

**Knox College Alumni Council**  
**Fall 2020 Meeting Agenda**

Members in attendance: Eric Langson, Tom Bazan, Elizabeth Bazan, Debra Banks, John Sauter, Steve Walton, John Heyer, Christine Winick, Doug Hill, Maya Moody, Jan Jarvis, Marty Glickman, Maurice Harris, Valerie Blevins, Jeff Gipson, John Straus, Jennifer Gallas, Eric Johnson, Crew Keller, Julie Scannell, Kathryn Mahaffey, Bill McVey, Courtney Hill, Anjali Pattanayak, Pac Pobric, Pamela Hernandez, Amy Roth, Paige Lowe, Megan Clayton, Joe Moore, Michael Gilbert, Laura Swanson, Cindy Wilson, Megan Clayton

**1:30 p.m. Welcome and Approval of Spring Minutes**

Marty Glickman, Chair

1:35 - Sarah Byrd opened with instructions to Zoom.  
John Heyer approve minutes John Sauter 2nd, approved

**1:40 p.m. Committee Reports**

*Prospective Student Engagement Committee —Joe Moore, Chair*

Elizabeth Bazan reported on two upcoming initiatives. The admissions office is considering an “Ask an Alumni” page like their “Ask a Current Student” site. We have suggested that the Council could serve as a pilot group for that. There was also some discussion of how we can better promote the recommend a student program. Jennifer Gallas reported that Admissions is attending virtual college fairs and her office is recommending alumni to help with these efforts. There are also some on-campus visits going on.

*Campus Engagement Committee — Sam Jarvis and Tim Schmeling, Co-Chairs*

Sam Jarvis reported that members are working with TRIO as mentors. Scott B. reached out to gather alumni wisdom regarding application for internship opportunities. Alumni Student Networking Group coming up in October. Remember to register for homecoming and consider hosting an event with an affinity group.

*Alumni Engagement Committee — John Heyer, Chair*

Discussed hosting Knox Clubs in a virtual world, prepared some tips, and would like to come up with a list of Knox topics/trivia to spark discussion. Laura reached out to young alumni about Knox Clubs and what their concerns are when joining a Knox Club - they are overwhelmed, nervous, not sure what to wear. Virtual events can possibly help with these concerns. Committee discussed webinars for alumni or video on-campus speakers for alumni to watch as well. Perhaps Knox Club events could be scheduled around this content. Could alumni plug in virtually to classes? Could alumni contribute to course materials? Virtual book club.

*Awards Committee — Tom Bazan, Chair*

Discussed ways to improve the nomination process including encouraging nominations and normalizing information that is submitted for nominees. Kathryn Mahaffey asked how long nominees remain in the pool. 3-4 years, and nominees are not notified of their nomination. (Nominee information below. Information is not to be shared.)

**2:00 p.m. Alumni Council Power of Experience Grant**

Kathy Mahaffey reported that the idea came out of previous discussions. Proposing to provide a grant of \$2000 for a student to complete an experience of some kind (internship, study abroad, etc). Target student leaders who are also volunteering their time on campus, which also may allow us to nurture them as an alumni leader. Provides a way for us to promote the idea of giving to a Power of Experience Grant to other alumni. Scott Calhoun reported that this would be voluntary and in addition to any other giving to Knox. Additional funds would be made available for identified needs. Collection will be in the fall so as not to interfere with Spring giving and can fund a Spring experience. Knox staff will be involved in selecting the student and the student will be asked to report back at a future meeting. Discussion: Tim Schmeling pointed out that some student leaders receive a stipend for their leadership which should be considered and make sure that we aren't building up an expectation of a grant if one takes on leadership. Sarah Byrd further explained that the council will not be involved in the selection. Grants are available to sophomore/junior students. Sarah will follow up with information on how to give.

Sam motions to approve, Valerie second, motion passes

2:15 p.m. **Knox Proud Day Recap**

Sandra Gray, Director of Advancement Services, Office of Advancement Presentation will be sent out after the meeting. Lessons learned: all donors use crowdfunding, loyal donors were key, variety of challenges was helpful especially the \$250 match, there is a group that only gives on donor day, provided insights into reunion giving.

