

Fall 2018 Meeting Summary

The Colgate Alumni Council consists of 55 alumni nominated for their exemplary volunteer service to Colgate. Its members represent the approximately 34,000 alumni in the Colgate Alumni Corporation, and each member strives to be a "Colgate ambassador": enhancing the experience of all Colgate alumni by helping to make all alumni become 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. Please read what the Council is working on, follow the links to additional information, and feel free to contact us: we're eager to hear your thoughts and suggestions.

* * * *

From September 20-22, 2018, the Alumni Council met in Hamilton for its first meeting of the 2018–2019 academic year. The Council's work is conducted through its committees and meetings of the entire Council. Below is a summary of the Council's work.

Bicentennial Kickoff Weekend

The Alumni Council was pleased to participate in all Bicentennial, Homecoming, and Family Weekend activities after their meeting concluded on Friday. As the university celebrates its 200th anniversary, the Alumni Council is working on events and programs to recognize its own Centennial in 2019.

Breakfast with President Casey

The Alumni Council and Parents Steering Committee met with President Brian W. Casey on Saturday morning for breakfast in the Hall of Presidents. After an introduction by Alumni Council President Melissa Coley '79, President Casey provided an important message about Colgate's Bicentennial and the need for colleges and universities to produce thoughtful leaders. He cited three reasons for his high confidence that position Colgate strongly:

"First, we have a firm sense of who we are. We are a national liberal arts university engaged in a very specific set of activities in service of a deeply important mission. We are one of the few institutions in the nation that can assemble a well-chosen student body, place these students before an excellent, well-supported faculty of leading scholars, in a context that produces educated, ethical leaders. Through the work of various offices on the campus, and through our alumni and friends, we are able to send these students into the world in a powerful way.

I also think of Colgate as being in a phase of deep institutional focus now. We are attending in a methodical and consistent ways to all the indispensable operational areas of a major academic institution:

- *Faculty development*
- *Admissions operations and strategy*
- *Infrastructure and campus improvements*
- *Fundraising*
- *Communications and marketing*

Great institutions are ones that are focused, and I believe that the administration, the board, the Alumni Council, the parent's steering committee and other groups are focused on essential things right now.

Last, and perhaps most importantly, we will be fine because of you. There are over 4,000 degree granting institutions in this country. Colgate is one of the very few, a handful really, that have an extremely loyal and engaged alumni body and parents who want the best for this institution and who we can and do count on for support. I wake up every day knowing about and having gratitude for your support."

President Casey closed his remarks by stating how proud he is to be leading Colgate at this remarkable time in its history.

Academic Life Committee

Ms. Betsy Levine Brown '01, chair, convened the meeting with members of the committee and the Alumni Council. They were joined by Dean Tracey Hucks '87 (Provost), Division Directors (Professor Ernie Nolen - Natural Science & Math; Professor Adam Burnett - Social Sciences; and Professor Jennifer Brice - for David McCabe of Arts & Humanities) and Carolyn Strobel from Alumni Relations. First, the meeting provided background history on the evolution of the Alumni Council with particular attention to the strategic planning work last year and the new committees developed from that strategic planning process. Next, the committee reviewed its drafted charter and discussed the intended purpose of the committee. They highlighted explicitly the role of partnership across alumni, faculty and students, with faculty and faculty leadership guiding how best to partner. Dean Hucks highlighted the global initiatives of focus for the university (e.g., Arts and Humanities and Integration to the curriculum, planning across curriculums, review of the CORE curriculum, and campaigns on the horizons).

Division Directors shared current highlights from their divisions and areas where they can see alumni presence as beneficial to fellow faculty and colleagues. Carolyn Strobel provided plans for Alumni Relations' Intellectual Engagement program for 2018-2019.

The meeting then focused on four next steps:

1. Gathering data from Colgate faculty (via Division Directors) on what current faculty-alumni-student connections exist or are active on campus
2. Identifying gaps where alumni can better support faculty – both on and off campus (stemming from Division Director data)
3. Continuing our investigation to consider intersection across other Alumni Council committees (e.g., Campus Connections, Communication and Career Services) to make alumni more aware of programs and communications available on campus
4. Examining peer institutions and what they are doing to connect alumni with faculty on- and off-campus

The Academic Life Committee will convene virtually one time before the January Alumni Council meeting and Division Directors will provide feedback from their discussions with department chairs.

Alumni Engagement Committee

Shevorne Martin '08, chair introduced interim Vice President of Advancement Doug Chiarello '98 and members of his staff. Doug provided some strong fundraising totals from FY18 which included a high overall alumni engagement index (57%). There is a good opportunity for Alumni Council Regional Vice

Presidents to collaborate with Advancement staff who visit different regions and are familiar with key donors and alumni.

Carolyn Strobel from Alumni Relations will send a follow-up summary with district club leaders, RVPs, Advancement staff regions; identifying who RVPs should contact in the different regions regarding Colgate events.

The Alumni Engagement Committee also reviewed annual reports from district club volunteers to select annual District Club Award 2018 Winners. The following clubs and volunteers were recognized:

Small - MVP: London

Medium - MVP: Puget; Most Improved: Atlanta

Large - MVP: Chicago

Large Special Recognition - Sustained Excellence: Philadelphia, Southern California

Metro - MVP: New York City

RuthAnn Speer Loveless Award - Emily Messing '10 (New York City)

Next steps include notifying winners via email and letter in the next two weeks; include framed citation for Emily Messing '10 and notify RuthAnn Loveless about this year's winner.

