

# Branches & Clubs

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**A Key Legacy of the AAMC: Past, Present, and Future**

Presented by Committee Chairs  
Julia Almanzan '92 and Angela Adams DeMoss '99

November 9, 2022

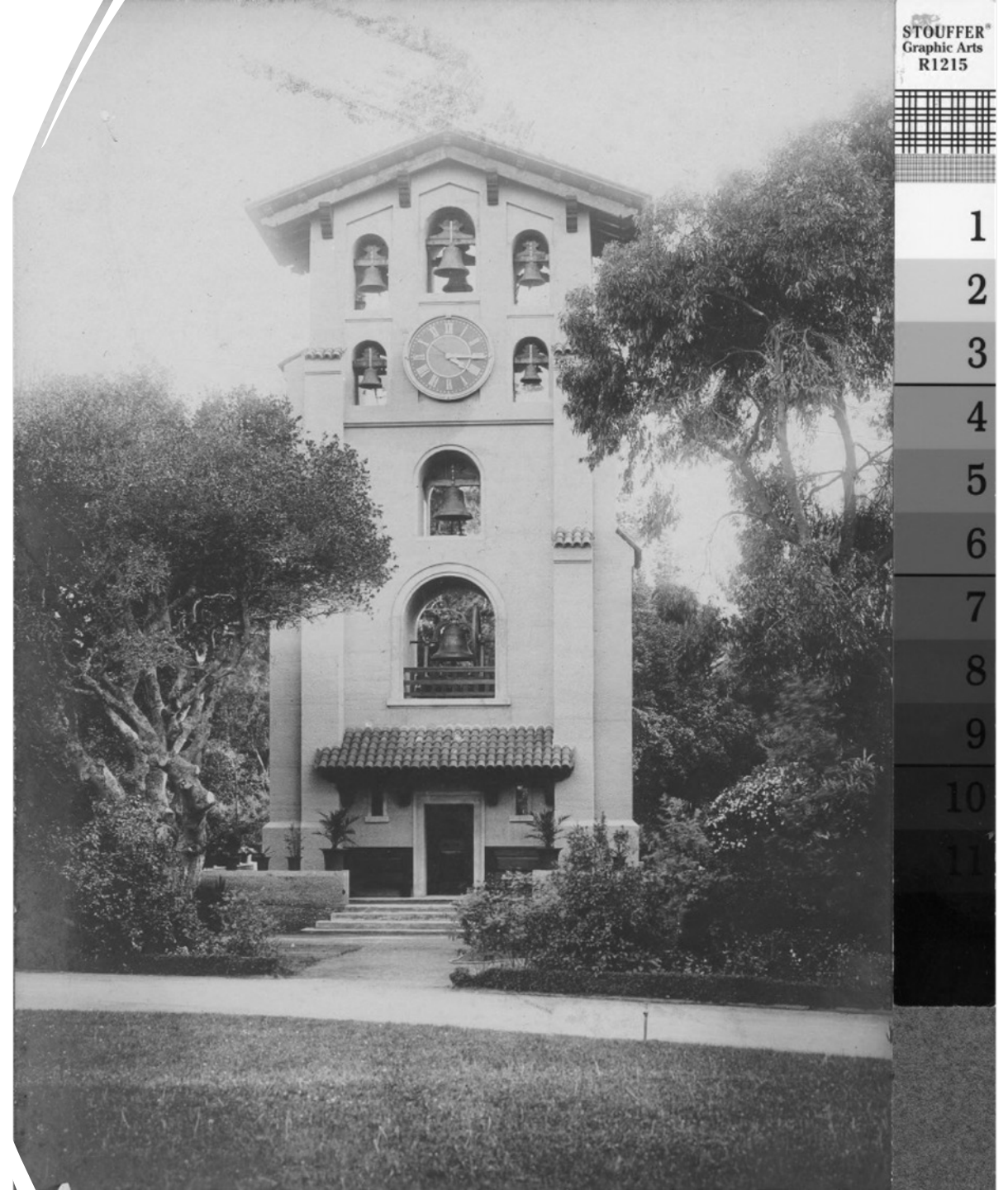
REINHARDT  
ALUMNAE HOUSE



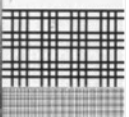
# History

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Branches and clubs have been integral to the development of the AAMC throughout our history.



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## ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MILLS COLLEGE

### BRANCH AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATION

The purpose of the Branch and Regional Organization program is to provide a structure through which alumnae, particularly those outside of the San Francisco Bay Area, stay connected with each other, with the Alumnae Association, and with the College.

