



Colgate University Alumni Council January 2022 Meeting Summary

The Colgate Alumni Council consists of 55 alumni elected for their exemplary volunteer service to Colgate, together with the Executive Secretary who shall not have a vote (all of the above 56 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 36,000 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 January 20 and 21, the Alumni Council met virtually via Zoom for its second meeting of the 2022-23 fiscal 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 are eager to hear your thoughts and suggestions.

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

The following officers, directors and life member(s) were present by phone/Zoom:

Mrs. Johanna Ames '98, Mrs. Patricia E. Apelian '76, Mr. Lawrence G. Arnold '63, Mr. Thomas A. Baker '69, Mrs. Brooke S. Beck '94, 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, Ms. Melissa J. Coley '79, Mr. Chad E. Cooley '00, Mrs. Lauren P. D'Onofrio '82, Mr. Gregory M. Dahlberg '98, Ms. Jocelyn B. Donat '88, Mrs. Theresa Donahue Egler '77, Mr. Bruce S. Ferguson '91, Mr. Karl D. Fries '10, Mrs. Christine Cronin Gallagher '83, Mr. Alvin Glymph '91, Mrs. Susan L. Becker Gould '03, Ms. Barbara J. Gould '81, Mrs. Lauri Curtis Hadobas '77, Mrs. Susan Horowitz '76, Mr. Christian B. Johnson '02, Mr. Robert C. Johnson '94, Mr. C. Thomas Kunz '72, Ms. Cara A. Lawler '05, Mr. Joseph A. Leo '01, Mrs. Kate S. Levine-Freedman '05, Dr. Rodney A. Mason, Jr. '06, Mr. William C. McClean, II '63, Mr. Kevin A. McMurtry '88, Mr. John R. McQueen Esq. '70, Mr. Fred C. Meendsen Sr. '54, 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. Denniston M. Reid '94, Mrs. Allyson E. Riemma '11, 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. Per A. Sekse '78, Mr. James C. Silas '06, Mr. James A. Speight IV '14, Ms. Jennifer A. Stone, Mrs. Kimberly Esmay Taylor '80, Mr. Christopher P. Vogelsang '11, Mr. Bruce F. Wesson '64, Mr. Kevin A. Zimmerman '90

The following directors and life members were present by phone/Zoom for committee meetings but unable to attend the General Session:

The following directors were absent:

Mrs. Erin Kiritsy '12, Mr. Denny Gonzalez '13, Mr. Jarrett R. Turner '04

The following life members were absent:

Mr. Gus P. Coldebella '91, Mr. Ronald A. Joyce '73, Mr. Joseph P. McGrath Jr. '85, Mr. Scott A. Meiklejohn '77, Mr. C. Bruce Morser '76, Mrs. Pamela E. Odeen-LoDato '81, Mr. Gerald D. Quill '60, Dr. G. Gary Ripple '64, Ms.

Joanne D. Spigner '76

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

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On Thursday afternoon, the Council began with Committee updates then the General and Executive Session. On Friday, the Council heard from Karl Clauss, Vice President for Advancement. There were then breakout sessions, followed by a conversation with President Brian W. Casey and members of his cabinet.

Committee Reports

Academic Life Committee

Lauren D'Onofrio '82, chair, reported on the Residential Commons Liaison Program (2 pilots - 8 volunteers). They had a meeting with residential fellows and directors about their goals. Liaisons are taking over now.

The committee will support the International travel programs, including Florence in 2022, and upcoming trips to the Galapagos, Iceland, and the Greek Islands.

More faculty and alumni involvement is needed for academic enrichment programs, as well as determination of topics that will be of interest to alumni for lectures, workshops, and discussions with the university's faculty and administration. Support will be needed from the larger Alumni Council for promotion, volunteers, and attending events and trips.

Alumni Engagement Committee

Emily Raiber Radovic '02, chair, reported that regional club awards were voted on, gifts are being sent out to winners. Also, the committee is working with alumni relations to provide new club leaders with a welcome kit to help support them, along with information around the Third Century Plan and ideas for events to support the Third Century Plan. The Alumni Council can help support the Alumni Engagement Committee by providing information that they know about club activities.

Alumni engagement from last year was 56% and that is what we are working toward this year.

Campus Connections Committee

Bruce Ferguson '91, Chair, reported that the committee started an athletics liaison program last year and are looking for ways to improve and compliment existing athletic/alumni programs. The committee would also like to implement a Campus Connections Student Ambassador Program in conjunction with the Dean of the College office.

