

Colgate University Alumni Council  
**January 2019 Meeting Summary**

The Colgate Alumni Council consists of 55 alumni elected for their exemplary volunteer service to Colgate. 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.

From January 17 – 19, 2019, the Alumni Council met in Hamilton for its second 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. 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.

\* \* \* \*

**Highlights**

The January meeting coincided with the annual [SophoMORE Connections](#) program; over 100 alumni visited campus to support and mentor students. On Thursday afternoon, Alumni Council members held mock interviews with students, enjoying the opportunity to receive/give feedback and coaching without the pressure of a real position on the line. Council members also interacted with students at the Creating Connections reception and the keynote dinner featuring an excellent keynote address by Clarissa Shah '10.

President Brian Casey hosted a reception for the Alumni Council at his home on Thursday evening, and he met formally with the Council twice during the weekend.

Vice President and Dean of the College Paul McLoughlin gave a thorough presentation on the [long-term residential life program](#) and how it will be supporting the living, learning and social lives of the student community. Vice President of Communications Laura Jack gave an update on the branding and communications programs for the Bicentennial and beyond.

The Alumni Council was also pleased to enjoy lunch with Vice President of Institutional Advancement [Paul Mischler](#) and Chief of Staff [Hanna Rodriguez-Farrar](#), who both delivered remarks and answered questions from council members.

**Bylaws**

The Alumni Council continues to receive feedback on the redraft of the bylaws; a lively discussion was held during the on-campus meeting. The Bylaws Committee will be meeting after all comments are back (due by 2/15) and make its recommendations to the

Executive Committee for its review, and then distribution to the AC, well before the AC's vote on such amended bylaws at our Spring meeting.

### **Torches**

Following the Alumni Council's recommendations to President Casey regarding the utilization of new torches at Reunion, the Council is pleased to report that \$93,000 in unused class funds has been raised to go toward the cost of fabricating the 3,000 new torches to be used at reunions for years to come.

### **Alumni Council Centennial**

The Council Centennial Committee presented a plan to celebrate with the 418 former and current members of the Alumni Council upon the council's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday during Reunion at a lunch hosted by President Casey on Friday, May 31. Duncan Niederauer '81 has agreed to deliver the keynote speech. An event in New York City in the fall of 2019 is also being planned.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

The Council's work is ordinarily conducted through its committees' meetings and the General Session of the entire Council. Below is a summary of the committee meetings.

*Academic Life Committee* - Division Directors Ernie Nolan (Natural Sciences/Mathematics) and Nancy Reis (University Studies) led a robust conversation exploring opportunities for alumni faculty engagement. Nancy Reis shared an update on her work chairing a committee that is reviewing and updating Colgate's core curriculum and how this process might allow for alumni feedback on their experiences with the core and what they value upon reflection. The group discussed improving information shared with faculty in advance of alumni visits to campus to allow faculty to take advantage of alumni engagement opportunities. Other topics discussed were increasing opportunities to take faculty on the road or build off existing travel plans (e.g., conferences) and faculty participation in alumni travel offerings.

*Alumni Engagement Committee* – Vice President of Advancement Paul Mischler discussed the steps to be taken prior to the launch of the capital campaign. The committee discussed [the new residence halls](#) and fundraising around those. The Committee discussed how Advancement can engage with the council in ways it hasn't before and how to identify and engage alumni who have the capacity to give to the university. Also discussed was how to maximize alumni engagement around the all-class reunion and conducting a new alumni survey (the last one was in 2008) with a focus on understanding the dynamics of the disengaged portion and how to improve engagement and support from this segment.

*Campus Connections Committee*- The Committee hosted a panel with members of the Dean of the College's staff (Kim Taylor, Dean for Administrative Advising and Student Conduct; Corey MacPherson, University Chaplain and Protestant Campus Minister; and Dawn LaFrance, Director of Counseling and Psychological Service, Director of Sexual Violence Support) who discussed the current student experience on campus and had then the

opportunity to meet new [Dean of Admissions Tara Bubble](#) and get an update on this year's admissions process.

