting Summary

The Colgate Alumni Council consists of 56 alumni elected for their exemplary volunteer service to Colgate, together with the Executive Secretary who shall not have a vote (all of the above 57 shall be known as Directors), and former Alumni Council Presidents who are not Directors and have no voting rights ("Life Members"). Its members represent the approximately 34,000 living 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.

On September 23, 2021 - September 25, 2021, the Alumni Council met in person for its first meeting of the 2021–2022 fiscal year. Most notably, this was the first time that the Council met on campus since September 2019. Approximately 20 members who were unable to attend in person joined the meetings via Zoom throughout the weekend. The Council's work is conducted through its committees and meetings of the entire Council.

A silent roll call was taken by Jillian Cole '10, Deputy Executive Secretary.

The following officers, directors and life member(s) were present in person or by phone/Zoom: Mrs. Patricia E. Apelian '76, Mr. Lawrence G. Arnold '63, Mr. Thomas A. Baker '69, Mrs. Brooke S. Beck '94, Mrs. Susan L. Becker Gould '03, Ms. Christie E. Bonilla '06, Mr. Robert P. Burke '85, Dr. Becky Bye '02, Mr. Thomas R. Campbell '00, Mr. Paul H. Cascio '83, Mrs. Sarah L. Cave '95, Mrs. Jillian R. Cole '10, Mr. Chad E. Cooley '00, Mr. Gregory M. Dahlberg '98, Mrs. Lauren P. D'Onofrio '82, Mrs. Theresa Donahue Egler '77, Mr. Bruce S. Ferguson '91, Mr. Alvin Glymph '91, Mr. Denny Gonzalez '13, Ms. Barbara J. Gould '81, Mrs. Lauri Curtis Hadobas '77, Mrs. Susan Horwitz '76, Mr. Robert C. Johnson '94, Mrs. Erin Kiritsy '12, Mr. C. Thomas Kunz '72, Ms. Cara A. Lawler '05, Mr. Joseph A. Leo '01, Mrs. Pamela E. Odeen-LoDato '81, Mr. William C. McClean, III '63, Mr. John R. McQueen Esq. '70, Mr. Christopher L. Nulty '09, Mr. Jean-Pierre Paquin '96, Mr. Charles A. Parekh '97, Mrs. Jane Najarian Porter '74, Mrs. Emily R. Radovic '02, Mr. David L. Rea '82, Mr. Tal-ee E. Roberts '01, Ms. Carole H. Robinson '83, Ms. Dena E. Robinson '12, Mr. Andrew S. Roffe '68, Mrs. Melanie B. Schiff '04, Mr. James A. Speight IV '14, Ms. Jennifer Stone, Mrs. Kimberly Esmay Taylor '80, Mr. Jarrett R. Turner '04, Mr. Christopher P. Vogelsang, Jr. '11, Mr. Kevin A. Zimmerman '90

The following officers, directors and life member(s) were present for committee meetings, but did not attend the General Session: Mr. Karl D. Fries '10, Mr. Kevin A. McMurtry '88

The following directors were absent: Mrs. Johanna Ames '98, Ms. Melissa J. Coley '79, Ms. Jocelyn B. Donat '88, Mrs. Kate S. Levine-Freedman '05, Mr. Christian B. Johnson '02, Dr. Rodney A. Mason, Jr. '06, Mr. Denniston M. Reid '94, Mrs. Allyson E. Riemma '11, Mr. Per A. Sekse '78, Mr. James C. Silas '06

The following life members were absent: Mr. Gus P. Coldebella '91, Mrs. Christine Cronin Gallagher '83,

Mr. Ronald A. Joyce '73, Mr. Joseph P. McGrath Jr. '85, Mr. Fred C. Meendsen Sr. '54, Mr. Scott A. Meiklejohn '77, Mr. C. Bruce Morser '76, Mr. Gerald D. Quill '60, Dr. G. Gary Ripple '64, Ms. Joanne D. Spigner '76, Mr. Bruce F. Wesson '64

It was established that a full quorum (at least 28 members) was present.

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Over the summer, Susie Becker Gould '03 had an opportunity to meet with President Casey and members of the Cabinet. This is an incredibly exciting moment for Colgate under President Casey's leadership and the vision for Colgate's Third-Century is bold and ambitious. The Council is fully committed to supporting the *Third-Century Plan*. Aligning our work with Colgate's Third-Century Plan was a key point of discussion throughout the Fall Meeting as the Council engaged with President Casey and members of the cabinet and faculty to further this goal.

Below is a summary of the Council's work and plans for the future.

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#### **Reception with President Brian W. Casey**

The Council was welcomed by President Brian W. Casey with a reception on Thursday evening. This casual gathering provided an opportunity for Council members to reconnect and for new members to meet everyone.

