

AAMC BOARD OF GOVERNORS TRAVEL COMMITTEE REPORT

April 14, 2023

MISSION: To provide educational and cultural opportunities for the alumnae of Mills College at Northeastern University, through organized annual international travel programs, while earning revenue for the AAMC.

Members: Co-Chairs: Gwen Foster and Debi Wood; Melissa Berkay, Rachel Cefalu, Deborah Dittman, Ellen Hines, Catherine Ladnier, Viji Nakka-Cammauf, Sheryl Wooldridge.

In 2022 and to date, ten people, including five alums, took trips through our travel partners. Destinations included Italy (the Amalfi Coast and Apulia), New Orleans, Egypt, and the Danube River. All except two travelers selected trips offered by AHI; the other two travelers took a pandemic delayed Gohagan Danube River cruise that included the very popular Oberammergau Passion Play in Germany. In October, we received \$515 in commissions from Gohagan, revenue that goes to the AAMC.

Also, the travel committee was approached by Arrangements Abroad, a travel company that offers educational and cultural travel programs for major museums, cultural organizations, as well as alumni associations. The prices for the programs are quite high. The committee's 2021 alum survey told us that price is the greatest barrier to broad alum participation in the AAMC travel program, so we have opted not to include Arrangements Abroad as a travel partner. We are looking into expanding the travel program to include less expensive and shorter tours that would interest younger alums.

For 2023, eleven alums have booked AHI and Gohagan trips that are already underway and go through the end of September. Trips for the AHI 2024 travel program have been proposed and include some new destinations. They are divided between river cruises, land journeys, and the Alumni Campus Abroad trips that are nine nights in duration and have a strong educational component. Marketing will begin later this year.

In February, we presented recommendations to the Board of Governors that we believe would strengthen the travel program and the committee's work, including appropriate staff support, and clarification of policies around sharing alum contact information with our travel operators and other outside entities, among others.

This month, the committee welcomed two new members, Rachel Cefalu and Melissa Berkay.

Respectfully submitted by:

Debi Wood and Gwen Foster
Travel Committee Co-Chairs