

**REPORT OF THE ALUMNAE TRUSTEES  
TO THE 2015 ANNUAL MEETING  
OF THE ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MILLS COLLEGE**

May 16, 2015

Each year at the AAMC annual meeting, the elected Alumnae Trustees, serving on both the AAMC Board of Governors and the Mills College Board of Trustees, provide an annual report to inform Mills alumnae about their work as trustees during the previous year.

Three Alumnae Trustees elected by the alumnae community serve concurrent three-year terms as full voting members of both the Mills College Board of Trustees and the Board of Governors of the AAMC. These Alumnae Trustees represent the view of alumnae to the Board of Trustees and also represent the AAMC Board of Governors to the leadership of the College. Alumnae Trustees participate fully in Board of Trustees' discussions, and serve on Board committees and task forces. While Alumnae Trustees act as individuals and not as specific representatives of the AAMC, they report to the AAMC Board of Governors on the work and activities of the Board of Trustees and perform the function of communications liaison between the two Boards. The AAMC President also serves as a member of the College Board of Trustees during her three-year term as President.

This past year, three Alumnae Trustees provided the following service on the Board of Trustees:

**Melissa Stevenson Diaz '91** from San Jose, California was elected in 2013. This year Melissa served on the Education Policies and Personnel Committee and the Campus Planning Committee.

**Judith R. James '74** is from Strasburg, Virginia and began her term as alumna trustee this year. She served on the Educational Policies and Student Life Committees.

**Molly Fannon Williams '75** was appointed Alumna Trustee in September 2013 by the Board of Governors, to fill the remainder of the term vacated by Julia Almanzan '92. (AAMC by-laws allow appointment in the event of a vacancy, and Molly had been a runner-up candidate for Alumna Trustee in 2012.) She resides in Bridgewater, Massachusetts and serves on three committees: Advancement, Enrollment and Financial Aid, and the Committee on Trustees.

Elected as AAMC President in 2013 **N.T. Lucy Do '75** of California also serves on the Board of Trustees and on the Advancement, Campus Planning, and Student Life Committees. Lucy has also travels extensively on behalf of Mills alumnae, both around and outside of the Bay Area, often jointly with Mills President Alecia DeCoudreaux.

**President DeCoudreaux** has attended all meetings of the Board of Governors this past year in person to share news from the College and invite questions and suggestions. She has also participated in numerous alumnae events on campus, throughout California, and around the U.S. President DeCoudreaux continues to be very generous with her time and encouraging of openness between the College's administration and the AAMC.

**Laura Gobbi**, Assistant Vice President of Alumnae Relations and Institutional Giving, has also attended every Board of Governors meeting, travels frequently to meet with alumnae, and has served

as a staff liaison for all alumnae volunteers with the College. Laura has been a wonderful staff partner to the Board of Governors.

Virtually all the work of the Board of Trustees is accomplished through committee meetings held outside of the full board meeting schedule. The committees include:

- Advancement Committee
- Audit Committee
- Campus Planning Committee
- Committee on Trustees
- Educational Policies Committee
- Enrollment and Financial Aid Committee
- Finance Committee
- Investment Committee
- Student Life Committee

In addition, an Executive Committee, Executive Compensation Committee and Presidential Assessment Committee, oversee administration of the board's and the President's work.

Each committee operates within its own charter, agenda and meeting schedule. Each committee has a Trustee Chair and a designated staff liaison.

Committee agendas over the past year represented the full spectrum of issues of importance to Mills students, faculty, alumnae and other constituents. Trustees worked closely with the President and her senior staff to address student enrollment and retention; financial planning and controls; campus maintenance, enhancement and development; fundraising for operations and restricted purposes, and issues of concern to the campus community.

The world of higher education is changing significantly as new technology enables new methods of learning, more first-generation students are attending college than in the past, and students are increasingly selecting colleges based on their cost and career outcomes. The Trustees have discussed how these themes, which are particularly challenging to address at private liberal arts colleges, are playing out at Mills, and how best to position Mills for the future. This backdrop has informed continued focus on the strategic plan for Mills, which is in its second year of implementation.

Trustees are also carefully focused on communications and marketing for the college, as a new comprehensive branding plan unfolded over the past year.

Janice DiNatale is serving as Interim vice president for institutional advancement and chief senior staff liaison for the AAMC. Janice is overseeing the progress of all unrestricted giving to the college as well as targeted campaigns for the renovation of Lisser Hall, establishment of a campus farm, and support for the Women in Public Service initiative. In addition, alumnae engagement initiatives fall under institutional advancement, including planning for Reunion Weekend in September 2015, support for alumnae branch/club events and the President's regional travel to meet with alumnae.

The Board of Trustees has worked collaboratively and diligently to further the mission of Mills College over the past year. As alumnae trustees, we are honored to serve as a link between the AAMC and the college's board. We encourage engagement of all Mills alumnae with the college; the first step is to register online at <http://alumnae.mills.edu>. Please feel free to contact any of us to learn more about the work of the board of Trustees or to share concerns as a Mills alumna.