

Presidents' Report Annual Meeting May 14, 2022

This is my sixth year serving as President of the AAMC and they have been the best of times and the worst of times.

Best of times: Mills itself and all that it had to offer for the many years. Students, faculty, staff all made for meaningful and treasured encounters and fellowship.

Alumnae – various class years and from all around the country and the world – un paralleled in intelligence, passion, and accomplishments.

Best of times; Reunions, Convocations, Commencements, and numerous festive and celebratory events on campus seeing the whole community come together in harmony, genuine affection and cherished memories.

Worst of times: Announcement of the closure along with the onset of COVID 19. There could not have been two more devastating moments in the future of Mills and the future of the World. Uncertainty, fear, gloom and at the same time incredible displays of sacrifice, passion and resolve to turn things around marked Mills and the World communities.

The Committees of the AAMC along with the Board members were very engaged in working with each other, supporting our students and faculty.

I would like to share some highlights:

The Communications/ Marketing/Fundraising had unprecedented amount of work this year with weekly emails to 400 newsletter subscribers, and monthly email communications through the college's database. Sent several hard copy letters to our larger alumnae community.

Held a Town Hall meeting to hear petitioners' requests to end the lawsuit as well as BOG members who proved information about the lawsuit's timeline.

Held two Summits and a focus group to discuss the future of the AAMC

Merchandise has seen a huge bump in sales and revenue. We received permission from the family of Hing Liu to reprint the scarves with Mills Hall on them. Pearl M pendant Pins have been in great demand along with the eucalyptus pins. FGS merchandise has been a big hit.

Fundraising: Giving Tuesday was new for the AAMC with 150 donors. For G S campaign and the AAMC raised over 600K this past year. There are ongoing efforts to raise funds for our infrastructure and operational costs.

The Alumnae Student Relations Committee has continued its services and events for students in partnership with Alumnae Relations. Taco Tuesday, Winter Celebration for Mid-Year Graduates, and Pearl M Dinner were held to welcome and honor students.

Alums Helping Students as Ad Hoc group of the Alumnae Student Relations Committee was formed in summer of 202 The focus was on providing care, support and mentoring to students during a very challenging year. Care packages for Spring, Fall and Spring 22 matched hundreds of alums with student

by providing individualized care packages at the alums cost and mailed to the student. Several other services which included hosing emergency funds, supplying books, items for the food pantry, matching students with alums in Mexico. Job searches, editing their thesis and many other things.

Travel Committee: COVID caused several cancellations and no revenue through commissions to the AAMC. However, travel is picking up and we are seeing more alums signing up for trips this year and next.

AOCC: They have met monthly through Zoom: They had several student focused events – Kwanza, Holiday gathering, Black History Month events, Phenomenal Woman of Color event honoring Dr. Toni McElroy this year and several students.

AOCC and ASR partnered in the min care package project which included Mills swag and other food items.

The Alumnae of Color endowed scholarship in Honor of Alecia A. Decoudreaux: The scholarship was highlighted in the Spring, 2022 Mills Quarterly. The Mills College Financial Aid Office made awards to three students from the fund for the 2021-22 academic year. Twelve undergrad and graduate students of color have received awards in total, and despite not being able to host any annual fundraising events, such as the jazz concerts, due to the pandemic, AOCC, in collaboration with the Mills College Office of Institutional Advancement raised over \$80,000 this year (a grant of \$75,000 and \$5,433 from individual alums). To date the Committee has raised over 250K

Members of the Committee have been an active part of the AAMC and Mills planning activities.

Two new committees were added to the board. LGBTQIA and Latina Alliance. Additionally An Ad Hoc Group to hire an interim Executive Director was activated in last fall and will start interviewing next week.

Lifelong Learning Committee: Souper Day was organized by Lynda Campfiled in February where she taught and shared some of her best soup recipes. Everyone had a great time of cooking, sampling and having great fellowship. Lynda had a gift for gathering people and making them feel welcomed. She will be greatly missed. She was often the first to arrive for an event and last to leave – Lynda was a bright star whose love for students, staff and alumnae will never be forgotten.

My report started with the best of times and the worst of times and in recalling many moments of last year there have been very challenging times that divided us all and other moments where we realize the rich treasure, we have found in each other. Alumnae community let us strive towards building bridges and reaching out with love, generosity and friendship- life is short and unpredictable – lets not lose the

opportunity to be the best and do our best for the AAMC. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as our President for the past 6 years . On Thursday evening I had the joy of being surprised by alumnae sisters who gathered without my knowledge to express appreciation and care for me –we were definitely not in agreement on certain issues – but we could still come together in genuine love and care for each other. This I consider to be the best of Mills where we can rise above our differences and extend , encourage and support one another because we value who we are.

It has been an honor and a privileged personal cost but it was all worth it because of the richness of friendships I have experienced – the incredible hard work and sacrifice I have witnessed, the incredible generosity I have seen.

Thank you.