2016 Student Speech Contest

The Colby College chapter of Phi Beta Kappa is pleased to announce its third annual student speech contest, to be held during the Colby Liberal Arts Symposium, on Thursday, April 28, from noon-1 pm.

All Colby students are eligible to participate. Prizes will be awarded to the top three speakers: $500 for first prize; $300, for second; $100, for third.

The topic is: “Given what you’ve experienced in life and encountered while a student at Colby, identify a question that continues to challenge you and the tools required to empower you to answer it.”

Speeches are not to exceed 6 minutes in length. Every speech must address the primary topic, though how you address the topic is up to you. Be creative; be interesting; be compelling. Humor is welcomed and even encouraged, but it must be well integrated into your response to the topic. The judges will evaluate the speeches based on content, style, delivery, and impact.

Some additional questions that may help frame your approach to this speech:

• With what types of questions do you find yourself most engaged? Scholarly inquiry? Modes of social justice? Existential reflections?
• What aspects of your life’s experiences and exposures to Colby’s brand of liberal learning do you find the most empowering in answering meaningful questions?
• What are the impacts of not only the answers to important questions but also of the manner of inquiry that leads to—or attempts to find—answers?

Contestants will deliver their speeches in two preliminary rounds of competition during the week of April 11-21. The top six contestants will be selected to compete in the final round during the Colby Liberal Arts Symposium.

Students interested in participating will need to pre-register by 4 pm on Friday, April 8, so that we may schedule the preliminary rounds appropriately.

The first 40 pre-registrants will each receive $20 gift certificates to Pad Thai Too (contingent upon their good faith participation in the preliminary round competition).

Phi Beta Kappa is the oldest national honor society, and it honors excellence in the liberal arts and sciences. Colby has had a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa since 1896, and each year it elects to membership a handful of academically outstanding juniors and approximately 10% of the senior class, chosen on the basis of their academic achievements, good character, and demonstrated commitment to the ideals of liberal education.

Information on Colby’s chapter of Phi Beta Kappa can be found at: www.colby.edu/phibetakappa

For further information about the competition, contact Kevin Rice, kprice@colby.edu, x5763.