#### **New Member Orientation**

The Council welcomed 10 new members this year. These new members, along with those who joined the Council last year, gathered for a new member orientation on Thursday evening. This meeting was an opportunity to learn more about the Council's purpose and review the key policies and procedures that guide the Council's work. Each new member has been assigned a mentor, who serves on the Executive Committee.

#### **Nominations Committee**

The Nominations Committee met Thursday evening to discuss final nominations for terms beginning July 2022, and developed a final recommendation which was presented to the Council and voted upon during the Executive Session on Saturday. The committee has made recommendations for seven (7) ERA representatives, three regional representatives (Southwest/International, Southeast, Far West) and two at large representations. The committee developed a profile to help guide decision making to ensure that representation across era, ethnicity, geography, and profession were taken into account.

#### **Awards Committee**

The Awards Committee met Thursday evening to discuss next steps in their process. The Awards Committee recommends nominees for Alumni Council awards that honor alumni, faculty and other University employees who have manifested outstanding commitment, contributions and service to the University: The Wm. Brian Little '64 Alumni Award for Distinguished Service, The Maroon Citation, The Ann Yao '80 Memorial Young Alumni Award, The Colgate Alumni Corporation Humanitarian Award, and The Entrepreneur of the Year Award, as well as such other awards as the Alumni Council shall from time to time determine to be appropriate and in the best interests of the Alumni Council and the University. The committee will be divided into several subcommittees to review the nominees for each award and make a recommendation. Thank you to Andrew Roffe '68 for leading the Wm. Brain Little Award Subcommittee, Greg Dahlberg '98 for leading the Maroon Citation Award Subcommittee, Becky Bye '02 for leading the Ann Yao Memorial Young Alumni Award Subcommittee, and Tal-ee Roberts '01 for leading the subcommittee which will provide recommendations on the Humanitarian Award, Entrepreneur Award, and

non-alumni Maroon Citation Award. Initial lists for nominees are being developed, and will be culled down by the committee. Subcommittees will meet by mid-November and aim to have recommendations by December for initial review.

### **Meeting with President Brian W. Casey**

The Alumni Council was pleased to welcome President Brian W. Casey to engage council members in a discussion about Colgate's *Third-Century Plan*. In a conversation about Colgate, President Casey provided remarks about the Colgate Commitment, a new financial aid initiative which seeks to make Colgate more accessible and affordable to lower and middle income students. President Casey also reviewed plans for a fifth Residential Commons at Colgate, as well as plans for the Ho Mind, Brain, Behavior Initiative, plans for Arts, Creativity and Innovation (the Middle Campus) and the Lower Campus. The Council received the printed status update on the *Third-Century Plan* as well as the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion plan update.

### **Meeting with Karl W. Clauss '90, Vice President for Advancement**

Karl Clauss met with the Council to provide a Campaign update. The Campaign will publicly launch in Spring 2022. Vice President Clauss noted that the *Third-Century Plan* represents the largest and most important transformation in the history of Colgate. It will both complete the physical campus and fully realize Colgate's potential to become one of the great colleges or universities in the nation — and perhaps the most important undergraduate institution in the country.” He reviewed the steps taken to date, including work with GG+A, campaign consultants, around campaign readiness and feasibility. As part of this, the Advancement team conducted 11 virtual leadership briefings in 2020-21 and GG+A conducted a survey of hundreds of potential campaign prospects. The Advancement team will expand in order to accommodate the needs of the upcoming campaign. As was referenced in President Casey's presentation, key priorities will include The Colgate Commitment, Endowed Professorships, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiatives, Robert H.N. Ho Mind, Brain, and Behavior Initiative, Middle Campus – Initiative for Arts, Creativity, and Innovation, Residential Life, and Athletics Facilities.

### **First Generation Program and Admissions Discussion**

The council met with RaJhai Spencer, Dean of First@Colgate Program, Assistant Dean for Administrative Advising, Tara Bubble, Dean of Admission and Jamiere Abney, Associate Dean of Admission, Coordinator of Outreach for Opportunity and Inclusion. Given the remarkable increase and attention on first-generation students at Colgate, this meeting provided an important opportunity for the Council to learn more about the evolving First@Colgate program, as well as to discuss and identify trends and strategies that led to the increase in first-generation applicants (eg - Questbridge, and partnerships with other key organizations). The Council learned about ways that they will be able to support Colgate's first-generation students.

### **Panel discussion with members of the Cabinet**

The Council met with Ellen Kraly, Interim Provost and Dean of the Faculty, Paul McLoughlin, Dean of the College, and Nicki Moore, Vice President and Director of Athletics for a panel discussion moderated by Laura Jack, Vice President for Communications. The panel discussed the return to campus this Fall, including challenges and positives on the student life, academic, and athletic fronts. The panel also outlined what they are most excited about in the years ahead, with the launch of the *Third-Century Plan* and the upcoming campaign, which included support for faculty through Endowed Professorships, the Arts, Creativity and Innovation initiative, advancements in residential life and athletics facilities and resources.

