

ANNUAL MEETING

June 7, 2014

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Association had another busy year. We have been overwhelmed by the generous spirit of the membership who has given so much of themselves to support the College and the Association. We would like to share our accomplishments with you.

Alumnae/i Relations Office

Marybeth Famulare has been doing a great job. We would like to send our praise and thanks to her for the excellent job she is doing. She certainly makes my job easier. Thank you, Marybeth.

We hope you are enjoying our monthly e-newsletter. It contains the happenings of the Association and those around campus. It goes out around the 15th of every month.

Our web site also lists events and volunteer opportunities. We have alumnae volunteer forms 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 of these communication vehicles foster outreach among alumnae, students, faculty and staff.

We have enjoyed improved communications between the Alumnae Association and WCGA. A student meets with Marybeth on a regular basis to exchange ideas about opportunities, raise questions and make suggestions. The student representative is a member of our Student/Parent Relations Committee.

Engagement Committee

The Engagement Committee has been busy this year. The Chair is a member of the Wilson Magazine committee, which meets to determine the content of the next issue of the magazine. The Association has made our opposition to the "editing" of Class Notes well known to the Communications Department. The Committee encourages you to keep us informed of your contact information. They will be making a concerted effort to obtain more email addresses over the next year. We co-sponsored events during Women's History Month, Graduation Fair, Senior Bash and Commencement. Wilson Reads, an online book club, was created by a group of alumnae volunteers. The main event for Engagement is Reunion Weekend. Hopefully you are enjoying the wide range of activities. The weather certainly has cooperated.

Heritage Committee

The Heritage Committee has been involved in many projects this year. They are working with the Institutional Advancement Office to make available an online digital map of the location of commemorative bricks on campus. This map can now be accessed from the Wilson College website.

The Ring-it-Forward program is a new tradition-based program in which Wilson Alum can donate their Wilson ring to be passed on to a current student. To date, five rings have been donated. Four of the rings were "forwarded" during Commencement Weekend. The fifth ring will be given during Leadership Weekend.

A policy was developed in conjunction with Institutional Advancement to enable AAWC to be a part of the "thank you" process anytime a landscape donation is made to the college.

The Association, based upon a recommendation by the committee, purchased a cabinet to house the Colonel McClure collection making it more easily accessible for visitors who wish to view the collection and to allow more items to be shown. The case is located in Norland Parlor and maintained by the Hankey Center archivist.

The 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.

Other on-going and future projects:

- Encouraging more exposure for 1932 Wilson graduate and prolific poet, Alice Mackenzie Swaim;
- Research the history of and help to ensure the continuous care of the Class of 1922 Memory Garden; and
- Assess the current condition of the Edgar Bell and the possible relocation of it. Also to making it prominent in new Wilson traditions.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee works diligently all year. They fill vacancies created by resignations, request nominations to fill Board seats, and make 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, mentors for all incoming board members were identified. The New Board Member Handbook was revised, as well as the revised guidelines for mentors. The committee fulfills all governance responsibilities required for the BOD (Conflict of Interest, Code of Conduct, Board Self-Assessment).

Student and Parent Relations Committee

The Aunt Sarah Program is doing well. We had over 100 students and alumnae/i participating. The program is now open to any student, in any program – traditional college, Adult Degree Program and Women with Children Program.

The Committee sponsored a day for Food for Finals each semester. Cash for Causes Program raised \$175 this year. We raised \$276 from our link with Amazon.com. Monies from this endeavor help with the cost of alumnae/i-student opportunities. The cards may be purchased throughout the year. Other activities sponsored by the Association include, but is not limited to, S'mores at the bonfire during new student orientation, a daisy chain hanging near the post office, and student gift giving (blue neoprene pouches). These pouches were so popular that the faculty expressed interest, so the Association gave each faculty and staff member the gift as an expression of appreciation.

This past year the Association granted six requests for internship monies totaling over \$1,500. These funds are given to us by individuals, regional clubs, and the sale of merchandise through Amazon.com.

Recognition and Stewardship Committee

The Committee has selected the Association award recipients. Please attend this afternoon's ceremony to applaud the service of these individuals. The Committee is working with Carolyn Woods, Director of the Wilson Fund, to hold Thank-A-Thons a couple of times each year. We continue to write personal thank you notes. We are reaching out to those donating under \$1,000 to the Wilson Fund.

Travel Committee

The Travel Committee has been working hard on opportunities for alumnae to be travel together. Two people enjoyed visiting Prague in May 2013. In September 2013, eleven individuals traveled to France. Four people took a cruise on the Rhine River in October 2013.

Trips for the second half of 2014 include:

- Luncheon and tour of Winterthur Museum's Costumes of Downton Abbey – date TBD
- Eight people have reservations for Ireland in July
- Two have signed up for the Southwest National Parks tour in September
- Six individuals will be going on an Adriatic Cruise in October

Adventures being planned for 2015 (pending final Board approval on Sunday) are:

- Wilson's Customized Long Weekend in Cuba - March 11-15 - (5 day/4-night trip – one night in Miami and three nights in Havana);
- Barging in Northern Burgundy, France – August 23-29;
- Canadian Rockies Parks and Resorts – August 6-12
- Sicily – September 25-October 4
- Flavors of Northern Italy – October 2-10

Watch for more information.

I was moved by Rev. Rosie's sermon at Baccalaureate. We spoke after the service, and I asked her if I could use some of her remarks today. She agreed. If you attended, I apologize that you will hear some things again; but they are worth repeating.

Rosie spoke about community. Of course, she was referring to our community with God. I am referencing the Wilson community. St. Paul writes about how we are to love one another in community. It is easy to love in good times. It is a test of true character to love in complicated and messy times.

There is lots of wonderful Wilson wear. We can have "Wilson" written on everything we own, but it is our actions that will determine what those letters signify. Acts of kindness and compassion and generosity evoke similar responses in other people. Acts of selfishness, animosity and indifference multiply, too, as people rise and fall to the level of behavior they see in others. Do we point fingers; or, do we hold hands?

Scatter seeds of kindness everywhere you go

Scatter bits of courtesy

Watch them grow and grow.

Regards,

Mary F. Cramer '91

President