2:30 p.m. **Presidential Search Update**

Tony Etz, Chair of the Presidential Search Committee  
Committee made up of trustees, faculty, students, staff, and Galesburg (list is available on Knox website). Have been meeting since late Spring following “listening sessions” with constituencies. Hired a search firm, Chuck O’Boyle, who is developing a candidate pool. Committee is considering candidates monthly. 8-10 semi-finalists will be interviewed, 2-3 finalists will be brought to campus. Finalist visits will not be open. Plan to seat a new president before Tereasa leaves in July, hopefully before that point. Concerns are that COVID may keep the whole committee from meeting the candidate in person.

3:00 p.m. **BREAK**

3:30 p.m. **College Update and Q&A**

President Amott -

Enrollment: 1125 for the year. Did not experience the anticipated drop in retention except for international students due to changes in immigration.

COVID: Testing all faculty and staff then students twice. Will be randomly testing throughout each week at 10%. Students not feeling well will be tested. Reaching out to UofI regarding using their saliva tests by winter term. Using contact tracing. Offering counseling services remotely. Hired staff for enhanced cleaning. Many hybrid classes and some virtual, to provide for at risk staff and students. Winter sports will be decided based on conference and testing availability.

Mood on Campus: Students are tentative, following protocols, but lack of group gatherings cause concerns. Polarized regarding upcoming elections and recent

events. School is responding with guidance, education, and mediation.  
Finances: Projected \$3.7 million deficit, may be able to do better if enrollment holds, but may be affected by COVID expenses.

4:00 p.m. **Virtual Homecoming Schedule**

Sarah Byrd, Executive Director of Alumni Engagement and Annual Giving  
Alumni Engagement would appreciate help through recommendations of programming and promotion. Contact Jennifer Gallas or email [engage@knox.edu](mailto:engage@knox.edu) to schedule a virtual happy hour. Schedule is available online. Register to participate in the virtual career networking event: <https://securelb.imodules.com/s/289/interior.aspx?sid=289&gid=1&pgid=2993&cid=5030>.

4:15 a.m. **Presentation of Alumni Achievement Award Winners and Council Approval**

Tom Bazan, Awards Committee Chair

John Straus, Motion to accept slate as presented, John Heyer second, motion passes

4:30 p.m. **Wrap-Up**

Marty Glickman, Chair

John Heyer motion to adjourn, Pam Hernandez second

**2021 Alumni Achievement Award Nominees**

Otto "Casey" Jones '87

- Lifetime service as a nurse, educator, community activist, fundraiser, and Peace Corps volunteer.
- Most recently served in Uganda with the Global Health Service Partnership, a collaboration between Seed Global Health, the Peace Corps, and the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. In addition, he taught the first and second classes of nursing students at Muni University in Uganda.
- Participated in a Knox College Medical Alumni/Student Career Networking event.

Regine Rousseau '94

- Entrepreneur, business owner, author, motivational speaker, and mentor.

- CEO of Shall We Wine, an African American business owner. She was named as one of the Top 40 under/Over 40 Tastemakers in 2017 by Wine Enthusiast Magazine and as one of the Top 40 African-American Tastemakers worldwide by wine writer, Sabrina Jackson.
- Author of a book of poetry, as well as numerous articles for wine magazines, and a blog called Champagne Diaries.
- She was the keynote speaker for Knox's Career Impact Summit on two separate occasions.

#### Virginia Steen '69

- Pioneer in systemic scleroderma research and co-creator of the first worldwide medical registry for systemic scleroderma patients which became the prototype for various disease registries across the world.
- President of the Scleroderma Clinical Trials Consortium, which is an international consortium representing the majority of researchers and clinicians in the field.
- Recipient of two highly prestigious awards for her research. The National Scleroderma Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award and The Excellence in Investigative Mentoring Award from the American College of Rheumatology.
- Panelist for the Knox College Chemistry/Biochemistry Panel in 2019.

#### **2021 Young Alumni Achievement Award Nominee**

#### Leah Heister Burton '08

- Deputy Director and Chief Advancement Officer for the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and Foundation where she oversees fundraising for all areas of the museum.
- Serves as a part-time lecturer at Columbia University in the Master of Nonprofit Management program.
- Leah is a recipient of the National Young Professional of the Year Award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals.
- Young alumni campaign volunteer, alumni relations volunteer, and as a K Club volunteer.