An exciting new initiative is stirring at Colgate University. By 2018, Colgate will implement a faculty-led commons system and renovate and reimagine existing dormitory spaces as learning communities for first- and second-year students. The commons model builds on Colgate’s unparalleled residential liberal arts education by better connecting students’ in-class and out-of-class experiences. Eight co-directors were appointed in the fall of 2014 and the team started work to develop the new program. Curtis-Drake, and its annex at 100 Broad Street, will be the first commons to open in fall of 2015. The inaugural community will be led by Rebecca Shiner, professor of psychology, and Mark Shiner, university chaplain, who will work closely with the 400 residents to enhance the nexus of students’ academic and social lives.

Living the Liberal Arts: Creating a Residential Commons

As founding members, students living in the first commons will choose a name for their living community and decide on traditions and events that will help to build community. Each commons will have a student-run programming board, a budget, space to host events and receptions, and ongoing engagement with faculty, and eventually, alumni affiliates. In addition to an innovative program, Colgate is making a significant investment in improving student residences. This past summer, Colgate invested in renovations to Curtis Hall, Drake Hall, 100 Broad Street, and 100 Hamilton Street (home to the Sophomore Residential Seminars).

Student learning begins with a rich and varied educational experience that integrates the formal academic program with all of campus life.

Students can live and study together in the Mellon-funded Sophomore Residential Seminar program and then immerse themselves further in the learning experience through travel with their faculty member. During the fall 2015 semester, the following courses will be offered:

- Challenges of Modernity, Empire and Its Aftermath
- Caribbean Literature and Society
- Hunting, Eating, and Vegetarianism
- Jerusalem: City of Gods
- San Francisco: Immigrant and Sexual Cultures

The Benton Scholars Program is designed to infuse leadership and global themes into the Colgate experience. The program provides scholars with activities and selected courses that will enrich and bring new perspectives to their experiences on campus and throughout their lives.

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On campuses nationwide, students are increasingly seeking out counseling and support services. At Colgate, administrative deans had 6,100 individual contacts on behalf of students in addition to overseeing other responsibilities. Deans serve as advisers and support programs (e.g., International Student Services, Undergraduate Scholars programs, and First Generation student program).

Our main student health center saw 85 percent of the on-campus student population this year. The office provides travel-related health education, vaccinations, and medications to the 530 students traveling on Colgate-run study groups and works with our athletic-trainers and student-athletes, including collaborating on this year’s extended focus on concussions.

The Shaw Wellness Institute is the university’s health promotion office and fosters collaboration by the Colgate community in support of students’ holistic development. The institute provides a range of evidenced-based interventions related to resiliency, alcohol and other drug prevention, and sexual health including the signature bystander intervention education program that trained 1,000 students last year. The institute coordinates programming to reduce risk to new students in the first six weeks of school. In the fall of 2015, all new students will be required to participate in the online AlcoholEdu for College and Haven-Understanding Sexual Assault programs.

The Office of Counseling and Psychological Services provided services to 49 percent of Colgate students. The center has provided clinical services without running a waiting list, and it has developed nine group therapy initiatives to meet common needs such as stress management and family issues. The center continued to offer outreach opportunities to complement the clinical work. More than 300 members of the Colgate community took part in the Question, Persuade, and Refer (QPR) Suicide Prevention bystander program. This year, the center will pilot a therapist-assisted online service as another option for students.
Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion

As the diversity of the student body continues to grow, staff and faculty have recognized the importance of fostering a welcoming and inclusive campus environment. This has been a year of consciousness raising for Colgate. Following the peaceful sit-in of September 2014 and the December Black Lives Matter demonstrations, Colgate embraced 21 action items that support Colgate for All. More than 150 faculty and staff have participated in Intergroup Dialogue training. Additionally, four courses utilizing Intergroup Relations pedagogy have been developed. Division staff accompanied 10 students to the Sustained Dialogue conference in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and attended the celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery to Selma bridge crossing.

The ALANA Cultural Center saw over 8,200 visitors at over 70 cultural events.

One-third of the student body comes from a multicultural background.

This year, all division managers and other division staff participated in Safe Zone training and all campus safety officers attended a diversity in-service program. Campus safety will undertake an external review related to building community engagement skills, especially with our increasingly diverse student population. Moreover, the ALANA Cultural Center provided Diversity 101 conversations with more than 200 admission tour guides, Links, Community Leaders, and members of fraternities and sororities. Alumna Diane Ciccone ’74 initiated a Woman of Color working group with 30 Colgate alumnae who now mentor current female students in career planning, health and wellness, and empowerment.

45% of Colgate students receive financial aid.

In the last 5 years, the number of financial aid slots increased from 291 to 329, and support to students has increased from $38.9 to $50+ million.
In collaboration with the Office of the Provost and Dean of the Faculty, we offered a film series, colloquia, and brown-bag discussions for the Community Reads selection: Bruce Watson’s *Freedom Summer*. This fall, a similar Community Reads series will focus on *How to Slowly Kill Yourself and Others in America*, by Kiese Laymon.

Preparation began this year for a new First Generation program for students who are the first in their families to attend college. Led by Professor Frank Frey, Associate Dean Marrlee Burgess, and Assistant Dean Drea Finley, this program will partner with the Undergraduate Studies program. The goal of this new program is to provide support to first-generation students to help them thrive academically and personally within the Colgate community.