### **Meeting with Laura Jack, Vice President of Communications and Acting Chief Diversity Officer**

Laura Jack met with the Council to review plans for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Colgate and answer questions. Vice President Jack spoke about the priorities of the incoming Vice President for Equity and Inclusion, and the resources that will be available (eg - the Henry Livingston Simpson Fund). A full update

on the DEI plan can be found here:

<https://www.colgate.edu/sites/default/files/2021-09/DEI-annual-report-2021.pdf>.

### **Campus Tour**

Members of the Council had the opportunity to connect with four student tour guides (Sarah Harris '23, Natalie Ringel '23, Brandon Williams '23, and Emily Corson '24) who shared a bit about their experience on campus, as well as great enthusiasm and the sense that we are moving past the pandemic into a sense of normalcy on campus. The students guided the Council around the upper campus, showcasing the two new residence halls (Burke and Pinchin) as well as Benton Hall, the new Career Services Center.

### **Small Group Dinners**

Members of the Council had an opportunity to engage in smaller group discussions over dinner around Hamilton, NY on Friday evening. These dinners were led by Alumni Council Officers.

### **General Session**

Susie Becker Gould '03, Alumni Council Vice President, opened the meeting on Saturday morning by determining that there was a quorum. She emphasized how special it was to have everyone back on campus, and recapped the weekend's meetings and activities, encouraging everyone to enjoy Homecoming festivities later in the day.

### **Executive Session**

Andrew Roffe '68, Legal Counsel noted that there was no contested election last year, no bylaw revisions, and that he and others were working on cleaning up the policies and procedures document.

The Vice Chair appointment for the Academic Life Committee was reviewed and approved. Congratulations to Sue Horwitz '76 for taking on this role.

In addition, the Council voted on the disbandment of the Communications Committee. Instead, Christopher Nulty '09 and Carole Robinson '83 will serve as Communications Advisors to the Council and assist in developing plans both for internal and external communications.

### **Vice President's Report by Lauri Curtis Hadobas '77**

Lauri reiterated the importance of being on campus and the special nature of this meeting, emphasizing the robust nature of the meetings and opportunities to gather.

### **Alumni Trustee Report by Pat Apelian '76**

The Board met on May 1-2 virtually and will meet again on October 1-3. The following was shared by Mike Herling, Chair of the Board, in an email to the campus community following the May meeting:

- The Board convened a special meeting to review the University's [DEI Plan, the status of key initiatives and planning for the continual update to the plan](#), as well as the work of the newly-formed Board ad hoc DEI Committee.
- This summer, the Board began to work with a consultant to facilitate engagement on DEI matters. The Board also discussed the expansion of the size of the Board for a period of time to allow for an increase in Board diversity.
- The administration provided updates on the admissions of the Colgate Class of 2025, preparations for the fall 2021 semester, and the FY21 budget.
- The Acting CDO Laura Jack briefed the Board on the status of the CDO search as well as some DEI updates from campus, including Colgate's membership in [LACRELA](#), the Graduate School Access Fund, which was generously supported by trustee Giovanni Cutaia '94, and his wife, Maree, and the Alumni Council's creation of a new DEI position on its executive committee.

- The trustees received an update from President Casey on the initiatives that are part of the University's *Third-Century Plan*. As a significant part of the entire transformative vision for Colgate under *The Third-Century Plan*, the Board endorsed and enthusiastically backed, a new and significant financial aid initiative that will be announced to the entire Colgate community on June 1, 2021.
- The Board approved a number of recommendations regarding faculty, most notably the appointment of two new endowed chairs.
- Board actions also included the election of officers. Mike Herling '79, P'08, '09, '12 will be serving as Board Chair for a term of three years. Gretchen H. Burke '81, P'11, '20, Gus P. Coldebella '91, and Jeanne A. Follansbee '78, P'08 will serve as vice chairs for a term of one-year. The Board also recognized the service of four retiring trustees: Celia A. Colbert P'14, Thomas W. Dempsey Jr. '72, Sonya A. Falcone '12, and John A. Hayes '88, P'19.
- Finally, as part of the University's DEI efforts, the Board voted formally to expand the number of trustees in order to diversify its membership faster than the normal turnover would allow. The New York State Board of Regents approved Colgate's request to expand the Board from 35 to 38 members in March. The Nominating, Governance, and Trustee Development Committee worked throughout the year to identify new trustees to start their terms in fall 2021 and fall 2022. I am pleased to report that Daniel C. Benton '80, H'10, P'10 and Christine J. Chao '86 will be returning to the Board in fall 2021. Joining them will be Steven N. Cho '93, P'23, Udayan Das Roy '04, Yvonne M. Gyimah '01, Christian B. Johnson '02, and Carlton W. Walker '10. In addition, the Board elected Garfield O. A. Smith '85 and Clarissa V. Shah '10 to be the cohort of new trustees starting in fall 2022.

