

ANNUAL MEETING

June 6, 2015

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Another year has quickly gone by! It has been a year full of activity. I would like to share our achievements with you.

Alumnae/i Relations Office

Marybeth Famulare, our Alumnae/i Director, what can I say? She certainly makes my job easier. We have been meeting weekly to coordinate activities and keep lines of communication open. We review the feedback we receive and respond accordingly. Marybeth is doing a wonderful job for the College and our Association. Please take the time to praise and thank her for the excellent job she is doing.

Our monthly e-newsletter took on a new look this year. It is an avenue to share upcoming events, provide updates, and seek volunteers for activities. We continue to encourage news from other campus offices to share with you. Look for it around the 15th of every month.

Our web site also lists events and volunteer opportunities. Forms for you to volunteer for something of interest are available this weekend. I encourage you to complete and return to the Alumnae Office. We post announcements and summary overviews following our Board meetings. Both the newsletter and web site serve as communication vehicles to foster outreach among alumnae/i, students, faculty, and staff.

The Association and WCGA have rejuvenated our relationship. A representative from WCGA meets weekly with Marybeth to exchange ideas about opportunities, raise questions, and make suggestions. On several occasions, local alums have joined these two for lunch to foster positive alumnae/i and student interaction. This student representative is a member of our Student and Parent Relations Committee.

Engagement Committee

The Engagement Committee focuses on how the Association markets itself and the College through the alumnae web pages, *Wilson Magazine*, and Facebook. The Chair of this Committee is a member of the Magazine Committee along with three other alumnae. Together, we determine the content of the next issue of the magazine. We encourage you to keep us informed of your contact information so that we may keep you engaged.

During our Winter Retreat in January, we hosted a luncheon for participants of the Women and Children Program as well as a reception for adult degree students and graduates. As part of the activities for Women's History Month in March, a panel of six alumnae shared strategies and words of wisdom regarding the age-old quest for work and family life balance. In April, the Association co-hosted our first luncheon for alumnae/i who are employees of the college. There are 36 employees who are alumnae/i. Alumnae/i led in the 2015 graduating class in the Blue and Silver Line. Martha Estep O'Brien – Class of 1965, celebrating her 50th reunion, was the Marshall. The main event for Engagement is planning Reunion Weekend. This year we celebrate *I Am WILSON!* We plan many and varied activities while allowing time to spend with friends.

Heritage Committee

The Heritage Committee is working with the Admissions Department to be available to them as needed and to participate in on-campus events to educate perspective students and their families to the role AAWC plays in college life. The Association participated in Graduation Fair with a display and information table.

The Ring-it-Forward program is a great success. Six rings were "forwarded" this year; bringing our total to 11 rings. The next presentation is scheduled for Saturday of Fall Weekend.

As I mentioned last year, the Edgar Bell housing is in desperate need of repair. The Association is working with the College to preserve and restore the bell. Be on the lookout for more information.

The Committee is working with faculty and staff on an Author's Hall in the reimagined John Stewart Memorial Library, which would include books written by alumnae/i.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee requests nominations to fill Board seats and makes contact with nominees. Each year at our annual meeting, a slate representing a wide cross-section of alumnae/i is presented for election. Each new Board member is given a handbook. In order to facilitate a smooth transition to board service, mentors for all incoming board members were identified. The guidelines for mentors were revised this year.

The committee fulfills all governance responsibilities required for the BOD (Conflict of Interest, Code of Conduct, Board Self-Assessment).

Student and Parent Relations Committee

Throughout the year, we had 120 pairings of students and alumnae/i in the Aunt Program. The program is open to any student, in any program – traditional college, Adult Degree Program and Women with Children Program. The pair stay together throughout the student's years at Wilson. Each year our list of pairings is updated. It is important to keep in touch with the Alumnae/i Relations Office concerning your involvement in this program.

We raised just over \$300 from our link with Amazon.com. Monies from this endeavor help with the cost of alumnae/i-student opportunities. The Committee sponsored a day for Food for Finals each semester and participated in Senior Bash. Together with the Alumnae/i Relations Office, we supplied giveaways to the Athletics Department for use at games for students and families.

Career Day offered an opportunity for several alums to join a panel with local community business leaders. They discussed what organizations are looking for in employees and offered words of wisdom from their life experiences.

The Association received one request for internship monies in the amount of \$450. These funds are given to us by individuals and regional clubs.

Recognition and Stewardship Committee

The Committee has selected the Association award recipients. The service of these individuals is to be applauded.

In our stewardship initiative, the Committee, along with Carolyn Woods, Director of the Wilson Fund, created a thank you note from the Board of Directors to be sent to those donating under \$1,000 to the Wilson Fund.

Travel Committee

Do you like to travel? Then do so with fellow Wilson alumnae/i. Last year, 28 joined us for some great tours and trips.

We have some exciting trips scheduled for the second half of 2015; including --

- Canadian Rockies Parks and Resorts – August 6-12
- Barge Cruise in France – August 23-29
- Sicily, Italy – September 25-October 4
- Flavors of Northern Italy – October 3-11
- Mediterranean Mosaic – October 4-13

There are at least six adventures planned for 2016. Information will be published in the Magazine, web site, eNews, and other venues.

A successful year! Successful because of all of you. Leadership does not have the whole responsibility. You do your part. You are willing to give your time, talent and treasure to your alma mater. Wilson enriches our personal, professional and cultural lives. You are willing to give because of your sense of community and traditions. Community – a group with common interests. We have so much that unites us. From the moment we enrolled as a student, we became part of the Wilson community; and we remain so today. The alumnae/i now have an even more crucial role to play. As citizens of this community, it is up to us to muster both the volunteer energy and financial support that Wilson College needs to carry on its important, ongoing work.

Regards,

Mary F. Cramer '91

President