



THE  
COLGATE  
RESIDENTIAL  
IDEA

COLGATE UNIVERSITY



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RESIDENTIAL  
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“One of my favorite  
Colgate memories is from my  
first game against Cornell  
—we won, I got a black eye,  
and I was hooked.”

—Nephileen Kattel '26

## AN ICONIC FOUR-YEAR EXPERIENCE

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At Colgate we prize living and learning in community. Our belief that a great education is never obtained alone fuels the Colgate Residential Idea. This is why life and learning here transcend disciplines, cultures, and classrooms. And why our four-year residential experience is essential to your Colgate education.

We are a place where students from all over the world quickly feel at home. A place where students develop and hone their skills of empathy, sociability, flexibility, and respect for others. This is part of how Colgate prepares people for life.

Our residential experience is intentionally designed to forge a deep and abiding sense of belonging for students. Belonging that develops within them a lifelong ability to build community for themselves and others wherever they go.

## FIRST-YEAR RESIDENTIAL COMMONS

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Our Residential Commons System is the heart of the campus living experience at Colgate. Beyond the hall in which you live, students belong to one of four Residential Commons — groupings that allow you to have support, make friends, embrace lifelong learning, and feel connected early in your college life.

As your home for your first year at Colgate, each commons has its own traditions, personality, and signature activities. Your academic interests lead to your commons placement. Students who select the same First Year Seminar (FSEM) course live in the same Residential Commons.

A pair of faculty and staff directors, supported by professional staff and student community leaders, lead each commons. Together they create a rich and vibrant array of opportunities for academic engagement and learning beyond the classroom.

## COMMONS ACTIVITY SAMPLER

Optional but always popular, commons activities range from weekly dinners with faculty, ski trips, and study groups to trivia nights, provocative discussions, and weekend brunches.



## DECODING THE RESIDENTIAL COMMONS

Each commons is named for a Colgate community member from the University's history who made an important and lasting impact on the community.

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DIANE CICCONE  
'74, P'10

Ciccone Commons is named after Diane Ciccone '74, P'10, who was one of the 13 women of color in the first class of women to enter Colgate. After graduating from Colgate in 1974, she earned her law degree from Hofstra University in 1977 and built a remarkable career in law and journalism. She has mentored generations of Colgate undergraduates via the Sister2Sister program and Career Services. She is a role model of warmth, inclusion, and dedicated mentorship.

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**CICCONE COMMONS** (EST. 2015)  
CURTIS HALL, DRAKE HALL



- A series of open books represents Ciccone's personal history, academic journey, and shared wisdom
- Vivid beams of light cut through darkness, creating 13 rays that suggest Ciccone's revealing and enlightening work, both as an author and an attorney

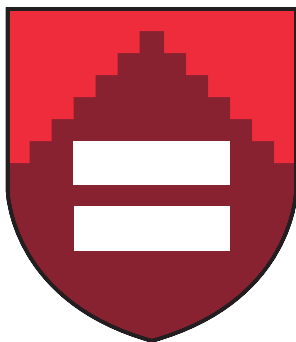


GORDON  
BLAINE HANCOCK  
1919,, '20, H'69

Hancock Commons is named after Gordon Blaine Hancock. Hancock graduated from Colgate in 1919, completed Colgate Seminary in 1920, earned an AM in Sociology from Harvard, and later received an honorary Colgate degree in 1969. He became a sociology professor at Virginia Union University. He served as pastor of Moore Street Baptist Church in Richmond, Va., and was a prominent advocate for African American equality before the civil rights movement. Hancock wrote the syndicated column “Between the Lines,” co-founded the Southern Regional Council, and urged Colgate to resume admitting African American students during a period of exclusion.

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**HANCOCK COMMONS** (EST. 2016)  
BRYAN COMPLEX, 113 BROAD STREET



- Steps that ascend to the top of the crest represent his unrelenting climb to educate himself and to improve humanity
- Parallel bars symbolize Hancock’s lifelong commitment to equality and civil rights



MABEL DART  
COLEGROVE, CLASS  
OF 1882

Mabel Dart Colegrove was accepted to Colgate (then known as Madison University) at age 14, attending with the Class of 1882, and is now recognized as the University's first female graduate. Daughter of the Hamilton orchard farmers (Dart Orchard) who ran the institution's boarding hall, she was accepted to Madison/Colgate after passing a "long and searching" entrance exam to assuage the concerns of skeptical professors. Colegrove was especially strong in languages. After seven successful semesters at Colgate, she was compelled to transfer and graduate from Vassar College. After graduation, she became a teacher and librarian, and, at the end of her life, was officially recognized as the first Colgate alumna in June 1947.