Awards Committee

Committee Chair Gregory Dahlberg '98 led his committee in a discussion about the 2019 Reunion Awards (William Brian Little Award for Distinguished Service, Maroon Citation, Ann Yao Memorial Young Alumni, Humanitarian, Entrepreneur of the Year, and Maroon Citation for non-alumni). The committee discussed timelines, reviewed selection criteria, and aligned on next steps. Final selections will be made at the January meeting.

Campus Connections Committee

Mr. Stephen Rock '85 met with Nicki Moore (Vice President and Director of Athletics) and Julianna Smith (Athletics Chief of Staff), and then Paul McLaughlin (Vice President and Dean of the College) and Maria Flores Mills (Dean of Students) during the September 2018 meeting. The session with Nicki and Julianna was primarily focused on meeting each other, and providing the new Athletics administration with an opportunity to ask questions about Colgate's culture. Nicki shared that she is currently working on a long-term plan for Athletics, as well as ensuring that Athletics had the resources necessary to be successful over the short term.

Paul and Maria provided input to the committee regarding ways by which the committee could gain more exposure to a representative cross-section of the student body, and we provided thoughts on alumni participation in potential future student mentoring programs. The bulk of our time together was spent on a review of residential life at Colgate, the Commons program, and the intersectionality of student residential, academic and social life. This discussion was particularly helpful for the committee as we were better able to understand the scope and scale of Colgate's efforts to create a successful and productive environment for students.

Career Initiatives Committee

Committee chair Ed Witz '89 introduced Mike Sciola, Teresa Olsen, and Chelsea Lehman from the Career Services office who in turn formally welcomed the committee to the new Benton Hall. Following the

committee meeting and discussion, the following recommendations were made to help support students and the Career Services staff:

- Survey alumni council for soft skill ideas and volunteers for April 2019 - a big discussion item here was proper etiquette for outreach and follow up
- Leverage breakfasts during Alumni Council meetings for small/low stress networking/exploration discussions
- Curate Alumni Council/faculty round-tables/discussions on industry expectations/needs in new hires. Work with Intellectual Engagement Committee to discuss possible improvements to classes offered (e.g., accounting and/or computer skills)
- Day In the Life - need for better prep for sponsors, perhaps examples of itineraries/best practices/options
- Collaborate with Tim Mansfield on Alumni Council schedule to see if members could participate in SophoMORE Connections panels, if they so choose

Communications Committee

Ms. Jessica Prata Cianciara '01, chair, welcomed Ms. Laura Jack, Colgate's Vice President of Communications, who provided an overview of the major goals and projects of her office for the bicentennial year.

The committee then discussed tactical and strategic goals for this year. The chair of the Alumni Engagement Committee, Shevorne Martin '08 joined the meeting as there is synergy between both committees that they want to explore as both set priorities for the year. The Communications Committee is also working to align with the Academic Life Committee as well.

Tactical goals:

- publish one Alumni Council article in Maroon News per month
- produce one page summary of new Alumni Council strategic plan to be posted on website
- tweet live from all Alumni Council weekends at Colgate

Key strategic goals:

- develop a strategic social media plan for the Alumni Council so that we can better utilize different platforms and more fully support the goals set by Colgate's communications team (i.e. collecting "Your Stories" for 200.colgate.edu)
- assess the most effective ways to communicate out and also to LISTEN to alumni so we can better do our jobs as representatives of entire eras — come up with a strategy of action around those ways (i.e. Dinners for 13; summary emails following all Alumni Council weekends; other listening post events)
- develop a strategy to utilize Colgate Magazine to build awareness about Alumni Council

Nominations Committee

Mr. Rich Burke '92 led his committee to review and select candidates to fill the any current vacancies and to identify the best candidates to assume positions on the Alumni Council starting in 2019. The fall meeting was a follow up from the small group conference calls that occurred in August to sort through the approximately 540 candidate records to identify the most qualified candidates. As a result, after

much discussion and deliberation, the Nominations Committee selected two current Alumni Council members, currently completing the terms of members who departed early, to fill their own four year terms for ERA II and IV. In addition, seven other finalists were selected for the five remaining ERA positions and two At-large positions. The committee also identified two additional candidates as alternates in the event the finalists opted not to accept the ERA position. Finalists and alternates were also selected for each of the three Regional Vice President positions that will need new members in 2019. The final slate of nominees will be posted in the winter edition of the Colgate Alumni Magazine and a final vote made at the annual meeting.

Ad hoc Committee reports:

Centennial Committee

Ms. Patti Spindel '79 and Mr. Chad Cooley '00 led a small discussion about how to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Alumni Council in 2019. President Casey is expected to host a luncheon at the All-Class Reunion for the Alumni Council (past and present) on Friday, May 31, 2019. The committee discussed other ways to include past members, celebrate the Centennial, and communicate its current mission.

Bylaw Review

Mr. Co Bertsche '63 and Mr. Andrew Roffe '68 led a review of the ad-hoc committee's work on bylaw revisions to align with the Alumni Council's new strategic plan. Members of the Alumni Council were able to review primary changes to the bylaws and discuss any questions or concerns. After gathering input, the committee will make additional revisions and seek formal approval at the winter or spring meeting.