There is little doubt that 2008–2009 will be remembered as a year of dramatic change. While the world economy forces us—as individuals and as institutions—to recalibrate our financial values, we also see the limitations of our natural resources.

But history runs in cycles. Financial temperance gives way to surprising innovation. Periods of extreme independence are inevitably balanced by the rediscovery of the common good. That is happening now.

As we near the end of Colgate’s fiscal year, the economic crisis adds both compassion and urgency to our appeals for support. Most, if not all, of our students and families are affected by the new financial reality; yet they are counting on Colgate to deliver on its promises.

Over the past two years, we have raised more than $300 million through Passion for the Climb, The Campaign for Colgate, yet our revenue streams are now less predictable than they have been in at least a decade. Even so, financial aid is a critical component in the university’s ability to attract and retain the best possible students. At the same time, Colgate must continue to provide good value for all families, including the 60 percent who receive no financial aid.

On May 31, this historic fiscal year will come to a close. Our students and faculty are especially grateful for the generous contributions Colgate has already received from alumni, families, and friends.

In the final days of this most challenging year, I encourage you to continue to support Colgate.

James Elrod ’76, P’04, P’05, P’12
Passion for the Climb Campaign Chair
Catherine Mendola ’09

Leader, Learner, Doer

If leaders learn from the leaders they meet, then Catherine Mendola ’09 goes to the head of the class.

At Colgate, she encountered many leadership styles—from Holocaust survivor Helen Sperting, who asked audience members for hugs, to inspirational comedian Judd Laipply, who conveyed his vision through dance. Unlikely role models, perhaps, but Mendola also gained more traditional inspiration from the Dalai Lama, Newt Gingrich, Daniel “Rudy” Ruettiger, Rwandan hero Paul Rusesabagina, and others. She has also lived in the Loft I and Loft II communities, served as a residential adviser, participated twice in the Robert A. Fox ’59 Leadership Institute, and served four years on her class council. “Because I’ve interacted successfully with alumni and leaders in our community, I feel incredibly confident now that I’m interviewing for jobs. And, as a political science major, I learned to back up my opinions with facts. As a leader, that’s incredibly important to do.”

Anthony Baldwin ’11

Martial Artist, Philosopher, Pied Piper

When he’s not grappling with paradox or infinity, philosophy major Anthony Baldwin ’11 can often be found in the gym. There, he practices the interdisciplinary sport of mixed martial arts—a blend of boxing, wrestling, and karate. Cross-training is a way of life for Baldwin, especially where race is concerned. Living in the multicultural Harlem Renaissance Center and overseeing alumni affairs for the diverse Brothers group on campus, he works to create common ground. He also serves on the multicultural recruitment committee and helps first-year minority students adjust to both college life and “the added tension of being different.” “It’s up to the classes before us to educate us as to how to be successful on Colgate’s campus,” said Baldwin. “They’ve done it. So I try to show people what’s actually here. There are always kinks and things to work out, but Colgate has some really great things to offer.”

Colgate’s three revenue streams—tuition, endowment support, and gifts to the unrestricted annual fund—together supply the funds for Colgate’s $147 million budget.

While Colgate is extremely dependent on its three principal sources of operating budget revenue, the global economic crisis has made these resources less predictable. Certainly, slower growth is projected than in years past. But Colgate is fortunate to be facing the challenge from a position of institutional and financial strength. With the generous support of alumni, families, and friends—and sound fiscal management—we will strive to preserve the commitments that are at the core of our academic excellence.
As provost and dean of the faculty for the past five years, Lyle Roelofs worked alongside President Rebecca S. Chopp on academic priorities such as reaccreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and getting Colgate’s interdisciplinary institutes funded and off the ground. Like two waves in perfect synchronicity, Roelofs and Chopp doubled each other’s energy and created what physicists call “constructive interference”—setting the stage for Roelofs to become interim president on June 1.

“My job in the coming year will be to put Colgate in the best possible position for its next leader,” Roelofs said at a recent faculty meeting. And to President Chopp, he quipped: “You will not be a hard act to follow in the sense that your directions should continue to guide us in the coming year. But for Colgate’s sixteenth president, you will be a very hard act to follow.”

Beverly Walker ’09
Amphibian, Champion, Scientist

As a swimming scholarship recruit, Beverly Walker ’09 was impressed by the Lineberry Natatorium. But it was Professor Ron Hoham, now professor of geology emeritus, and two marine and freshwater sciences majors who really made the splash. Since then, Walker has enjoyed a medley of Colgate resources. She traveled the country with Colgate’s most successful swim team in history, led by Stephen Jungbluth, the Mark S. Randall Head Coach of Swimming and Diving. Her off-campus study was with the SEA Semester at Woods Hole, Mass. Another summer, she studied Alaska’s Chukchiakon formation through the Kock Geology Consortium. She continued her research in Colgate’s new Robert H.N. Ho Science Center.

With the swim season over and graduate school applications filed, Walker joined a campus dance troupe just for fun. “I’m learning to move my body in a whole new way, and meeting a bunch of new people,” she said. “I made some sacrifices in terms of the social side of Colgate, but I wouldn’t trade my four years for anything.”

Sam Daly ’10
Tenor, Brother, Teammate

Sam Daly ’10 chose Colgate because it would be possible to sing in an all-male a cappella group and also join a fraternity. As a member of the Colgate Thirteen and Phi Kappa Tau—as well as Masque and Triangle and the rugby club—he has made friends for life, contributed to perfect harmony, and also carried the ball.

“Daly chose Phi Kappa Tau for the legitimate fellowship and brotherhood it offered. Later, he became president of the Interfraternity Council, where his mission is to communicate the contributions that fraternity members make to the campus community. After majoring in political science, he hopes to join the military and eventually serve in the U.S. State Department or perhaps the CIA. “I’ve always gravitated toward group settings,” said Daly, who is an only child. “All the actors on the stage are working toward a common goal, and it’s the same with a fraternity. Every individual’s actions reflect on the group as a whole.”

Where the money goes.

Lyle Roelofs, PhD
Provost, Physicist, Interim President

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Where the money goes.
Campaign News in Brief

Third time’s the charm
The Donovan family and the Class of 2009 have teamed up to reopen Donovan’s Pub. John ’52 and Patty Donovan P’87 supported the renovation, and the Senior Class Gift will endow a fund to support activities held there. Story and video at www.colgate.edu/donovansdedication

First Lampert Lecture held
Newsweek International editor Fareed Zakaria talked with students about the world economic crisis, compliments of Colgate’s Institute for Philosophy, Politics, and Economics. Story and video at www.colgate.edu/zakarialecture

International diplomacy up close
Malik Wright ’09 and a dozen other Colgate students participated in Howard University’s annual Model African Union conference in Washington, D.C. Read more at www.colgate.edu/auconference