

Hamilton College
Alumni Council
Saturday, April 17, 2010

Strategic Initiatives

Strategic Initiative One: Career Networking and Mentoring

Overarching Goal: To leverage the strength of the Hamilton experience and relationships by and between alumni, parents, and friends to enhance the opportunities for them to network among professional interests, provide career counseling and mentoring, and to serve as a critical resources for current students.

Objectives:

- To capitalize on the power of the Hamilton network for career advancement, career transitions, and mentoring for all alumni who seek it
- To provide increased and visible opportunities for alumni to volunteer for career panels, symposia, lectures, advising, and other career-related activities of benefit to alumni and current students
- To enhance the number of opportunities that alumni can gather and network within professional fields of interest
- To increase the breadth and depth of internships that connect alumni with current students seeking to explore careers in their respective professions
- To increase the visibility of the professional and volunteer leadership achievements of members of the Hamilton community including alumni, parents, and friends

Possible Initiatives:

- Enhance the professional and volunteer information currently available for all members of the Alumni Council
- Create ad hoc or standing committee of the Council to partner with C&D and Career Offices
- Develop strategies to engage more alumni in career mentoring and networking opportunities across the regions and on campus
- Promote and support strategies that encourage alumni to provide regular updates on their career, volunteer, and graduate education activities for the directory profile
- Sponsor and promote special conferences, symposia, and other gatherings that provide career networking opportunities for alumni and students
- Continue to recruit and invite recognized leaders in business and the professions to visit campus to interact with students and faculty through guest lectures and symposia
- Continue to promote alumni achievements through stories in print publications and on the web
- Develop opportunities for alumni to post position vacancies at their companies exclusively for alumni on the Hamilton web site
- Participate in an annual “Real World” career summit that partners alumni and parents with current students

Strategic Initiative Two: Alumni Affinity Networks

Overarching Goal: To provide leadership, direction, and ongoing counsel to alumni interested in establishing affinity networks around professional, volunteer, and campus activity interests that enable them to connect with each other and the College in addition to the traditional affiliations of class and region

Objectives:

- To provide a framework for alumni engagement that uses professional experience, career fields, and campus interests and activities as a means of creating and sustaining an affinity network

- To create “life-long” learning communities whereby members of these networks can advance their knowledge of and experience in their respective careers and fields of interest
- To provide opportunities for peer recognition of professional achievement, industry and civic honors and awards, and for leadership in the nonprofit community
- To plan and promote communications, programs, and events around “industry-relevant” issues and challenges
- To provide a framework for co-curricular experiences for current students wishing to affiliate with particular interests of meaning and substance to them

Possible Initiatives:

- Through volunteer leadership, continue to support and promote the programs and network of the Wall Street Association in New York City
- Use “Wall St. Association” model to develop similar networks in key major markets where a critical mass of alumni, parents, and friends are engaged in banking and finance
- Provide counsel and promotional support to the Hamilton Venture Network, an organization established to support members of the Hamilton community engaged in new ventures and entrepreneurship
- Assist in the development of the Elihu Root Society for those studying and practicing law; those engaged in law-related professions; and those interested in the law, public policy, and public service
- Identify and promote affinity networks in other areas of business and the professions where there is sustained interest and for which volunteer leadership can be engaged to support those efforts
- Identify and promote affinity networks centered around campus-based activities and interests such as athletics, fraternities, sororities, performing arts groups, etc. and for which volunteer leadership can be engaged to sustain those efforts

Strategic Initiative Three: The Alumni Council’s Role in the Bicentennial

Overarching Goal: To leverage the strength of the Alumni Council and its working committees in helping to ensure the broadest degree of inclusiveness in the plans to commemorate Hamilton’s Bicentennial celebration in 2012.

Objectives:

- To play a leading role in endorsing and supporting the official plans being developed by the College’s Bicentennial Planning Committee
- To use the official plans for Hamilton’s Bicentennial as a roadmap for how each committee plans its important work over the course of the next two and one half years in conjunction with the celebration period
- To ensure that all alumni are touched, through event attendance, communications, and other programs, in the full scope of the celebration honoring the rich history of the College
- To ensure that each member of the Council has been provided an opportunity to ask the College: “What can we do to help Hamilton celebrate its Bicentennial?”
- To help promote the vital role Hamilton alumni have played in the long and distinguished history of the College

Possible Initiatives:

Each of the standing committees might consider some of the following suggestions when they plan their specific activities in conjunction with the timeline for celebrating the College’s Bicentennial:

Nominating Committee:

- “Alumni Association Honors” – an opportunity to honor/recognize Hamilton’s men and women of achievement
- “Alumni Recognition Ceremony” – Friday evening dinner for either Fallcoming or Spring Weekend or both is used to honor volunteers in service to Hamilton, their communities, their country, etc.

- Critical review of current awards given by Alumni Council to determine if they adequately represent the scope of volunteer service and consider additions/modifications.

Regional Affairs:

- Alexander Hamilton Birthday parties take on Bicentennial theme in 2011 & 2012
- GOLD-organized “National Day of Service” to coincide with official Charter Day in 2011 & 2012
- Alumni Colleges focus on history of College and/or in conjunction with history of U.S.
- All-alumni receptions focus on key historical milestones as potential themes
- Regional Associations plan/organize 200 mile relay road races/bike races
- “Regional Salutes” – regional associations sponsor competitions for works of art, musical scores, etc. commissioned from alumni in regions to commemorate Bicentennial
- Professional affinity “panels” assemble in key regions for symposia on law, medicine, government/public service, education, etc. to discuss evolution of these areas over past 200 years.

Class Leadership:

- Class communications focus on written and oral histories of specific time on campus for each respective class in the context of the College’s 200 years.
- Class web pages dedicate space for a “Bicentennial minute” – highlighting key milestones that occurred during the classes specific 4 years on campus.
- Classes celebrating reunions in 2012 use Bicentennial theme to plan class-specific alumni colleges, dinners, and other class –specific functions over reunion weekend.
- Class Gift Chairs and fundraising committees focus on history of philanthropy to the College; celebrates philanthropy and impact on the educational and extra-curricular experience.
- Each class is asked to design (with College help) an official class banner that can be used for all subsequent 5-year reunions and other class celebrations.

GOLD Engagement:

- Central role in planning “National Day of Service” across all regions
- Central role in planning road races and other regional athletic events
- Develop marketing communications on the role of GOLD in “sustainability for the next 200 years”
- Collaborate and participate with major student groups such as HALT on campus-based programs/events for current students.

Multicultural Alumni:

- Consider MARC component to each of the proposed actions noted in the committee lists above.
- Plan and execute major academic symposium in either 2011 or 2012 on race and ethnicity in America and the role of colleges and universities in these critical issues.

General:

- Bicentennial theme drives programming for major campus weekends in 2011 & 2012 (Fallcoming, Family, Spring, and Reunion weekends.)
- Bicentennial history “minute: part of each Alumni Council agenda in 2011 & 2012.