Michael Dexter '07 Statement of Purpose

Throughout my time at New College I always strived to make the most of my experiences. From the first day to the last, I always sought to engage myself in both the community and the institution. The New College experience is unparalleled in its impact on my life. For better or worse, I became who I am today in no small part to the experiences from New College of Florida. The institution and everybody who made that experience possible has my eternal gratitude and admiration. Just as we developed a close community while at school, so too should we seek to maintain that community afterwards. Your life afterwards should not and will never lose that connection. New College is a community unlike any I have been a part of, and one that has supported me throughout my life, especially since graduation. Life after graduation is difficult, from moving to a new city to starting a new life. My relocation to both DC and New York was successful because of the alums in those areas that welcomed me with open arms and helped me navigate the challenges on a new unfamiliar area.

While many colleges boast of their alumni and alumni relations nothing forms such a bond as does the social and academic atmosphere at New College. The New College experience, however long or brief the time, instills in all of us an indelible, and what I believe incomparable, connection. When a Novo Collegian sees the four winds, be it on a shirt or tattoo, our engagement transcends the consummate hello, our relationship with each other reaches a level beyond the tangible, it connotes a shared sense of struggle as a community of individuals rather than an indistinguishable mass. The phrase "a school is more than an institution it's a product of the student body that attends it" can often be trite and overused, yet I firmly believe that no other institution is more an archetype of such a community than New College of Florida. New College is a community that while small, has a half century of history and thousands of alumni with vastly different yet shared experiences. As a small school we may lack the alumni base of most others, but while we are spread around the US and the world the web of connection to NCF remains unbroken. This special connection comes from the shared history as a Novo Collegian, whether it be under the guise of USF, as a private college or as an independent entity.

As a hopeful Board member I would work to ensure that we (alums from '65 to current students) never lose that special connection and for any who has, re-engage them and re-immerse them into the community. I know this feeling of eternal connection to New College is widespread among alums. This desire to give back to the institution and people that have supported me is what encourages me to apply to the alumni board. Whether that be organizing alumni gatherings or reaching out to the far corners of our alumni base, I wholeheartedly want to contribute to furthering the New College experience after graduation. I believe, and I hope, that I can make a difference in the furthering alumni relations and ensuring that the strength of the institution continues to lie in the fabric connecting our alums. With this in mind, I would like to respectfully submit this application for the New College of Florida Alumni Association Board of Directors.