Calls for improved response to sexual violence, bias, and harassment resulted in a comprehensive Equity Grievance Policy (EGP) response that will be updated to comply with New York’s new *Enough is Enough* legislation. Faculty and staff EGP panel members participate in monthly trainings. We host annual investigator training, and mandated faculty, staff, and student in-service programs.

In the last five years, Colgate has more than doubled its enrollment of international students with 262 enrolled. The 2014 Institute of International Education Open Doors Report ranked Colgate 15th in the nation based on the total number of international students, placing Colgate higher than many of our peers. The Office of International Student Services (OISS) enhances the campus culture through cultural events including a five-week, noncredit English as a Global Language course, which will be expanded into a full course offered through the Department of Writing and Rhetoric in 2015-16. OISS worked closely with the Office of Career Services to offer workshops specifically for international students and processed 56 employment authorization applications in 2013-14, allowing international students to fully utilize opportunities.

The Office of LGBTQ Initiatives offers family dinners to bring students, faculty, staff, and allies together for conversation and community building.
Campus Life

Colgate University has 239 student groups supported through six offices: the Center for Leadership and Student Involvement (CLSI), The Office of the Chaplains, Max Shacknai Center for Outreach Volunteerism and Education (COVE), ALANA Cultural Center, club sports, and Fraternity and Sorority Affairs. CLSI collaborates with other departments to plan spring party weekend, senior brunch, torchlight, and orientation.

The Student Government Association continues to tackle difficult subjects like diversity, inclusion, campus safety relations, and university governance. We had 1,346 students vote during elections in April, with Kegan Thompson, president, and David Kim, vice president, elected.

Since its founding in 2001, the Max Shacknai Center for Outreach, Volunteerism, and Education (COVE) has made a significant contribution to our community. With the Office of Career Services, the COVE launched the Common Good Professional Network connecting students with alumni working in the public interest sector, offering immersion trips, networking receptions, and alumni speakers. With the advancement office, the COVE supported the first Colgate Day of Impact, which brought together more than 1,700 alumni, students, parents, faculty, and staff to dedicate over 2,200 acts of impact around the world.

Ryan Solomon, assistant professor of writing and rhetoric, taught the first course funded by the Community Based Learning Faculty Development grant pilot. His CORE South Africa course tutored children at the Somali Refugee Center in Utica, while studying refugee and migrant rights. This past summer, five students from that class spent six weeks in South Africa working with organizations. The COVE sponsored alternative break trips for 50 students in immersion-service experiences in Texas and New Jersey.
The Office of the Chaplains simplified their programming schedule following an external review, leading to an increase in both participation and satisfaction in their programs. Average weekly attendance at weekly worship is 300 students, and on average 280 students attend other chaplaincy events. The office also welcomes a new, full-time associate university chaplain and Protestant campus minister, Reverend Dr. Corey MacPherson. An interfaith pilgrimage to Assisi, Italy, and several service-related retreats are planned for next year.

More than 20 faculty from almost every academic department presented during a semester-long focus on happiness at the Office of the Chaplains’ weekly Heretics Club.

Fraternity and Sorority Affairs oversees eight chapters, with 914 student members. Members of Colgate’s fraternities and sororities raised $60,000 this year, with Delta Delta Delta raising $49,000 from its Sincerely Yours letter-writing campaign for St. Jude Children’s Hospital. This year, Colgate supported a student-run sexual climate summit with more than 400 attendees and a follow-up fraternity and sorority summit.

Colgate again hosted the New Member Education Summit in February, with guest speaker Tim Marchell, director of mental health initiatives at Cornell University. A letter is sent to families (signed by all fraternity and sorority leaders and university leadership) advising them about underground chapters and Colgate’s anti-hazing policy. We are developing an online anti-hazing program (e.g., how to spot and define hazing), in-person training for first responders, and a clearinghouse for constructive new membership practices.

Student groups focus on operating within Colgate’s Organizations of Excellence Standards to focus on:

- Intellectual Development
- Citizenship, Leadership, and Service
- Diversity, Access, and Inclusion
- Personal Growth, Health and Wellness
- Accountability
- Lifelong Connections

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Student learning begins with a rich and varied educational experience that integrates the formal academic program with all of campus life. Colgate students will develop habits of learning and ways of living that are characteristic of a residential liberal arts education and that are guided by intellectualism, citizenship, accountability, diversity and inclusion, personal growth and wellness, and a lifelong connection to Colgate. The Dean of the College Division promotes open and respectful exchange of ideas and perspectives, deepening our commitment to human understanding and to the common good. The division furthers Colgate’s educational mission through its student-centered approach, exceptional services, and learning opportunities.

Office of the Dean of the College:
Administrative Deans
First Generation program
Office of International Student Services (OISS)
Student Conduct
Undergraduate Scholars programs

ALANA Cultural Center
Campus Safety
Center for Leadership and Student Involvement (CLSI)
Fraternity and Sorority Affairs
Max Shacknai Center for Outreach, Volunteerism, and Education (COVE)
Chaplains
Counseling and Psychological Services
Environmental Health and Safety
LGBTQ Initiatives
Residential Life
Shaw Wellness Institute
Student Health Services