

**National Alumni Board Meeting**  
**April 27-28, 2017**  
**Levitt Hall/Old Main**

**Attendees:** Emily Abbas, JO' 97, GR'09, Erica Axiotis GR'06, David Beall BN '81, Steve Berry LA '83, LW '86, Martha Capps JO'78, Norah Carroll JO '11, AS '11 Tim Coonan AS '96, LW '02, Marisa Gift AS '02, Sally Holmberg ED'63,GR'69,GR'83,GR'94, Lauren Hong, AS'07, Geoff Lawton, PH'92, Chris McDonnell JO'05, John Miller BN '82, Pam Nelson AS'10, Dennis Olden LA'61, Brian Reisetter PH'85, GR'87, Laurel Rundle JO'91, Loretta Sieman LA'66, GR'72, Susan Stocum JO '92, Nikki Syverson JO '03, Sharon Wilkinson ED '68, GR '75

**Staff:** Diane Caldbeck, ED '72 Associate Vice President for Alumni and Development, Director of Major Gifts and Interim Director of Alumni Relations; Kim Jones, Assistant Director of Alumni Relations; Nicki Kimm, Assistant to Alumni Relations; Amelia Klatt PH'13, Assistant Director of Alumni Relations

**Thursday, April 27**

The Alumni Board started their weekend by attending the Alumni Awards Reception/Program at the Cowles Library Reading Room. The following were honored and received awards:

- David Nelmark, AS & JO'99, Young Alumni Loyalty Award
- Michael Heaston, AS'02, Young Alumni Achievement Award
- Kristin Williams, PH'00, Young Alumni Achievement Award
- James Lyons BN'70, GR'71 Alumni Loyalty Award
- Dean Rowland LA'74, Alumni Loyalty Award
- Robert Stuyvesant BN'69, LW'74, Alumni Loyalty Award
- Ike Vanden Eykel, BN'71, Alumni Achievement Award
- Richard Sussman, LA'51, Distinguished Alumni Award

**Friday, April 28**

**Executive Committee Meeting** was held at 7:30a.m. The agenda was reviewed.

**Welcome & Introductions:**

John Miller welcomed the board and introduced the new Director of Alumni Relations, Andy Verlengia who will be assuming his new role on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Mark Reiter, Assistant Director, was also introduced. John spoke about the highlights of the year.

**University Communications:**

Beth Wilson discussed Blue Magazine & eBlue, asking opinions of the Board.

Meredith Ponder presented the Drake Alumni Ambassador Program. The Drake Alumni Ambassador Program will provide engaged alumni with ready-to-share tweets and Facebook posts. She asked the Alumni Board to pilot the program and bring Drake's story to the world. As a member of the National Alumni Board and a Bulldog in the Drake University family, you can help bring our story to the world. The time commitment is minimal- it only takes thirty seconds to share a Facebook post, but the impact is enormous! The Alumni Board will receive exclusive monthly updates on digital analytics.

**Admission Update:**

Anne Kremer shared an admission report for the year and discussed with the board members how they might be able to partner with Admissions now and in the future. Board members share that they are eager to help "close the deal" with those students who are still wavering on their commitment to attend

Drake. The best way for Alumni Board members to assist admissions at this time is to write letters to tuition deposit students to help prevent "summer melt". In addition, we hope to host receptions for the prospective students this fall.

#### **Business Meeting:**

- Alumni Relations Annual Report: Diane requested that the board discuss the positives from this year and also the opportunities for the future.

##### Positives:

Ambassador Program  
Committee revamp  
Better communication  
Simple action items after meetings  
Alumni recognition  
Communication from staff to board  
Fully staffed Alumni team  
Being involved with new member asks

##### Opportunities:

- More communication between meetings with committees  
Working meetings  
Stronger connection with regional advisory boards
- Committee Updates – Each committee reported on committee progress
  - New Member Slate-Vote – New Members Voted in:
    - Rachel Boon – ED'99
    - Kris Covi – AS'95
    - John Farmer – AS'92
    - Ken Matt Martin – AS'12, JO'12
    - Jeff Seaman – BN'03
    - Jennifer Tran-Johnson – AS'06
  - SAA Seniors/Future Plans – Seniors introduced themselves and indicated their future plans after leaving Drake.
  - Retiring Board Member Recognition – Members leaving the board include Jonathan Azu, Marisa Gift, Mike Mason, Laura Myers, Crystal Nance and Loretta Sieman. Loretta Sieman and Marisa Gift were in attendance and honored for their service to the Alumni Board and Drake University. Gifts of appreciation and thanks were presented.

#### **Alumni Award Recognition:**

Diane Caldbeck introduced the Alumni Award winners to the Alumni Board who expressed their gratitude.

#### **Lunch:**

Board members, 2017 Alumni Award winners, SAA members, Golden Reunion attendees enjoyed lunch at Parent's Hall. They were then dismissed to enjoy Drake Relays 2017.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nicki Kimm

#### **Upcoming Alumni Board Meetings**

October 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
January 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018