

**Aquinas College Alumni Board Meeting**  
**Minutes 6-30-09**  
**Alumni Lounge**  
**June 30, 2009**  
**12:00 – 1:10 p.m.**

**Prayer** Damon offered the prayer.

**Present (in person and via phone)**

Damon Bouwkamp, Andy Holtgreive, Choka Johnson, Connie Kowalsyk, Sr. Rose Marie Martin, Amy Peters, Greg Pfent, Barb Selesky, Dursa Smotrilla, Jim Thrall, Tim Tierney

**Accomplishments (Andy)**

**Alumni Office Fundraisers with support from Board:**

Alumni Breakfast: \$31,284

**Board fundraisers (all figures = net proceeds):**

Pro-Am (for Alumni Association grants and scholarships): \$2,558

Raffle (for Saints Network):

Homecoming: \$5,675

Bricks: \$1,125

Liberty Mutual: \$2,550

Bank of America Credit Card: \$888

**Total Raised from Board activities: \$10,238**

**Alumni Association Grants & Scholarships:**

Sister Anne Keating Scholarship: \$1,000 (*Due to the current financial crisis, there is a problem with the distribution of all endowment related funds, our donation this year will ensure that at least one student will receive the scholarship again.*)

Michigan Educator's Grant Program: \$500 (\$1500 to be awarded in 2009-2010)

**Alumni Association Support of Alumni Programs:**

SAINTS NETWORK: \$10,000/year for five years

**SAINTS NETWORK & Alumni Website**

459 Registered Users in soft launch phase

1,419 Unique visitors to Saints Network homepage

Over 10,400 views on [aquinas.edu/alumni](http://aquinas.edu/alumni) since January

Less quickly exited than last year

**Alumni Board Representation**

Board of Trustee Meetings, Donor Receptions, Regional Receptions, Scholarship Dinner, St. Thomas Aquinas Week, Graduation activities, Community Service Projects, Alumni Breakfast, Golf Tournament, Tee-off party, retreat.

Barb asked if the rainy day fund in the amount 5% of revenue was being updated.

### **Board Positions (Andy)**

The executive committee appointed the following to the five vacant positions Susan McReynolds, Christina Blivens, Julie Morano, Chris Avery, and Emma Powell, MM grad. All said "yes" except Emma Powell. The committee is still waiting to hear from her.

The board then had a lengthy discussion about the process for new membership to the board. The board agreed with Barb's motion that nominations and appointments can be made by the executive committee or the awards and nominations with acceptance by a majority vote of the full board. 2 at-large-members can be nominated and elected by the whole association. No changes to the by laws can be made without approval of the Aquinas board of trustees.

### **Updates (Brigid)**

#### **Habitat for Humanity**

The Aquinas community will be the first college in the United States to partner with a family to refurbish a Habitat for Humanity home. The home is located on Griggs St. in SW Grand Rapids. The father of the family is one of the Lost Boys/Found Men. The project will begin in August 2009. This is a refurbished house that will be LEED certified. Funding is being sought from various agencies including the Wege Foundation. Opportunities to work on the project include weekdays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Also times around Homecoming and a November 1, All Saints Day of Service.

#### **Saints network**

Valentine cards, emails, soft launch--good response, will be sending out brochure of services/connections to alums.

#### **Sports and fitness center**

Half of the funding is available. Construction to begin late fall 2009 or early spring. Will rehab old building then build new portion.

#### **Admissions Webinar**

A Webinar on involving new alums in admissions was attended by Damon and Brigid. The process will begin by contacting alums in different majors to act as ambassadors to new students. There may also be send off parties with alums in different geographical regions.

#### **Detroit Reception**

79 people are signed up for reception hosted by alum and trustee, Michael Smith. Dawson Great Lake Museum is the site featuring taste of Detroit food.

#### **Committee Re-Structure (Andy)**

Proposed Committee areas include the following:

**Executive Committee:** President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Executive Director, Chair from Events, Awards, Communication

**Communication:** Works with Saints Network, Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter; assists with recruitment of new students, develops content for website and e-newsletters (Leaflet).

**Events:** Coordinates volunteers for Homecoming and Pro-Am, coordinates raffle at Pro-Am, assists with on campus events: graduation, service projects with Kids Food Basket & CCS, student activities.

**Awards and Nominations:** Collects nominations for open board positions, keeps updated information for board members and disseminates to board, coordinates all aspects of Michigan Educators Grant program, plans board retreat and training materials.

**Grants for Michigan educators (Brigid)**

Need volunteers to review the application and process. Barb, Jim, Amy will review the application for redo and redesign, review the requirements refine the process, help with process, review the applications, plan the event for announcement of the winners. Announcement will possibly be made at the Stars for Scholars Event in October.

**Planning Session (Andy)**

Of the proposed dates, the group chose Tuesday, August 11: 5:30-9:00 p.m. (dinner provided)

**Open Discussion (All)**

Jim proposed that the communication committee review the Saints Network for ease of access etc.

Barb reported that Brigid, Cecilia C., Connie and she are exploring, with the Grand Rapids Public Museum, the possibility of a family alum event to raise funds for the AQ fund. More details to follow at the August planning session.

Jim said that there is a need for names of alums from the 50's and 60's for award nominations for the Athletic Hall of Fame. The board suggested that Jim talk to Terry Bocian about serving on the committee.

Submitted by  
Sister Rose Marie Martin