

ANNUAL MEETING

June 4, 2016

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Time shrinks with the accumulation of years. Or, at least, that's the perception. The fact is that time does not elongate or shrink. A day will always have 24 hours, a week seven days, a year 365 days. What does change is our awareness of its speed—and its increasing preciousness as a commodity. The Alumnae Association of Wilson College used its time wisely this past year. What have we been up to?

Alumnae/i Relations Office

Marybeth Famulare, our director of alumnae/i relations, and I have an amazing relationship. We work well together. She certainly makes my job easier. We have been meeting weekly to coordinate activities and keep lines of communication open. She is doing an excellent job for the College and our association. Reach out to Marybeth and thank her for the praiseworthy job she is doing.

In order to share upcoming events, provide updates, and seek volunteers for activities, check out our monthly e-newsletter, website and the *Wilson Magazine*. We continue to encourage news from other campus offices to share with you. Announcements, as well as summary overviews of our board meetings are posted for your review. Both the newsletter and website serve as communication vehicles to foster outreach among alumnae/i, students, faculty and staff.

Engagement Committee

The Engagement Committee encourages interaction among alumnae/i through web pages, social media and the *Wilson Magazine*. The committee provides insight and feedback into alumnae/i outreach, social media, the magazine, Reunion, Fall Weekend and regional events and club activities. Alumnae work together with the communications and marketing department to determine the content of each issue of the magazine. We encourage you to keep us informed of your contact information so that we may keep in contact with you.

During our winter retreat in January, our focus was on planning Reunion Weekend. This year we celebrate the theme of *Many Paths, One Spirit!* Of course, the highlight of the weekend is renewing friendships.

In April, the association co-hosted our second get together for alumnae/i who are employees of the college. There are 40 employees who are alumnae/i. During commencement in May, alumnae/i led in the 2016 graduating class in the Blue and Silver Line. Jane Appleyard, Class of 1966, celebrating her 50th reunion, was the marshal.

It is time for the association to set up our own Facebook page and Instagram account. Lisa Havilland and Sarah Wilson “volunteered” to be the administrators along with me. The Facebook group is called Alumnae Association of Wilson College. The Instagram page is called aawcsocialmedia. We also have a gmail account if anyone would like to email photos for us to upload to FB or Instagram accounts. That is: aawc.socialmedia@gmail.com.

Finance

We received a clean review of our books for fiscal year 2015. As reported last year, we need to have only a compilation rather than a full audit of our books due to our size.

As of June 30, 2016, assets total \$177,775. Of that figure, there are restricted assets: class treasuries, \$75,263; internship/seminar gift program, \$7,351; preservation and restoration, \$6,163; Silver Lining fund, \$1,986; alumnae/i-student activities, \$1,009 and Tift College Awards, \$443.

Operating funds for the association total approximately \$20,000. Income earned from travel was \$4,084; from interest, \$264; from sale of merchandise, \$570; from the 2016 raffle, \$750 and from the garage sale, \$915.

Heritage Committee

The Heritage Committee is working with the admissions department to be available to them as needed. Committee members participate in on-campus events to educate perspective students and their families about the role the AAWC plays in college life.

The Ring-It-Forward program is a great success. Eleven rings were “forwarded” this year; bringing our total to 21 rings. The next presentation is scheduled for Fall Weekend.

The committee worked with faculty and staff on an author's hall in the reimagined John Stewart Memorial Library, which would include books written by alumnae/i. Along with alumnae/i relations, the Hankey Center, and the Class of 2016, committee members are also working on a tradition-focused project.

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. In order to facilitate a smooth transition to board service, each new board member is assigned a current board member as a mentor and they also receive a handbook.

The committee fulfills all governance responsibilities for a non-profit organization. It is, therefore, responsible for updating and revising association policies.

Student and Parent Relations Committee

The Aunt Sarah Program is going strong. There were 155 volunteers who were involved in the program this year. I hear so many endearing stories of the building of friendships and bonds between former and current students.

We raised nearly \$600 from our link with Amazon.com. Monies from this endeavor help with the cost of alumnae/i-student opportunities—such as a day for Food for Finals each semester and participation 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. The association participated in the Graduation Fair with a display and information table.

The association granted three requests for internship monies in the amount of \$625. Two were for VMT students interning over the summer and one purchased a passport to travel to South Korea for summer classes.

During the 2014-2015 academic year, there were several instances where students needed emergency funds in the face of an immediate crisis. These crises directly impacted the students' ability to continue their education at Wilson. Out of these experiences an idea was launched. The AAWC started the Silver Lining Fund for students who are experiencing times of crisis or need. The fund provides the students with a limited amount of immediate cash to allow them get through the initial crisis and focus on problems that are creating the emergency. The association started the fund

with \$500. Thanks to your generosity, the balance is now more than \$2,000—plus we have received numerous donations included with Reunion Weekend registrations.

We maintain our collaboration with WCGA; interacting to discuss concerns or make suggestions to foster alumnae/i student opportunities.

Student workers provide assistance for Reunion Weekend and other programs. They have a great time getting to know alumnae/i of all ages.

Recognition and Stewardship Committee

This committee is responsible for the selection of association award recipients. Again this year, our awardees are outstanding individuals. Each chose their own path and succeeded in their personal and professional endeavors. The service of these individuals is to be applauded. We also gave a \$1,000 Legacy Award to Abby Burkhart '16, daughter of Angela Gable Burkhart '78.

In our stewardship initiative, the committee, along with Carolyn Woods, director of the Wilson Fund, sent more than 500 thank you notes from the board of directors to those donating under \$1,000 to the Wilson Fund.

Travel Committee

Consider traveling with fellow Wilson alumnae/i. Our Tours and Travel Committee does a fantastic job of setting up trips with varying destinations. In FY16, 26 alumnae/i joined us for some great tours and trips. Our 2017 travel opportunities will be announced soon. Watch for them in our various communication channels.

Bylaws Committee

I appointed a committee to review our current bylaws. It is a useful exercise to revisit documents like this every few years. They were last revised in 2012. We need to be sure that our bylaws support the organization appropriately and continue to reflect what is important to us. As times, concerns and technology change, even the most thoughtful and well-written bylaws can become out-of-date. The goal is to bring the revised bylaws for adoption at our 2017 Annual Meeting. The committee is chaired by Lynne DiStasio '74. Committee members are Nancy Kostas '64, Jenni Rodda '78, Lorrie Trader '05 and Sarah Wilson '10.

Success is not an accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice, and most of all, love of what you are doing. Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful. This is true of our alumnae/i body. You are willing to give your time, talent and treasure to your alma mater. The alumnae/i have a crucial role to play. It is up to us to volunteer and to financially support Wilson College.

Regards,

Mary F. Cramer '91

President