#### **Treasurers Report by Chad Cooley '00**

IRS filing 990 is typically completed by Tom O'Neill, who is retiring this year after 40 years of service to Colgate. Chad emphasized the importance of completing the conflict of interest form, which will be circulated to all members shortly, as well as the opportunity to complete the expense form and potentially receive a tax deduction on travel expenses as it relates to Council meetings.

#### **Executive Secretary Report, Jen Stone**

Ms. Stone spoke about the composition of the Engagement Score and how it is utilized both by Advancement Staff as well as the Council. Ms. Stone reviewed key drivers around alumni engagement this past year, which has included more than 200 virtual programs around the professional networks, affinity & identity groups, regional clubs, co-education, athletics, and more. Priorities for this upcoming year include a focus on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, advancing the Colgate Link and virtual activities, rebuilding the regional club model and supporting volunteers in strategic and intentional ways, and the successful execution of two Reunion weekends in June 2022.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Academic Life Committee**

Lauren D’Onofrio ’82, Chair, reported that the Academic Life committee reviewed their objective as a committee and the connection to the *Third-Century Plan*. The majority of the meeting was spent in conversation about the Residential Commons Liaison program, a new program for the Alumni Council led by the Academic Life Committee. This committee connected with the leadership from Hancock Commons and Dart Colegrove Commons, the two residential commons that will be the initial partners for this program. There was discussion around opportunities to have the liaisons support the work of the commons directors, and how this program can strengthen the commons system and be a good opportunity for more alumni to learn about it. We now have 8 alumni offering to serve as our initial liaisons.

### **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee**

Pat Apelian ’76, standing in for Chair, James Speight ’14, reported that the DEI committee had a conversation about the purpose of the committee, and committed to learning more about all forms of diversity and valuing inclusion. This committee discussed opportunities for the Alumni Council to evaluate their own biases. There was a reflection on the presentation from First@Colgate and OUS, and interest in supporting these students. There was encouragement to join the First/OUS group on the Colgate Link. The group discussed supporting campus programming, affinity groups, and the results of the survey of Alumni of Color. The committee discussed the best way to accomplish goals around alumni support and student support, such as mentorship.

### **Campus Connections**

Joseph Leo ’01, standing in for Chair, Bruce Ferguson ’91 reported that the Campus Connections committee talked through how the Council could best support the student experience. The group met with a number of Dean of the College staff members to hear about various student groups and the successful programming that is currently in place. The committee also learned about ways alumni can help support these efforts. The DoC staff will prioritize their needs in this area, as well as help identify a group of students that represent a cross section of the entire student body to connect with the committee. There was also talk of the ongoing support of the Senior Honor Society and supporting them through the name change. There is great interest from the group in connecting with students in future meetings, as they are able.

### **Awards Committee**

Tal-ee Roberts ’01 reported that the Awards Committee reviewed the timeline for the awards process and the criteria for each of the awards. They confirmed their subcommittee assignments and will touch base as the lists are culled down in advance of the January meeting. There was also discussion about a subcommittee forming to consider improvements to the awards ceremony during Reunion.

### **Alumni Engagement**

David Rea ’82, standing in for Emily Raiber Radovic ’02 reported that the Alumni Engagement Committee revisited the structure of our annual regional club awards, deciding to move away from the existing award categories for the time being and recognizing all club leaders who planned a virtual or in-person event throughout the last year and a half. The committee will still vote on the RuthAnn Spear Loveless Award for Distinguished Individual at our Winter meeting. The committee also discussed how we can better support our regional club leaders and will work on compiling a new club leader welcome kit to set new club leaders up for success and try to reduce turnover and disengagement.

## **Career Initiatives**

Paul Cascio '82 reported that the Career Initiatives Committee heard from Teresa Olsen, AVP for Career Services, about their new four-year career development plan. They also learned about Thought Into Action and how it will be incorporated into the Middle Campus from Carolyn Strobel, director of Thought Into Action. The committee also encouraged support from the Alumni Council with reviewing summer funding applications, as there are a growing number. There were mock interviews held with students which were very successful. There was also an encouragement for Alumni Council members to sign up for the Colgate Link and to update their information.

The next meeting will be hosted in Hamilton on January 20-22, 2022. In the meantime, the Council will continue its important Committee work. Each Committee will be responsible for identifying 3-5 goals for the upcoming year, aligned with Third-Century Plan priorities, and specific action steps to achieve those goals. Committees will be supported by the Alumni Relations staff.