

President's Report December 2016

Fall has been in Dickens' words the best of times and the worst of time. It has led to so many wonderful encounters with Alumnae from all over the country. It has also been a time of deeper engagement with the College officers and building relationships with each one.

College Officers: The more I get to know President Hillman I am confident that we are in thoughtful, skillful and competent hands. Along with that I have come to appreciate her compassion for students, staff and alumnae. My several encounters with the Vice President for Office of Institutional Advancement have assured me of his deep commitment to the vision and mission of Mills and to serious and considerate engagement with the AAMC.

Board of Trustees: My first Trustee meetings were inspirational and sobering. It was a time to listen, observe and listen to so many accomplished, brilliant and competent people. Mills College is well served by the Board of Trustees. It has been a great joy to reconnect with Katie Sanborn the chair of the Board of Trustees as we were at Mills at the same time.

Students and Faculty : I have met several international students who are delighted to be studying at Mills and look forward to connecting more with the Alumnae. I am working with the International Student staff to create more opportunities for us to get to know the students. I am also enjoying talking with Faculty and staff and hearing their stories, learning about their concerns and encouraging them in their dreams.

Holiday parties: There have been so many wonderful events organized by the committees and branch clubs of the AAMC, on campus and in homes. These events brought the alumnae community together. Learning to line dance at one of the events was a lot of fun !

These have been some of the best times as a President at Mills.

Marge Nicholson: in the midst of wonderful happenings and connections we have experienced the worst of times. We lost our dear precious Marge in November. Marge was more dedicated and engaged than anyone I know on the Board these several years. Even a week before she went into the hospital and while she was there she called me to check up on AAMC matters that she was responsible for. Little did we know that the last time we would all see her would be at our last Board meeting. I am so glad that she knew how much we cherished and valued her as an alumna and friend. We will miss Marge every time our thoughts turn towards Mills, while we are on campus, when we talk about Compact and everything AAMC. I look forward to celebrating Marge's life at the service next month.

Lucy Do our past President and another deeply engaged Alumna lost her dear mother **Helen Chau Nugyen** last week. Lucy was on campus that afternoon setting up for an AAMC event. Even in the midst of her sorrow she was making sure things were well set up for the Holiday event.

This past week we had a horrible warehouse fire in Oakland that took so many lives including an alumna of Mills, **Jennifer Kiyomi Tanouye'07**.

Toni McElroy, our past Governor and Chair of the AOCC suffered a stroke and is going through an arduous rehabilitation.

These past few weeks and months have made me reflect more about the preciousness of people and the mystery of how the journey concludes.

As we complete half a year and come to the end of this calendar year I want to thank each one of you for coming on board and being engaged with the College and the AAMC. May this holiday season bring moments of quietness and happiness as you spend time with family and friends.

Viji Nakka- Cammauf