The program is coordinated by the Chair(s) of Branch and Regional Organization who are volunteers, and by the Alumnae Director who is the staff person. The volunteer Chair communicates information from Branches and Regions about their activities and progress to the Board of Governors.

The Alumnae Director and her staff provide logistical assistance, information from the data base and other professional expertise as needed. The Alumnae Director travels regularly to Branches and Regions to report to alumnae on College and Alumnae Association affairs and to listen to alumnae concerns and issues.

The Branch and Regional representatives should send copies of all communications (newsletters, invitations, etc.) to Reinhardt Alumnae House (c/o Alumnae Director.) At the end of the year, the representatives should prepare a brief final report to the AAMC. The report should provide a chronological list of events and major meetings, the city in which each was held, and the number of attendees. The information is reported to the AAMC Board of Governors and the College Board of Trustees.

### REGIONS

There are thirteen Regions: Eastern Great Lakes, Middle Atlantic, Middle California, Mid-West, North Central, Northeast, Northern California, Rocky Mountain, South Central, Southeast, Southern California, and Southwest. (See Region Breakdown for details.) Most Regions encompass one or more active Branches.

The Regional Governor is elected by the Alumnae Association Board of Governors and serves a three year term. She is considered a voting member of the Board of Governors. She receives notification of all Board meetings and may attend meetings whenever she is in town. She may not vote on issues in absentia.

The Regional Governor provides support to the Branches in her area, and assists the non-branch areas with events, student recruitment, and welcoming new alumnae to the area. Each Region is different, and the annual goals of each Regional Governor will reflect the particular demographics of her area. The Regional Governor also helps locate alumnae who will represent Mills College at College Presidential inaugurations.

# AAMC By-Laws

Regional Governors represent local branches, as outlined in our by-laws.

The organizational structure of Regional Governors is therefore tied inextricably to the branches.

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Regional Governors sit on the AAMC board because the regional branches are part of the AAMC...

not part of the College Alumnae Relations office.

# Recent history of Branches & Clubs under the AAMC

## Prior to 2005

**AAMC:** “Alumnae Relations” was first named and created by the AAMC to handle fundraising and friendship development.

**OIA:** Mills College Office of Institutional Advancement handled corporate fundraising.

## 2005 to 2017

**AAMC:** Branches and clubs to continue to develop friendships and programs. AAMC Chair for Branches is a position still today. But due to AAMC budget cuts, the overall number of Regional Governors was reduced.

**OIA:** Rebrands itself using AAMC’s department name “Alumnae Relations” and handled all fundraising.

For the purpose of supporting fundraising efforts, the AAMC shares its alumnae database with the college.

## 2017

Because of the goodwill between AAMC and the college, the **Memorandum of Collaboration** was written.

AAMC was once again allowed to fundraise independently of the college. Regional Governors were expanded to help with the increased work load.





# Branches = AAMC

Alumnae who have been active in their local branches remain unified in their understanding that branches are part of the AAMC...

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...not part of Northeastern's Office of Institutional Advancement, under the name "Alumnae Relations."



# Where are we now?

The AAMC's regional branches and clubs belong under AAMC governance.

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Our alumnae association—including our branches—should be governed independently from the college, just as it has been all along.





# What do we need?

We trust that we have your support that the AAMC's position is to maintain control and governance of our branches and clubs, as an extension of the AAMC itself.

Our history and our legacy is uniquely ours.

REINHARDT  
ALUMNAE HOUSE



**Branches and Clubs  
Committee Presentation 11/9/22  
at AAMC BOG Meeting**

**Presented by Julia Almanzan**

**Introduction:**

Angela and I are co-chair of the Branches and Clubs Committee.

I am the current President of the Los Angeles branch, past president of the Orange County branch, have sat on various regional boards, have served on the AAMC Board of Governors, served as Regional Governor of Southern California, and in a variety of other ways for the AAMC and Mills College over the past twenty five years or so. In fact, I'm also the current Co-Chair of the For Generations Committee, along with Alice. Angela shares a similar background.

I am well versed in the history of the AAMC, including its establishment over a hundred years ago, and the battles fought to preserve its independence and its building, Reinhardt Alumnae House. After all, Connie Wong Ong (aka Jade Snow Wong) was classmates and best friends with long-time Los Angeles branch board member Katherine Westheimer '42. Together, they both spearheaded the construction of Reinhardt Alumnae House, wherein Connie served as Chair. I have studied and participated in the history of the relationship between the AAMC and the College for over two decades.