The committee is learning about student wellness and the counseling center and hopes to learn more about student wellness, particularly mental health, and ways alumni can support this area (enriching the student experience). This has been a very active area during Covid.

The committee is also staying connected with Gary Ross on ways to be helpful and learn more about, and better understand, continuing Colgate Admission application successes. It would be helpful to schedule a time to meet with Gary Ross '77 and/or Tara Bubble after regular admission decisions have been released. This could be a session at the April meeting.

Completed work includes the Senior Honor Society name change to 'Tredecim Senior Honor Society' from the former name of 'Konosioni'. This name change was communicated to alumni who were members of the Senior Honor Society.

Moving forward the committee will work with a list from the Dean of the College on areas where help is welcomed,

including moving forward with some items that the larger Alumni Council body and full alumni population can help with. These include developing a student ambassador program. The broader AC has a tremendous amount of institutional history and can provide resources that can help students and student organizations. As we work with the Dean of the College staff, we will ask the entire Alumni Council help identify the appropriate resource(s) for various projects.

Career Initiatives Committee

Paul Cascio '83, chair, reported that the committee supported the career services center with mock interviews in September 2021. They are now focused on the Summer Internship Program and reviewing applications for funding. They are expecting 350 - 400 applications this year and they have 16 - 17 volunteers. The committee would like to think through ways that they can support the internship fund, which helps with unpaid or underpaid internships, as well as housing and living expenses. This is currently underfunded. Sharing more student stories would help promote the fund.

The committee will also participate and help Career Initiatives recruit additional alumni to participate in signature alumni/student engagement opportunities

The committee is also thinking of ways to support the DEI initiative, make career services more available to alumni, and explore the possibility of obtaining outside grants or corporate donations to help with internship funding.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

James Speight '14, chair, spoke about the goal of raising awareness of on campus DEI initiatives as they relate to the Third Century Plan, and also re-engaging alumni by informing them about how things have changed at Colgate.

DEI should be integrated into everything all work done by the Alumni Council and blind spots should be identified within the Alumni Council.

Questbridge has been key in helping to move Colgate forward with diversity by welcoming Colgate's most diverse class, as well as the most selective class, ever. Diversity does not equal dilution.

The committee hopes to see an increase in engagement with diverse populations, as well as diversity in vendors, faculty, and curriculum at Colgate.

The Alumni of Color organization will celebrate its 35th anniversary at Reunion this year (June 9 - 12). Conversations with the Partnership for Racial Progress have included ways to celebrate, including informational talks with faculty on updates to the Colgate curriculum.

General Session

Susie Becker Gould '03, Alumni Council President, opened the General Session by determining that there was a quorum. She emphasized how grateful she was for everyone's participation virtually, and recapped the meetings and activities, encouraging everyone to participate in upcoming events on campus, including the March 4-5 celebration of Women featuring Amal Clooney.

Executive Session

During the Executive Session the Council voted on the Awards nominations as presented by Tal-ee Roberts '01, chair:

Entrepreneur of the Year

Sian-Pierre Regis '06

Humanitarian Award

Sandra Black '01

Ann Yao '80 Memorial Young Alumni Award

- On Tim Tang '17
- Halley Weinreb '17

Wm. Brian Little '64 Award For Distinguished Service To Colgate

- Larry Bossidy '57
- Tom Dempsey '72
- Lee Woodruff '82

Maroon Citations (Alumni)

- Edward Vaill '62
- Christine Lenehan '72
- James Capalino '72
- Lauri Hadobas '77
- Paul Friedman '77
- Nora Leary '82
- Jon Tiktinsky '82
- Margaret Palladino '82
- Eric Andersen '87
- Rich Burke '92
- Anthony Caravetta '97
- Becky Bye '02
- Sonya Falcone '12

Maroon Citations (staff)

- Mari Assad, Associate Vice President for University Events
- Maureen McKinnon, Senior Administrative Assistant to the Vice President and Senior Advisor, Secretary to the Board of Trustees
- Dan Partigianoni, Assistant Vice President for Finance and Administration

The Awards Committee also developed a set of recommendations to enhance the Awards Ceremony which takes place at Reunion.

James Silas '06, chair, reported that the Nominations Committee is exploring ways to improve the ERA review and process. This would include improving the nominee list, and having profiles shared earlier in the process. The committee is looking at ways to incorporate more discipline and structure/standardization around the ranking sheets.

