Hundreds participate in Colgate Trivia on the Road

“At Torchlight in 2007, a group of seniors walking down the hill yelled out, ‘Hey, it’s the Trivia Guy! Thanks for all the great Wednesdays!’ Now those seniors are three years out of Colgate and probably coming to play at our Trivia Nights on the road.” — Doug Chiarello ’98

What offers camaraderie, competition, and the chance to show off one’s interdisciplinary savoir faire?
This one’s a no-brainer . . . the answer is Colgate Trivia Nights. The lively tradition began in February 2007 at the Colgate Inn, where most Wednesday nights faculty, students, staff, and Hamilton residents test their knowledge. Now, quizmaster and creator Doug Chiarello ’98, a regional advancement officer at Colgate, has taken the show on the road—so far, to New York City and Washington, D.C.
Admission fees have supported the Colgate Annual Fund, which gives “participation” another layer of meaning.

“In Washington, subjects ranged from popular culture (Who showed up on the red carpet for the 2010 Oscars wearing a Burberry custom black tuxedo made entirely out of hemp?) to science (What chemical element is added to rubber to vulcanize it?).”

“The teams that fare the best are either interdisciplinary by nature, or have members with a wide range of knowledge and interests,” he said.
No wonder trivia is all the rage at Colgate.

Next Trivia on the Road: May 17 in San Francisco at Gordon Biersch Restaurant and Brewery. Register at www.colgatealumni.org/SFtrivia. The $13 registration fee will support financial aid.

Watch for future events on the road. Meanwhile, there’s a video and online trivia test at www.colgate.edu/trivia.
Participating in the Colgate Annual Fund is one of many ways to remain connected with the university. Your support is critical to Colgate’s long-term health and welfare. And it’s a public affirmation that the education you received has served you well.

There’s nothing trivial about participation

Rooney fund supports Colgate’s future journalists

The power of participation was clear when more than 800 Colgate alumni, parents, and friends stepped up to support the new Andrew A. Rooney ’42, P’74, GP’05 Endowed Scholarship, which was formed in honor of one of Colgate’s most renowned alumni to support future journalists. In just three months, the fund topped $56,000, primarily through ticket proceeds from the star-studded tribute event held in New York City in February.

Along with Rooney’s 60 Minutes colleagues Lesley Stahl and Morley Safer, an impressive cast of Colgate alumni journalists participated in the respectful ribbing.

CBS executive producer Jeff Fager ’77, P’06 served as emcee. CNN senior political analyst Gloria Borger ’74, P’10 delivered her message via video. Howard Fineman ’70, Newsweek Washington columnist and NBC news analyst, sent his tribute by e-mail. And live on stage were ABC News anchor Bob Woodruff ’83, P’13 and Rooney’s son, Brian ’74, who got more than a few laughs at his father’s expense.

A few weeks later, Brian reflected: “My father is ambivalent about fame, but he loves admiration. He was thrilled that Colgate and its graduates think so much of him, although we were all surprised that the words ‘scholarship’ and ‘Rooney’ would ever be contained in the same sentence.”

To support the Rooney scholarship, visit www.colgatealumni.org/makeagift and designate Rooney fund.
Soon after arriving at Colgate, Shae Frydenlund ’10 wrote a standout essay for her first-year seminar, on the theme My First Four Weeks, the Next Four Years. Next year, as a Watson Fellow, Shae will study the environmental impact of the medicinal plant trade in China, India, Nepal, and Thailand. But first, she looks back at who she was, and who she has become.

How did you feel, almost four years later, when you reread that essay?

I kind of laughed at myself. But I feel connected again to the person I was four years ago, and how much I had to learn.

You wrote that your first leap of faith at Colgate was joining the rugby club. What other leaps have there been?

I took a leap of faith academically, jumping into a geography major from my original idea of neuroscience or conservation biology. I also committed myself to the environmental movement and have never strayed away from that.

In your first month at Colgate, you went to see the Dalai Lama in Buffalo with the Buddhist Student Association. Did you ever imagine that you would meet him in person at Colgate?

Never! The private audience with the Dalai Lama totally changed my life and was the highlight of my Colgate experience. I can’t thank Robert Ho ’56 enough for that.

Is that what led you to spend a semester in Nepal?

Yes. I stayed a total of seven months in India, Nepal, and Tibet. At the Kopan Monastery in Katmandu, I lived in silence for 10 days, and then took refuge as a Buddhist.

Was coming back to Colgate a bit of a shock?

Coming back to America was really hard; coming back to Colgate was easy. I have a room with just what I need, and I have friends. I have always felt kindness here.

You quoted Emerson when you said that you wanted to “suck the marrow out of life” at Colgate. Is there anything you didn’t get to do?

I wish I’d gone to more lectures outside my discipline. I wish I’d had more time. And I haven’t yet figured out how to properly thank the professors and the alumni who invested in me.

Read Shae’s first-year seminar essay online at www.colgate.edu/shae and watch her senior profile video at www.colgate.edu/2010.
News in brief

Spacious new fitness center coming soon

Thanks to generous Colgate parents and alumni, construction is beginning on a much-needed new fitness center, scheduled to open in January 2011. With biomass heating and super-efficient lighting, windows, insulation, and ventilation, the nearly 15,000-square-foot building will be in great shape for LEED certification, making it the most environmentally friendly building on campus.

Read more at www.colgate.edu/newfitnesscenter

Remember: 2010 fiscal year ends on May 31.
Make your gift today.

Teaching award honors Colgate’s finest

Marilyn Thie, professor of philosophy, religion, and women’s studies, has been named the first winner of the new Balmuth award recognizing teaching that is “distinctively successful and transformative.” The prize is endowed by Mark Siegel ’73 and is named for the beloved Jerry Balmuth, Harry Emerson Fosdick Professor of philosophy and religion, who will retire in June.

Read more at www.colgate.edu/balmuthaward

It’s last call for Summer on the Hill, June 27-July 1, a four-day immersion in the liberal arts for alumni and parents. Take classes with some of Colgate’s most engaging faculty members and enjoy Hamilton and the region. Register today.

Visit www.colgatealumni.org/summerhill for information