

January 31st, 2002

Austin E. Quigley
Dean, Columbia College
208 Hamilton Hall
Mail Code 2805
New York, NY 10027

Dear Dean Quigley

As an important member of the Columbia College community, you most certainly know that our fine institution is not as strong in spirit and tradition as we would hope it to be.

As a result, school spirit is a problem that has plagued Columbia students for decades, centuries even.

As Professor Wm. Theodore deBary, John Mitchell Mason Professor Emeritus, Provost Emeritus, and Special Service Professor of the University, has eloquently asserted for years, Columbia College students tend to identify more as members of a particular racial, ethnic, religious, or interest group than as Columbia College students. While it is wonderful that we have a campus which truly celebrates diversity, a sense of school spirit is one of many things that is lost along the way.

While many complain about this problem, Professor deBary has envisioned something that would help to bring the community together to think of ways in which we can create a greater excitement about Columbia College. After discussing the idea of a Columbia College Association with Professor deBary on several occasions, I am very excited to invite you to serve as a part of the Steering Committee of this group.

The Columbia College Association, as we envision it, will be a membership organization for students, faculty, alumni, and administrators. The "Association" will come together at times to discuss issues of importance to all members of the Columbia College community. Our ultimate goal would be to bring together all of the groups that make up this fine institution and to generate excitement amongst them about being here.

While it would be great to have as many people involved in the Association as possible, we realize that it is essential to keep the steering committee small, yet representative of all of the groups involved. I propose the following structure for the Columbia College Association:

- Dean of Columbia College
- Dean of Student Affairs for Columbia College
- Director of Alumni Affairs for Columbia College

- President of the Columbia College Alumni Association, or his designee
 - Two Faculty Members who are also graduates of Columbia College*
 - Columbia College Student Body President
 - Columbia College Student Council Vice President for Campus Life
- *to be chosen by the Columbia College Student Body President, in conjunction with the Dean of Columbia College

The role of the steering committee would be to brainstorm programming events and initiatives that would draw together all of the various groups within Columbia College. The Steering Committee of the Columbia College Association shall meet bimonthly. Each of the members would be asked to follow up with their respective constituencies and to help implement the programming initiatives agreed upon by the committee.

I sincerely do hope that you are interested in serving on the Steering Committee of the Columbia College Association. You are a vital member of the Columbia College community, and I really do hope that you are interested in working with us to foster a greater sense of spirit here at this institution of higher learning

Please contact me via e-mail (mjn29) or phone (X37030) to confirm your participation on the Columbia College Association Steering Committee. Karin Ngai-Crim, Administrative Assistant to the Dean of Student Affairs, has graciously volunteered to coordinate the logistics of the meetings for the steering committee; she will be in touch with you at some point to establish two (2) meeting times for the current semester.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Novielli
Columbia College Student Body President, CC'03