*Career Initiatives Committee* – The committee discussed the large grant (\$625K over five years) received from New York State for Thought Into Action, which will allow Colgate to hire someone to work with student and local entrepreneurs to develop ideas. A call for help from AC members was issued for gifts to go toward the unpaid summer intern scholarship program; to date \$44K of the \$400K required has been raised.

*Communications Committee* — The Committee had a robust conversation about how to overhaul and revamp the Alumni Council's social media presence and messaging for our alumni body. The team will work with Colgate's Communications office to develop a content calendar moving forward. Additionally, work continues to be on track with a steady supply of alumni columns in the Maroon-News.

### **Executive Session**

During Executive Session, the Alumni Council conducted several votes and reviewed important updates. They include:

#### **New Alumni Council Trustees**

With the terms of Alumni Trustees Kathleen Dill and Christine Gallagher expiring in June 2019, the Executive Committee, followed by the Alumni Council, unanimously approved the recommendation of Pat Apelian '76 and Melissa Coley '79 as new Alumni Trustees, subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.

#### **New Alumni Council Officers**

With the expiration of Melissa Coley's term as President of the Council in June 2019, the Nominations Committee, followed by the Alumni Council, unanimously approved the following officers for two-year terms:

Chris Johnson '02 – President  
Susie Becker Gould '03 – Vice President

The Executive Committee unanimously recommended the following officers, the vote on which will take place at the Spring meeting:

Chad Cooley '00 – Treasurer  
Andrew Roffe '68 – Legal Counsel  
Tim Mansfield – Executive Secretary

#### **Nominations Committee**

The Council approved the appointment of Larry Arnold '63 and Kate Levine-Freedman '05 to fill vacancies for unexpired terms for members who have resigned or moved to another position.

The Council also confirmed the final slate of 2019 Alumni Council nominees proposed by the Nominations Committee for election to take place at the annual meeting over Reunion weekend. This list appears on the [Colgate Alumni Council website](#) and will be published in the winter edition of the Colgate magazine:

ERA I – Alan Grant '64  
ERA II – Jane Porter '74 (beginning her own term after filling unexpired term)  
ERA III – Paul Cascio '83  
ERA IV – Robert Burke '85 (beginning his own term after filling unexpired term)  
ERA V – Tal-ee Roberts '01  
ERA VI – Kate Levine-Freedman '05 (beginning her own term after filling unexpired term)  
ERA VII – Paul Vogelsang '11  
At-Large – James Silas '06  
At-Large – Johanna Coats '98  
RVP Metro I – Barbara Gould '81  
RVP Metro II – Kim Taylor '81  
RVP New England – Cara Lawler '05

### **Awards Committee**

Chairman Greg Dahlberg '98 and his committee concluded their work on the 2019 alumni awards. The Alumni Council is pleased to recognize the following men and women for their outstanding service to Colgate and will be presented their awards on Saturday, June 1, 2019 at Reunion:

William Brian Little '64 Award for Distinguished Service:

Kathleen A. Dill '89  
Robert A. Fox '59  
Robert B. Seaberg '69

Ann Yao '80 Young Alumni Award:

Alexandra L. Meyer '14  
James A. Speight IV '14  
Joseph S. Spina Jr. '14

Entrepreneur of the Year Award: Robert Johnson '94

Humanitarian Award: Christine D. Hart '05

Maroon Citation

Paul W. Beardslee '59

Richard J. Johnson '64  
Arthur E. Clark Jr. '69  
Jane Najarian Porter '74  
Cynthia J. Perry '74  
Dr. Anita Grover '74  
Patricia L. Spindel '79  
Eric T. Seidman '84  
Diane Munzer Fisher '84  
Mark R. DiMaria '84  
Edward P. Witz '89  
Denniston M. Reid '94  
Bart Hale '04

Maroon Citation (non-alumni/staff):

Lori Chlad (Human Resources)  
Steve Chouinard (Sports Medicine)  
Trish St. Leger (Vice Provost)

The next Alumni Council meeting will take place on April 5 – 7, 2019.