The committee had a very strong candidate pool to evaluate when making nominations for the new 2022 Alumni Council members. A very diverse group of candidates were selected for this slate who will represent alumni from a variety of geographic, multicultural, professional, and era perspectives. This slate will be published in the Winter edition of the Colgate Magazine.

Susie Becker Gould '03 then called for a motion to move back to General Session.

Vice President's Report by Lauri Hadobas '77

Lauri reiterated the terrific work of the Committees and the importance of keeping our work aligned with Colgate's Third-Century priorities.

Treasurers Report by Chad Cooley '00

Chad thanked Alumni Council Directors for completing the conflict of interest forms to help with the 990.

Executive Secretary Report, Jen Stone

Ms. Stone spoke about the Colgate Together Challenge, which aimed to secure important support for the Colgate Fund, raised nearly \$4.3M from December 10-31, surpassing the goal set by nearly \$2M. We celebrated a record-breaking result at the calendar year-end for the Colgate Fund. We are also tracking ahead in overall Annual Fund support, which includes nearly \$1.1M in Athletics support.

She also spoke about organizational changes in the Alumni Relations Office. Ms. Stone now oversees Alumni Relations, in addition to Annual Giving, Leadership Giving, and Athletics Fundraising & Engagement. Jill Cole has been promoted to Director of Annual Giving. Ronnie McFall has been promoted to Associate Director, Alumni Relations for Affinity & Identities. Kelly Best has been promoted to Associate Director, Alumni Relations. We welcomed Amanda Barnhart, Administrative Assistant and Katie Kaczorowski, Assistant Director of Alumni Relations. We also announced that Vicky Stone, Office Manager for Alumni Relations will be retiring on June 13.

Despite challenges with the Delta variant and Omicron, the Alumni Relations team planned and executed 53 events this past Fall. Key priorities for the alumni relations team for the spring and summer include Reunion(s) 2022 (50th and older classes on June 2 - 5 / 25th and younger classes on June 9 - 12); March 4 - 5 Weekend, which will feature Colgate women and other special guests, including award-winning author Jesymn Ward and Amal Clooney; Ho Mind Brain Behavior Conference; Professional Network events.

The Third-Century Campaign will publicly launch in April 2022 in New York City.

Alumni Trustee Report by Christian Johnson '02

- The Board welcomed several new trustees
- The Board's Friday morning strategic sessions were dedicated to hearing updates on and discussing the Third-Century Plan.
- First DEI engagement program took place. In the summer of 2020, the Board moved forward on a number of DEI initiatives, including increasing the number of trustees in order to expand the diversity of the Board faster than normal turnover of trustees would allow, creating an Ad Hoc DEI Committee to help focus DEI issues across all the Board committees, and developing a DEI Board engagement program to strengthen the Board's governance and oversight functions.
- Following the DEI engagement program, Professor Lesleigh Cushing and Professor Lynn Schwarzer guided one group of trustees on a tour of the Middle Campus, while Vice President and Director of Athletics Nicki Moore and Vice President and Dean of the College Paul McLoughlin guided another group through the Reid and Lower Campus Project.
- Friday ended with a reception with the members of the Task Force on Reopening and the Task Force on Remote Learning. The trustees were pleased to meet many of the people who helped, and continue to assist, Colgate's efforts to navigate the challenges of the COVID-19 public health crisis.

At the formal Board meeting on Saturday morning, the Board took a series of formal actions, including the approval of faculty appointments and the approval of a revised Fiscal Year 2021–22 endowment spending rate.

Next, an additional \$3 million was approved toward the planning and design costs for the renovation of Olin Hall. The total project development costs of \$5 million, which the Board has now approved, are funded entirely from donor contributions. There was an acknowledgement of significant gifts (\$1 million +) received since the prior Board meeting.

Susie Becker Gould then called for a motion to adjourn the General Session.

Presentation from Karl Clauss '90, Vice President for Advancement

On Friday morning, Karl Clauss met with the Alumni Council to provide an update on the Third-Century Plan and upcoming Campaign.

Alumni Council Workshop and Conversation with members of the Cabinet

Following the presentation by Karl Clauss, the Council conducted a workshop. The purpose of this workshop was to begin to identify opportunities and strategies to deepen alumni engagement during the Third-Century Campaign. Alumni Council members with data points around giving and engagement in advance of the meeting to inform their conversations. The Alumni Engagement Committee combined with our Communications liaisons will operationalize the ideas and strategies that come out of this workshop. Following the workshop, members of the Council engaged in a conversation with President Casey and members of the Cabinet about their insights, feedback, and questions.