

Alumni Council

April 17, 2009

Newsletter and Committee Updates

Message from the Incoming Chair:

I hope that many of you had the opportunity to attend the most recent Colby Alumni Networking Weekend. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the great variety of exciting things that happen on Colby's campus every day. We enjoyed conversations with students in various forums, participated in career panels, toured the art museum, heard about exciting research taking place in labs and departments all over campus, and spoke to parents about the exciting opportunities their children are presented with every day. It was a truly inspirational and unique chance to share our own thoughts and experiences with those individuals who are navigating this outstanding institution, and thereby influence its course.

At this point in its history Colby requires a committed and active Alumni Council. In June I will begin my term as chair, and my primary goal during these two years will be to engage our alumni volunteers in ways that leverage their unique strengths and deliver value to Colby and its current students.

In an attempt to keep volunteers informed about what is happening at the College, this newsletter will provide a quick snapshot of those things that are important to Alumni Council members in their role as liaison between institution and alumni body. Please feel free to send us your comments and suggestions and let us know what you would like to see or hear about in the future.

Warm regards,

Jessica D'Ercole Stanton '92

jdstanton@alum.colby.edu

Committee Updates

Admissions:

The enthusiasm and support of the Admissions Committee has been great. We're increasing our active involvement in a number of ways. After discussions in January looking for more opportunities for involvement we've had some great successes. Individual committee members Marty Womer and Michael McCabe each have picked up students at the airport and brought them to campus, one accepted from Zimbabwe and one prospective from Arizona. As Judy Brody said, these students could not have had better introductions to Colby. What a great first impression and level of member dedication.

Additionally we'll support the online retention forums that go on in May with an alumni chat room. These were previously current student to prospective student, and we want to show alumni support. The first one went very well, and the students with whom we interacted were grateful and commented on how impressed they were to see such alumni support.

We're also supporting a Boston retention event for accepted students by helping with registration (more than 200 people are expected), answering questions, and, for some of us, briefly speaking to the group about our Colby experience.

A legacy event will take place in Woburn, Massachusetts, May 5 for area alumni and their families and friends. This is an opportunity for alumni to get insight into the college application process. It is aimed at high school sophomores and juniors, and Judy will speak about demystifying the college application process. Meeting space for the event has been donated by alumnus Eric Anderson '98 at Trade Center 128.

Submitted by Kari Christensen Anderson '98, chair, kachriste@yahoo.com.

Athletics:

Marcella Zalot, athletic director, updated the committee on the following:

1. Webcasting - The vendor that the College previously used to webcast the games went out of business. Currently the College IT Department does not have the server capacity to webcast. Marcella is gathering data on the cost of bringing webcasting in-house.

2. Fundraising - Most of the FY09 fundraising goals have been met; the only one outstanding is a boat for the crew team.

The Athletics Committee discussed the current state of the Colby C Club:

Membership - We currently have approximately 450 paying members, with an additional 200 non-paying members. (The currently graduating senior athletes receive a complementary one-year membership.) We are exploring ways to increase to 600 paying members before the end of the school year.

Finances - We currently have a slight operating surplus and should have the finances to continue our normal activities.

Update of Activities - The C Club is looking into ways to give the membership more benefits such as opportunities to get group tickets to sporting events.

The Athletics Committee also discussed the possible dates for a meeting with President Adams to open a dialogue on the current state and future of Colby athletics.

Submitted by Alex Chin '96, chair, alexbchin@hotmail.com.

Awards:

The Awards Committee, which did not meet during the April CAN Weekend, will look to narrow down the list of possible recipients for the 2010 awards. The committee will continue to accept nominations for these awards. For a complete list of awards, with descriptions and nomination forms, please visit

www.colby.edu/alumni_parents_cs/alumni/volunteer/ac/awards.cfm.

Submitted by Chris Sullivan '97, chair, csullivan@alum.colby.edu.

Career Center:

1. The committee only met for one hour and then headed to Dana to interact with students and drum up attendance for the career activities later in the day.
2. Roger provided an overview of the tremendous work the Career Center accomplished, including
 - The launch of Colby Connect, a four-year program to prepare students for life and work after Colby
 - The launch of Colby Affinity Groups that will allow alumni with common interests and professions to connect
 - Six additional affinity groups are due to launch, including medical, non-profit, technology, international business, government, and education. Stay tuned for more.
 - The Career Center has held more than 2,500 counseling sessions with Colby students since September.
3. The Career Center Committee will focus future initiatives on direct engagement with students rather than on coordinating events. Each member of the committee in attendance outlined his or her preferences for direct engagement with the Career Center and students. The chair, vice chair, and Office of Alumni Relations will take the lead in coordinating the CAN Weekend and other events.

Submitted by Dave Fernandez '89, chair, dave_fernandez@comcast.net.

Colby Fund:

As of March 31, the Colby Fund stands at just over \$2.5 million, down approximately 17 percent from last year. With a number of pledge commitments expected later this spring and an extensive outreach plan to alumni and parents over the next 90 days, including mail appeals, e-mail appeals, student phonathon, and class agent and Colby Fund Committee calling efforts, the College is optimistic about making up the 17 percent deficit. But it won't happen without YOUR help and support. As a member of the Alumni Council, you understand the need and importance of the Colby Fund. If you haven't already made your gift to Colby this year, please do so TODAY. Let's report 100 percent participation to the Board of Trustees in May! Thank you.

