

AAMC TRAVEL COMMITTEE REPORT
November 30, 2019

MISSION: To provide educational and cultural opportunities for alumnae through organized trips, while earning revenue for the AAMC.

Members: Debi Wood, Co-chair; Gwen Foster, Co-Chair; Viji Nakka-Cammauf.

Activities: The Committee continued to gather background information about the substance, processes and procedures followed by the Travel Committee in past years, and to become familiar with the two travel agencies that the AAMC has been working with –AHI Travel, (Alumni Holidays, Inc.), and Gohagan & Company.

On November 18, the Committee spoke with Mike Hull, Vice President of Sales for AHI Travel, who rounded out information about AHI and its trips. AHI operates travel programs specifically for alumni organizations around the country (and some museums like the Smithsonian Institution), across river cruises and land journeys, primarily in the international market. Domestic trips, which include Canada, can be arranged.

Going forward, we are now working with AHI on itineraries for 2021. The potential choices include 11 river cruises (Europe and Asia), and 37 land trips that may include destinations in Africa, South America, Asia, Europe and Cuba. Groups are limited to a maximum of 28 travelers and AHI will reserve space on each itinerary for Mills alums until a firm number of travelers has been confirmed.

The Committee is now reviewing potential 2021 travel opportunities with both AHI and Gohagan by the end of the year. AHI will handle all marketing, information and communications for the 2021 itineraries without cost to the AAMC. They will personalize the trip brochures to the AAMC and make them available approximately 7 months prior to each trip. In addition, they will create a web presence, by early April 2020, which will enable alumnae to book their travel online directly with AHI. Once the traveler books, AHI will send a regular series of emails directly to the traveler with updated details of the particular itinerary, up to the date of travel, and its contact for each itinerary. It is worth noting that most trips do not include roundtrip airfare from the traveler's departure City. For the solo traveler, a single supplement is required on most trips.

Alumni Campus Abroad (ACA) Program. AHI also offers Alumni Campus Abroad programs that have a learning component. These are shorter, 9-day programs, featuring lectures by local warea experts. This focus enables travelers to become more immersed in the day-to-day culture of the region/community being visited. AHI's Campus Directors accompany each group to ensure a seamless travel/learning experience.

AAMC Commissions. The AAMC receives a \$100.00 per traveler commission for each participant in one of AHI's ACA programs, and a 5% commission on all other trips.

Travel Insurance. Trip insurance can be purchased from AHI, although many credit card companies offer travel/flight protection for their cardholders. The Committee is researching the insurance offered by USI Travel Insurance to the AAMC, and others, to compare the breadth of coverage and the cost.

Women-Only Travel. For 2020, AHI is offering a Women-Only program, entitled, *Hill Towns of Italy* (an ACA program), dates of travel TBA based on AAMC interest. Other academic institutions that have participated in Women-Only trips are Stephens College, Agnes Scott College, and the University of Southern California, to name a few.

Committee Membership: Finally, the Travel Committee has invited several alumnae and previous Committee members, not members of the Board of Governors, to join the Committee; we are awaiting responses.

Next Steps:

- Meet in person with Robert Bingle, Director of Sales at Gohagan & Company on December 4;
- Ongoing planning for 2021 travel;
- Increase Committee membership; and,
- Explore additional options for travel: short local trips, domestic trips, and other international destinations.