Angela and I recognize the important decisions the Board of Governors will be presenting to the larger alumnae body soon as the AAMC redefines its bylaws and purpose.

The branches and clubs are a historically significant part of the AAMC, whose future is included in the AAMC's new vision.

Today we are going to present a brief PowerPoint on AAMC Branches and Clubs, who are key to the legacy of the AAMC itself.

**PowerPoint:**

Slide 1: Branches & Clubs, A Key Legacy of the AAMC, Past, Present and Future

Branches and clubs are an extension of the AAMC and should continue as such.

I hope you all have reviewed the 16 pages of documents attached to our October committee report, I believe complete now with attachments in your November packets. If not, please so indicate and I will get them emailed to you later this evening.

Slide 2: History of AAMC



Branches and clubs have been integral to the development of the AAMC throughout history. The AAMC was established in 1879. The branches date back to 1895, when branches were known to have established in key places like San Francisco, Alameda County, Portland, Seattle, Los Angeles, Pasadena and New York. The Pasadena branch hosted a tea I attended as a prospective student and it is those women I met who drew me to Mills. So much good work being done by the branches for well over a century—such a remarkable legacy.

In fact there is an infrastructure for oversight of the branches and clubs via regional governorship, which exists to this day.

We look to AAMC history, both documented and via institutional memory that demonstrate branches as an integral part of the AAMC.

By way of institutional memory, I have conferred with branch and regional leadership throughout the world, spanning back well over half century, who described their mentors and AAMC participation and structure dating back to the early 1900's.

And by way of documentation, it is clear the institutional memory about our history corroborates what is documented on paper.

The AAMC bylaws themselves include the branches in their organizational structure.

As required by the AAMC, branch bylaws reflect adherence to AAMC bylaws.

The AAMC has a budget for branches and has always provided money to them.

Regional governor and branch history has been included in AAMC Board of Governor leadership training and, of course, we have our standing Branches and Clubs Committee which Angela and I co-chair.

### Slide 3: AAMC By-Laws

Regional Governors represent local branches as outlined in the AAMC bylaws.

You can see from the image of the document on the left side of this slide how much detail is involved in the structure of governors and branches, and that they are an extension of the AAMC.

The organizational structure of regional governors, while less than what was pre-2005, still remains and is tied inextricably to the branches.

Regional Governors oversaw branches who are part of AAMC which is why the Regional Governors sat on the board of governors instead of serving as employees of College Alumnae Relations.



Regional Governors still exist to serve their purpose and sit on the Board of Governors. Mitra, Christy and Pam are regional governors, representing their regions. The Board of Governors ensures alumnae representation from regions in this way.

A detailed description of the branch and regional organization can be found in those 16 pages of attachments we provided with our October report and part of which can be seen here on slide three.

With AAMC in mind, we look at a more recent history of branches and clubs under the AAMC.

#### Slide 4: Recent History of Branches & Clubs Under the AAMC

What about the change in the way AAMC branches and OIA interact with one another?

Well, prior to 2007 "alumnae relations" was actually a name derived from the AAMC to handle fundraising and friendship development. \*If you're wondering why alumnae are confused by the current OIA's messaging when they use the name "Alumnae Relations", it's because Alumnae Relations was originally a name created and used by the AAMC.

From 2005 to 2017 [note MOA 2005, MOA 2007, MOC 2017] branches and clubs continue to develop friendships and programs. The AAMC Chair for Branches is a position still today. Due to AAMC budget cuts, the overall number of Regional Governors was reduced. Meanwhile OIA rebranded itself using AAMC's department name "Alumnae Relation" and handled ALL fundraising. For the purpose of supporting fundraising efforts, the AAMC shared its alumnae database with the college.

In 2007, the Memorandum of Collaboration was written. AAMC began fundraising again independent of the college. Regional Governors were expanded to help with the increased workload.

The key points are:

While branches are referenced in the MOA's and Memorandum of Collaboration, they speak of services provided by Mills College OIA. Services are only just a small part of what branches need to survive.

The premise of any discussion by the college about branches was based on a change in the inability of branches to fundraise.

At no time was it discussed that the OIA would be in charge of branches—and they never were.

AAMC was to friend-raise and was in charge of the branches, while the college would fundraise and provide a service via the database.



The branches were handicapped from the start because there was no direct access to the database. Without access to the alumnae database, AAMC branches are unable to effectively communicate with their local alumnae. We can see how that lack of unconditional access is affecting us today.

### Slide 5: Branches = AAMC

As demonstrated, the AAMC's regional branches and clubs have always been an integral part of the AAMC infrastructure and an extension of the AAMC itself.