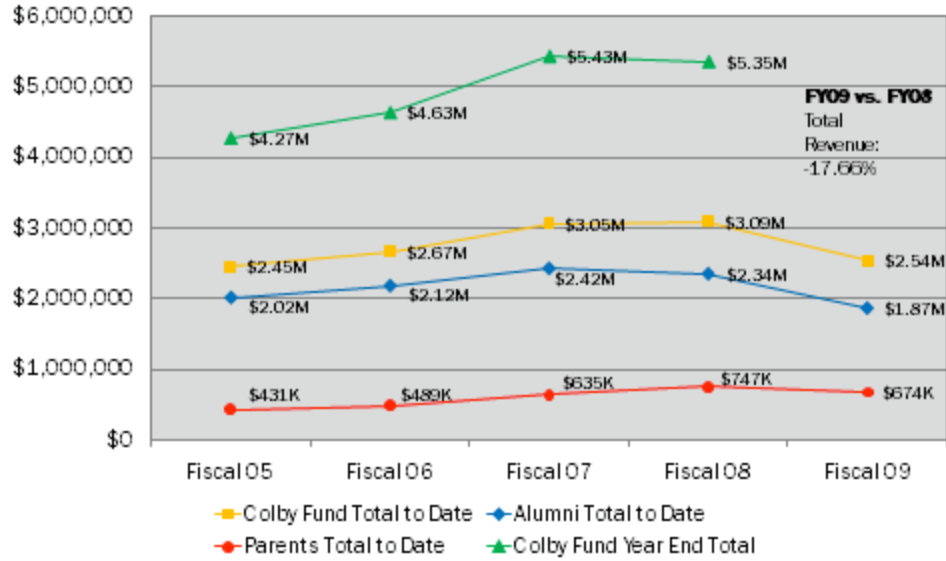
In addition to supporting the end of fiscal year efforts, the Colby Fund Committee has met a number of times as subcommittee groups this spring and is assisting the Colby Fund Office with a number of projects. The highlights include

- Producing an online newsletter to go to all Colby Fund volunteers this spring
- Implementing the acknowledgement of all Aristotle Society members (those donors who have given for three consecutive years to Colby) at reunion in June
- Spearheading an effort to write thank-you notes to Class of 2009 donors to the Senior Pledge. In addition to members of the Colby Fund Committee, more than 60 class agents volunteered to write notes.
- Assisting with a review of the Colby Fund Web site in the coming months.

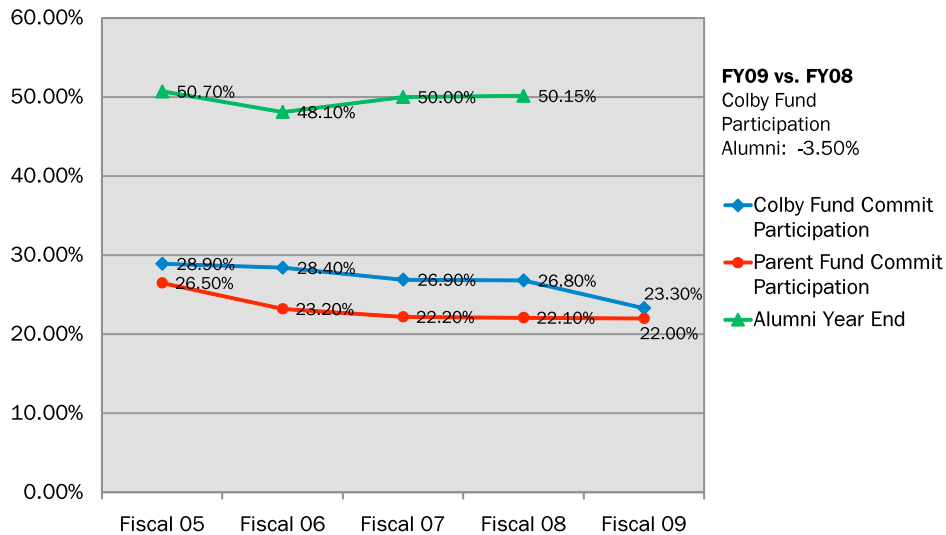
Submitted by Hilary Smyth Wirtz '00, chair, hilarycwirtz@yahoo.com.



Colby Fund Revenue to Date



Colby Fund Participation to Date



Understanding that these are extraordinary times and that everyone is facing his/her own personal financial challenges, we continue to expect 100 percent participation from the Alumni Council. We hope that you will make a gift or fulfill your pledge this year in whatever amount you feel is feasible.

Nominating:

The Nominating Committee met to discuss Alumni Council membership with the goal of ensuring that council participation reflects alumni demographics and supports the mission of the council, the College, and the operational needs of each committee. Current committee chairs provided feedback on the types of professional skills and expertise that would help their committees best execute their work. Based upon that guidance, as well as input from the Alumni Office and an analysis of existing demographic gaps, the Nominating Committee selected alumni to fill vacant chair or vice chair committee positions, to sit on the Alumni Council executive committee, or to join the Alumni Council to support specific committee work.

Submitted by Mike Cuzzi '98, chair, mjcuZZi@hotmail.com.

Quick Links:

Alumni Council Web page:

http://www.colby.edu/alumni_parents_cs/alumni/volunteer/ac/index.cfm

April 12, 2009 Incident:

http://www.colby.edu/news_events/april12-incident.cfm

Colby and the Economy:

http://www.colby.edu/news_events/colby-responds-to-the-global-financial-crisis.cfm

Upcoming Alumni Council Meetings 2009-2011

Friday-Saturday, October 2-3, 2009, Colby Campus

Friday-Saturday, April 9-10, 2010, Colby Campus

Friday-Saturday, September 24-25, 2010, Colby Campus

Friday-Saturday, April 8-9, 2011, Colby Campus