On April 13, 2018 -- Colgate Day! OUS celebrated our 50th year anniversary. Current students, alumni and family members of OUS came together to celebrate our legacy. For the last five decades, OUS has inspired change in the lives of its students. Through fostering a supportive program, generations of OUS students have navigated an elite institution in many facets including academics, involvement on campus, studying abroad, and post-graduation.

“The unmatched network of support that we have created is something so special that many will not and cannot conceptually understand. I am truly grateful for those who came before us and demanded space and place because without them we would not be here,” Drea Finley ’13 said

The Gala highlighted speeches from OUS Director Professor Suzanne B. Spring, Provost and Dean of the Faculty Tracey E. Hucks ’87, MA ’90, President Brian Casey, and current OUS and FIRST Gen students.

Life-lasting relationships are created through the program. “OUS is a community that celebrated with me, laughed with me, cried with me, fought alongside me and informed me throughout my four years here,” senior Jehdeiah Mixon ’17 said

OUS has become a fierce force to be reckoned with. For this, we, students, consider all of us very lucky. Here’s to 50+ more years!
Gala
Study Abroad

Washington, DC
Regine (Ré) Cooper’19

Ecuador
Braulio Cappas’20

London, United Kingdom
Alex Valdez’19 (History)
Yordy Meshesha’19 (History)
Mary Bryce’19 (English)

Barcelona, Spain
Nali Byrd’19

Morocco
Cindy Vuong’19
Study Abroad

Geneva
Chelsea Santiago ’19
Fjordi Mulla ’19

Hong Kong
Shamarcus Doty ’20
Tuyen Ta ’20
Deissy Flores ’20

Japan
James Chaplin ’20
Juan Saenz ’20

Australia
Jocelyne Andrade ’19
Monica Dimas ’19
How has your Colgate experience been so far?
I have also had the opportunity to form a part of amazing clubs that have helped me grow as an individual. Whether that be debate club helping me learn how to formulate an argument or Students for Environmental Activism allowing me to see the various ways in which we can leave an impact on our community. I have grown as an individual by being able to recognize my own potential and obligation to help institute change in our world.

What is your favorite thing about Colgate?
My favorite thing about Colgate is its emphasis on the relationship between students and professors. All of the professors I have had up until now have been incredibly accessible and open to office hours. Whether you need assignment clarifications, an extension of class lecture, major or minor advice, or simply life advice, professors are always open to assist or listen to you. This adds to the learning experience, in my opinion, by getting rid of the barrier students so often feel in thinking of their professors as people they cannot connect to.

What advices do you have for incoming First years?
Everyone arrives at Colgate with different aspirations, beliefs, backgrounds, and goals. Don't mold yourself into the image of others simply to fit in or make friends in a new place that you have yet to explore. While part of the college experience is trying new things and meeting new people, don't ever feel like you have to compromise who you are to conform to what others want you to believe is normal. The world has enough imitators, be original in an ever-increasing synthetic world.

What does OUS/FIRST Gen mean to you?
OUS/FIRST Gen means to me a support system and a shoulder to lean on that will be here for me as long as I am at Colgate. From the first day I came for the Summer Institute, I was very warmly welcomed by Professor Spring and Frank Kuan by their wide smiles and the enthusiasm they manifested in meeting me and my OUS class. Ever since that day, their support and concern for me have not wavered and everytime I run into them or stop by the OUS house, they always greet me with a smile and mention how happy they are to see me. I am honestly thankful for being a part of such a great community that emphasizes that all those within are a family.

What made you choose Colgate?
I was reading an online Colgate newsletter and in that newsletter, I was reading about the experiences of a freshman, a person of color, I assumed by their name. I was so interested in what they had to say about their experience here as a minority that I decided to contact them directly via social media and bombard them with questions. After talking to them and gaining more of a sense of how Colgate would be for me, I decided that it would be where I spend my undergraduate years.

What advices do you have for incoming First years?
Get prepared to study hard if you were not doing so before, like me; be active and join clubs to see which ones you actually like; moreover, within those clubs, try to be on the core and have a leadership position.
Best Wishes to the Class of 2018

JoyOUS
[joiəs]
1. Full of happiness and joy
2. A source or cause of delight