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**DART COLEGROVE COMMONS (EST. 2017)**

JANE PINCHIN HALL, STILLMAN HALL, WEST HALL



- The sun and moon represent day and night—guiding lights that endure, like the strength and perseverance Colegrove showed in overcoming adversity
- Leaves symbolize her growth from farmer's daughter to scholar, teacher, and librarian



COLEMAN BROWN



IRENE BROWN

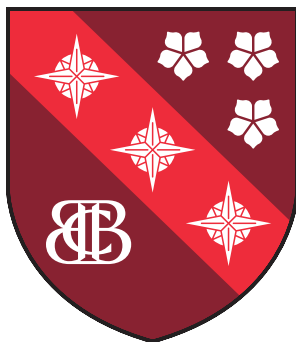
Brown Commons is named for Coleman Brown, who joined Colgate's faculty in 1970 as a professor of philosophy and religion, and his wife, Irene Brown, a community advocate who was awarded an honorary doctorate from Colgate in 2011.

Coleman served as University Chaplain from 1974 to 1989 and encouraged open dialogue among "seekers, believers, and doubters." Irene supported initiatives in education, women's advancement, and community life. Originally named only for Coleman, the commons was later renamed to honor Irene as well, recognizing their shared legacy of service and engagement.

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**COLEMAN AND IRENE BROWN COMMONS** (EST. 2017)

BURKE HALL, EAST HALL, ANDREWS HALL,  
GATE HOUSE, 100 HAMILTON STREET



- Common blue violets signify the Brown's home state of Illinois
- Compasses symbolize his moral guidance and teaching philosophy
- Coleman's monogram, built around the formation of an "I" for his wife, Irene, and his personal sensibilities

“The best part about Colgate is that it is far from the standard college experience. You’ll get to spend four years exploring, learning, failing, and succeeding in a place where people will support you in whatever you want to accomplish. There is an intense pride for Colgate in this community, and it makes you feel like you’re part of something really special.”

—Ethan Cherry '23

## COMMUNITIES WITHIN COMMUNITY

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Finding your people isn't hard here. It starts with you Residential Commons but then you join a campus cultural group, a dance group, a service organization, a team, a theme house, a fraternity or sorority. With shared interests along with the activities and resources to pursue them, students not only find their people; they find their forever friends.



346 Formal, a dance event for students in the Hall of Presidents featuring a DJ, free food, mocktails, and a photo booth



ALANAPalooza event featuring live performances, dancing, BBQ, rainbow cake, and a chance to connect with campus departments



Colgate University Chamber Players rehearse in James C. Colgate Hall



African Student Union Fashion Show



Community Leaders at Colgate complete a training session.



Socializing at the annual Fall Fest

“Every step, no matter how small, will help you grow. Most importantly, surround yourself with people who support you, challenge you, and celebrate your wins.”

—John Paul Diaz '28

## LIVING HERE

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Colgate is a place of energy, opportunity, tradition, and pride, where students tend to find their fit quickly. The beauty of our campus invites you in, and so does the genuine kindness. This shared enthusiasm for life's possibilities creates true camaraderie. Each student is an essential part of this tight-knit community that shares a common purpose. Steeped in over 200 years of history, the energy of this place is everywhere.

Sophomore year, in addition to traditional residence halls, you can take part in the Sophomore Residential Seminars (SRS). Sophomore Residential Seminars are immersive living-learning communities based on a seminar that bring students together around shared academic interests and close faculty engagement. Each of the five SRS culminates in a multi-week travel experience that extends learning beyond the seminar.

