



COLGATE
UNIVERSITY

200 YEARS OF TRADITION

TO THE STUDENTS ON THE HILL

THROUGHOUT ITS 200-YEAR HISTORY, Colgate has developed a proud sense of tradition. This book contains a few of the most prominent and distinctive rituals that connect the Colgate community both on the hill and around the world.

As you engage in your academic journey and extracurricular pursuits, do so knowing that you are experiencing moments and creating memories that are shared across generations. Upon graduation you will join one of the most passionate and powerful alumni networks in the world — we cannot wait to welcome you!

We are certain that you will stay connected with your classmates and engaged with Colgate for life. No matter where life takes you, you will always be part of this great, maroon-blooded community.

Sincerely,

Chris Johnson '02

President, Colgate Alumni Council

LUCKY 13

THE UNIVERSITY WAS ORIGINALLY FOUNDED as the Baptist Education Society of the State of New York by 13 men, who each offered \$13 and 13 prayers.

The society's original constitution contained 13 articles. Our address is 13 Oak Drive, and we are located in the zip code 13346 (the first two digits are 13, and the last three digits add up to 13).

There is certainly no triskaidekaphobia (fear of the number 13) here — in fact, we've embraced it as Colgate's lucky number. And, we've adopted the most notorious 13 — Friday the 13th — as a celebration of Colgate. Every Colgate Day, students, faculty, staff, alumni, and families around the world don their Colgate garb and honor the University and its community. Post with #ColgateDay on your favorite social media platforms to take part in the online festivities.

THE COLGATE HELLO

THE FIRST KNOWN PUBLISHED MENTION of the Colgate Hello was in the 1924-25 Colgate University Student Handbook, but the practice is still embraced today.

Be sure to keep up this simple tradition, wherever you are, by saying hello whenever you run into someone in Colgate gear. It will happen more often than you expect.

THE COMMONS

WHAT MAKES LIVING AT COLGATE SO UNCOMMON is what the University does to give first-year and second-year students something in common: a community within a community.

Beyond the hall in which they live, students belong to one of four residential commons, groupings that allow them to have support, make friends, and feel connected early in their college life.

This is part of how Colgate prepares people for life. Living in a close community means learning the skills of empathy, sociability, flexibility, and respect for others.

TORCH MEDALS

INSPIRED BY THE CLASS OF 2013 Senior Honor Society (Konosioni), this new tradition recognizes the impact of the Colgate community on students.

During senior year, each student receives a Torch Medal. They are invited to present these medals as an expression of gratitude to any faculty or staff member who has made a meaningful difference in their college experience.

LIFELONG ALUMNI COMMUNITY

MANY UNIVERSITIES HAVE PROUD and passionate followers, but the alumni of Colgate are famously loyal. The students of Colgate receive support from one of the most inspiring and successful groups of leaders in America. Colgate alumni provide mentoring, internships, and constant engagement with undergraduates, tailored to their areas of interest. Upon your graduation, you will become part of this community. The Office of Alumni Relations is dedicated to keeping you connected.

TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION

FIRST ENACTED IN 1930 under the guidance of the Alumni Association of the University, the Senior Torchlight Procession symbolizes the culmination of graduates' four years as students, bringing them together and sending them out into the world with the light of knowledge, as represented by the torch on the University seal. The class gathers in the Academic Quadrangle to hear music and an address by the president before walking toward Taylor Lake.

Today, the Senior Torchlight Procession* forms the second part of a longstanding Colgate tradition. The first part takes place in the fall, when members of the Konosioni Senior Honor Society, torches in hand, lead first-year students up the hill to the Founder's Day Convocation. This signifies the beginning of the educational journey.

The torchlight tradition continues when alumni return for reunion and have their own procession, carrying their torches as symbols of the knowledge they have gained through their education and their enduring connection to Colgate and each other.

**Torches for the 2019 senior class were a gift from Paul H. Cascio '83, P'17,'19,'21 and Karen Long Cascio.*

ICONIC COLGATE SONGS

COLGATE'S TRADITIONAL MUSIC brings our community together. These are the songs that every Colgate student and graduate should know.

COLGATE, ALMA MATER

When through thy valley,
Fair Chenango twilight falls,
 Bringing its silence
 To our college halls;
In that happy moment,
Love for Alma Mater swells,
And the heart outpouring,
 Of her glory tells:

(Chorus)

*Colgate, Alma Mater,
Fairest theme of all our lays!
Colgate! Alma Mater,
Ever blest, thy days.*

Far from thy valley,
Yearly rove thy loving ones,
 Yet, in their dreaming,
 E'er thy name returns;
'Tis the same fond spirit
Which the mem'ry lingers o'er
 And our lips but echo
 That old song of yore:

(Chorus)

*Colgate, Alma Mater,
Fairest theme of all our lays!
Colgate! Alma Mater,
Ever blest, thy days.*

FIGHT, FIGHT, FIGHT (COLGATE FIGHT SONG)

Sound of voices raised in joyous singing,
Colors proudly waving to the sky;
A host is drawing nigh, Just watch them,
They march and sing along a triumph song;
And this is what they sing.

(Chorus)

*Fight, fight, fight for dear old Colgate!
With Heart and hand now we'll win for thee!
Oh, we will fight, fight, fight for Alma Mater,
On to victory we're marching!
Foes shall bend their knee before us,
And pay their homage to pow'r so great,
So let us send out a cheer, and banish all fear,
While we are fighting hard for old Colgate.*

(Repeat Chorus)

COLGATE HYMN

Alma Mater, mother dear,
Reverently we raise.
To the guardian of our youth,
Grateful hymns of praise.
Robed in honor, crowned with light.
Radiant dost thou stand.
And thy love in every heart,
Rules with sweet command.

Alma Mater, mother true!
Loyal sons would we,
Strong in heart, with ready hand,
Give our lives to thee.
Noble, fair and wise art thou,
And thine influence pure.
With the grandeur of thy hills,
Ever shall endure.

1819

Long ago, in the valley of Chenango, gathered thirteen.
Funds were low, but abundant was their pluck, in eighteen-nineteen.
Thirteen prayers were said with rapt devotion,
Thirteen dollars set the thing in motion,
Thus began old Colgate University in eighteen-nineteen.

(Chorus)

*Live true to the memory of those thirteen men of yore.
Whose faith made tradition that shall live for evermore.
Whose deeds give us courage to strive as they strove then.
'Tis the spirit that is Colgate, dear mother of men.*

Up the hill, with profound determination, journeyed thirteen.
Ring of ax rent the silence of the woods in eighteen-nineteen.
Forest monarchs bowed to form a clearing,
Hymns triumphant blended with the cheering.
Thus began old Colgate University in eighteen-nineteen.

(Repeat Chorus)

GIVING BACK

THE COLGATE MOMENTS that change your life are made possible by the alumni who came before you. Fueled by a relentless passion for this institution, they carry on the important tradition of *giving back* to the Colgate community. Through their generosity, mentorship, and volunteerism, generations of alumni lend significant support to the students following in their footsteps.

When you graduate, forever changed, and ready to transform the world — don't forget to look back.

To learn more about Colgate's history
and heritage, visit **200.colgate.edu**.