

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### Alumnae Association of Mills College Annual Meeting May 18, 2013

#### **Board of Governors**

Nineteen governors led the AAMC this year. Our governors include a faculty governor, Diane Kettle '78, MA '87 and a student governor, Rebecca Freeman '13, both of whom bring the perspectives of their peers to our discussions. Ten of our governors received their undergraduate degree at Mills, 6 received their graduate degrees at Mills, and 3 received both an undergraduate and graduate degree at Mills. The board is very aware of the growth of the graduate population at Mills and seeks to have board membership that is reflective of this trend in order to best serve this segment of Mills alumnae.

Over the last year an ad hoc committee was formed to review the AAMC bylaws in order to recommend changes that would reflect the current status of the AAMC and allow the AAMC to evolve for the benefit of the organization and its membership. The proposed revisions will be voted on at the 2013 AAMC Annual Meeting.

#### **Committees**

The AAMC board has 10 standing committees: 4 administrative (Nominating, Executive, Finance, Resource Development) and 6 program focused (Alumnae Awards, Alumnae of Color, Alumnae Student Relations, Educational Outreach, Graduate Alumnae/i, Travel). Each of these committees is essential to the success of the AAMC!

Some highlights from the year are:

Alumnae Awards (chair – Jennifer King '00, MA '02)

Reunion 2012 marked the 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary of these awards and the recipients were – *Outstanding Volunteer award*: Beverly Curwen '71; *Distinguished Achievement Award*: Romeo Garcia, MA '87; *Recent Graduate award*: Sharon Page-Medrich '05. Nominations for Reunion 2013 candidates are due May 24<sup>th</sup>.

Alumnae of Color (chair – Cynthia Guevara '04)

For the second year in a row organized *Jazzzzz @ Reinhardt*, a benefit concert for the Alumnae of Color Scholarship in Honor of President DeCoudreaux. The committee's 2012-2013 goal for the scholarship was \$10,000.00. Due to overwhelming response to it's fundraising campaign the goal was raised to \$20,000.00 and is very close to being met! Members of the committee meet monthly at Founders for Sunday brunch. An effective means of creating informal mentoring relationships between alumnae and students.

Alumnae Student Relations (chair – Viji Nakka-Cammauf, MA '82)

Under new leadership, the committee focused on developing relationships and supporting Mills international students. The committee hosted 2 dinners for international students and interested faculty members. The spring dinner honored graduating seniors. For the second year the committee provided snack bags to students during 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> semester finals. The East Bay Mills Branch partnered with the ASR committee for December finals.

Educational Outreach (chair – Michelle Balovich '03)

Continues to offer programming that is enjoyed by a wide variety of alumnae. Some activities from this year include: a cheese making workshop, a private tour of the Jean Paul Gauthier exhibits at the DeYoung Museum, and co-sponsored a viewing of *Mrs. Brown's Beauty*, a film by Mills alumna Nancy Thompson '72.

Graduate Alumnae/i (co-chairs – Rina Faletti '81 and Lillian Sahagun '10, MA '12)

Hosted a very successful spring gathering. Over 140 graduate students from 9 degree programs gathered for the late afternoon celebration! Plans to partner with graduate departments for additional programming next academic year are in the works.

Resource Development (chair – Jennifer King '00, MA '02)

The mission of this re-established committee is “to plan, develop, and implement programs and events to generate operating monies for the AAMC.” This year the committee focused on new AAMC merchandise and developed a eucalyptus t-shirt, note cards with campus landmarks, and a tote bag.

Travel (chair – Lucy Do '75)

This summer 20 alumnae and guests will be travelling with President DeCoudreaux in Russia. The 10-day boat cruise on the Volga River begins in Moscow and ends in St. Petersburg. Other scheduled travel opportunities in 2013 and 2014 include Beijing and Shanghai, Tanzania and Kenya, and the Galapagos. There are 11 different travel opportunities in 2014. In addition to providing unique travel opportunities to alumnae, the Travel committee provides significant operating income to the AAMC.

In addition, at the most recent board meeting the board approved the establishment of 2 new committees: the Communications committee and the Branch Liaison committee. The Communications committee is tasked with developing a plan to increase the AAMC's visibility thru the AAMC website, the Mills Quarterly, the (e)ucalyptus, social networking, and communications to alumnae from the AAMC president, such as e-letters, and to develop a new AAMC logo. The Branch Liaison committee is tasked with communicating with clubs and branches and facilitating relationships amongst the branches for the benefit of alumnae, the AAMC, and the College.

**Acknowledgements**

Many of our events are made possible through the financial and staff support of the Mills College Office of Alumnae Relations. The AAMC continues to have a strong collaborative partnership with the Office of Alumnae Relations. I want to thank Laura Gobbi, Senior Director of Alumnae Relations and the entire Alumnae Relations and Communications staff for their support.

Other campus partners include the Ethnic Studies department, the Office of Student Activities and many faculty members and student groups. The AAMC continues to be an integral partner in the Mills community.

The Board of Governors and I look forward to the upcoming year and to organizing programs that speak to the interests and needs of you, our alumnae.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Jaquez-Fissori '92  
AAMC President