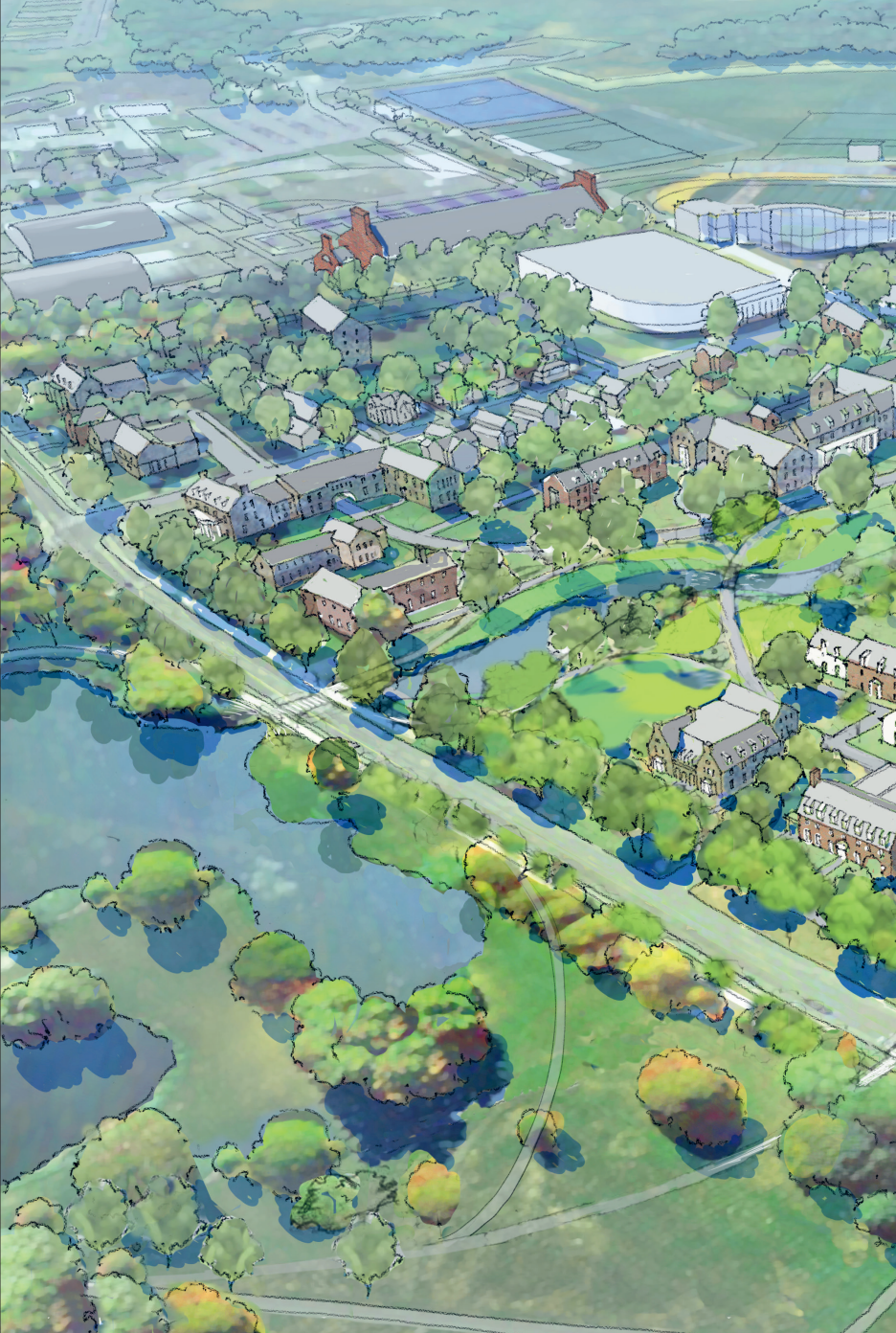
Junior and senior years, multiple housing styles are available, including apartment complexes, townhouses, and Broad Street fraternity, sorority, and theme houses. Theme houses provide an opportunity to live together based on a common scholarly or personal interest, and include La Casa, Pink Haus, Creative Arts, Interfaith, and Mindfulness houses.

## A REIMAGINED BROAD STREET CAMPUS

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As part of its *Third-Century Plan*, Colgate is reimagining Broad Street to expand our long-standing residential traditions with newly constructed and renovated houses. Devoted to juniors and seniors, the Broad Street experience is destined to enhance and culminate the Colgate Residential experience.

Juniors and seniors already have the option of joining a community living experience through a fraternity, sorority, or theme house where students who share a common interest live together. The new Broad Street will be a nexus for all juniors and seniors and a new center of gravity that draws all members of campus to gather for food, connection, events, and activities.





“It’s virtually impossible to find  
Colgate students who are  
not happily and thoroughly  
engaged in their academic and  
social surroundings.”

—Gabby Gallant '21

COLGATE CHAPBOOKS

Big Ideas, Great Books, Rigorous Debate

**The Colgate Residential Idea**

Colgate Traditions  
An Inspiring Campus



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