Active alumnae in local branches understand branches are part of the AAMC. The branches and clubs have known this since they first started in 1895. The branches are an extension of the AAMC itself, rather than a part of Northeastern's Office of Institutional Advancement now calling itself "Alumnae Relations."

### Slide 6: Where are we now?

Our alumnae association, including our branches, should be governed independently. The AAMC branches shall remain just as they have been all along—alongside the AAMC which was established 143 years ago.

Since Mills College no longer exists, now is the time for all alumnae who comprise the AAMC to reassess and vote on the type of relationship the AAMC and their branches will have with Northeastern.

In the meantime, the AAMC branches and Northeastern Alumnae Relations can co-exist. But for the shared database, each entity may act independently. For example, Northeastern can solicit Mills College alumnae on their own, separate and apart from the AAMC. They have been doing this already in hosting events, messaging about and fundraising for Northeastern. Likewise, the Branches and Clubs Committee are doing the same, independent of Northeastern. The AAMC would not interfere with Northeastern's activity, the same way Northeastern should not interfere with the AAMC's.

Any services provided by OIA are only a small part of what it takes to make branches thrive. Any gaps in understanding due to the collaboration agreement being between the AAMC and a college that no longer exists, means there should be a renegotiation.

We know that the decision about next steps is the decision of the AAMC body.

### Slide 7: What do we need?

Angela and I are going into a meeting with Northeastern's Alumnae Relations soon. We trust we have your support that the AAMC position is to maintain control and governance of our branches and clubs as an extension of the AAMC itself, as it has done since 1879.

Thank you, Board of Governors, for that leadership during this important time. Remember-----  
Our history and legacy are uniquely ours.



## UPDATED COMMITTEE REPORT:

Our October committee report was resubmitted with 16 pages of attachments for November. However, we have new information to report about our activities since the October BOG meeting.

\*Wrote current letter to prior identified branch/club leaders asking them for their branch status and to be the area liaison if their branch is currently dormant.

\*Wrote a letter to current 2019 list of identified leaders for updated information.

\*Created a new email to centralize branch/club correspondence  
[aamcbranchesandclubs@gmail.com](mailto:aamcbranchesandclubs@gmail.com).

\*Created a master list using (1.) AAMC Regional volunteer list, (2.) AAMC regional breakdown list, (3.) 2002-2203 AAMC branch leadership list, (4.) 2019 OIA branch list also used as recent as 2022 by both OIA and prior AAMC branch//club chairs.

Next steps are building our committee with people who have energy and are well connected to help reach out to dormant branches or areas where there are no branches to help them establish. We also plan to update our master list with the communications we have been receiving back from the letters we sent out.

**Contra Costa-** Members attended the AAMC social at Reinhardt on 10/29/22. They are planning to participate in the East Bay Branch online Holiday Tea.

**East Bay-** The East Bay Branch continues to hold monthly Zoom check-ins and will be having an online Holiday Tea as they did in 2021. This year's date is set for December 4<sup>th</sup>. They have an active group of about 10 and are growing their mailing list.

**Los Angeles-** On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, the branch held an event, a walking tour of Westwood Neighborhood Greenway. Participants were educated by environmental experts on sustainable water sources and native plants, followed by lunch at a nearby restaurant. About 15 alums attended this limited engagement event. The branch continues to have monthly Board meetings and plans to have their traditional Board-only lunch in December.

**Marin-** The Marin Branch book group met October 16 and will meet again December 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Mount Diablo-** The book club met via Zoom on October 20 to discuss *Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore* and will meet again on November 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Orange County-** A Holiday Tea is planned for December 4<sup>th</sup>. All Southern California alums will be invited via email sent by Northeastern OIA this week.

**Palo Alto-** They are planning a Holiday Tea, set for December 17<sup>th</sup>. The hostess has decided to restrict the number of attendees for COVID distancing and safety reasons. The committee is also

recommending to those that do intend to attend to please self-test for COVID the morning of the event, and if they test positive to refrain from attending the in-person event.

**Puget Sound-** Approximately 2 dozen alums attended the brunch hosted by Northeastern OIA at the Museum of Flight on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Also, the group continues to host monthly Zoom Happy Hours.

**San Joaquin-** Alums met in Stockton for coffee on 11/5/22. Interest in future events was expressed.

Finally, as communication with alumnae is critical to our function, we have asked Debby and Pam Herman, and now extend that ask to all of you, to please keep us apprised of our ability to assist in the information input to the database and ability to extract information from the AAMC database for the purpose of keeping alumnae throughout the world connected to each other.