



VITERBO UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 29, 2023 – 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Board Members Present: Caitlin Caliri, David Caliri, Emily Dykman, Mary Ann Gschwind, Judy Harpenau, Jacob Hart, Naomi Hemesath-Harm, Connie Hilliker, James Lawrence, Brett May, Christopher Nelson, Christina Repa, Joan Schreck, Pat Stellflue, Maribel Wehrenberg, Amanda Clark, Jacqueline Guilbeault, Andrew Kaiser, Marjorie Stieve, Abby Toufar, Avery Gerstenberger

Emeritus Members: Margaret Hammell, Linda Digby, Ann Kiel, Rose Ann Kazmierczak, Leah Misch, Sr. Marie Kyle, Sandra Hoeser

Ex Officio: Steve Bissen, Kathy Duerwachter, Jim Salmo, Rick Trietley, Jessica Schneider

Christopher Nelson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and led the prayer.

Congratulations and welcome to our incoming alumni board members: Caitlin Caliri, David Caliri, Mary Ann Gschwind, Jacqueline Guilbeault, Naomi Hemesath-Harm, Judy Harpenau, Connie Hilliker, Christina Repa, and Maribel Wehrenberg.

Mission Moment: Jessica Schneider, Viterbo student

- Students will be an integral part of Day of Giving this year. Eight student organizations are raising funds to conduct activities this semester. Students will be able to participate to support the things they care about in this year's Day of Giving. They are looking to involve as many students as possible.
- They are also engaging in the Francis Challenge that pairs \$5 with volunteerism as a challenge among students. With a focus on participation and coming together to support the organizations and colleges they care about.

University Update: Rick Trietley Last week all employees came back to campus. It was a week full of great meetings and discussions to start the year.

- Enrollment:
 - o Official numbers will come September 8.
 - o Here's a snapshot: 256 traditional 1st year students, 81 transfer students, 59 new bachelor's degree students with 212 graduate students, 53 international students from 21 countries, 101 military students. 17 students are transfers from universities who closed last year and 5 new students from the DREAM US foundation. 1,100 undergraduate students, 1,150 graduate students for a total population around 2,250 students.
- Academic major updates:



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- There is a new communication disorders undergraduate degree starting this year. This is designed to lead to a master's program.
 - Speech pathology major will start next fall.
 - We are in year 2 of computer science undergraduate major
 - Working on finalizing a new major for next fall that will be in data analytics.
 - RISE Strategic Plan
 - Board of Trustees has approved the framework that will ideally receive full approval this fall.
 - Launched an online certificate in Servant Leadership and all business majors will have a Servant Leadership certificate as part of the undergraduate education.
 - New medical assistant online program with Mayo Clinic
 - Launched a diversity, inclusion, and equity department 2 years ago and is on the 4th floor of the nursing building. Stop in any time.
 - Formally approved and hired our first full-time employee focused on first year students making sure they have access to connections and resources. Ensure we have a coordinated response and to improve our third semester retention.
 - Launched a new living and learning community.
 - Received board approval for 3% employee compensation increase
 - Accreditation Updates
 - Made it through the Higher Learning Commission review
 - Engineering program accreditation results will be received soon.
 - Nursing program also went through accreditation.
 - Speech pathology program will start the process next week
 - Celebrations
 - Online Masters in Dietetics received recognition as one of the top programs in the country
 - Military gold status was achieved by Viterbo.
 - Athletics program
 - Formally applied to the Chicagoland athletic conference
 - NAIA conference has now implemented a senior women's position to ensure Title 9 and that female athletes get all the support they need.
 - 153 new student athletes this fall
 - Women's volleyball team is ranked 7th in the nation after last week's games and is currently undefeated.
 - Partnership Updates
 - Send several Viterbo students to Casa Hogar to do service.
 - We have 30 high school students from Luxembourg on campus today and we sent a visiting professor to their school last semester. We are also working on a study abroad program.
 - New partnership with Western Technical College focused on accounting.
 - Awards



- St. John XXIII awards are taking place next week, Wall of Fame Induction Ceremony is Saturday, September 16, and 10 Distinguished Alumni will be honored at the awards ceremony during Viterbo Days on Friday, Oct. 13.

Alumni Association Updates and Events

- Year Overview

- 4 meetings a year – August 29 (Day of Giving/October 12), November 16 (Capital Campaign & Strategic Plan), February 22 (Capital Campaign & Strategic Plan), and April 18 (Capital Campaign & Strategic Plan)

- Day of Giving Update by Jim Salmo – October 12

- Effort underway to engage students in philosophy early – Francis Challenge with 3 avenues to get involved (not about how much money you give but the number of students participating.)
- Board goal of 100% participation
 - Watch for an email board survey to discuss if and what board members want to commit to.
- Other ways for board members to engage
 - Financially – make a gift and ask for challenge donors with a matching gift
 - Stewardship – write thank you notes or call and thank donors (Ask Kathy if you want to learn more about these two opportunities.)
 - Educate – spread the word and be social media ambassadors (Kathy will send out the social media tools to all board members.)
- 800th anniversary of the Franciscan creche in Greccio
 - Need to raise \$10,000 for a new creche for San Damiano Chapel. Can give at Day of Giving to “other” and note Creche for San Damiano.
- 5-Year Campaign to possibly raise \$30,000,000 for the organization (waiting board approval). Mainly scholarships, professorships, student and building improvements.

Alumni Board Business/Updates

- Approve minutes
- Alumni Board participation goal
- Chapter reports

Meeting adjourned: 7:35 pm

Updated Calendar of Events and Registration: www.viterbo.edu/Alumni or
<https://www.facebook.com/viterboalumni/events>



VITERBO UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI OFFICE

900 Viterbo Drive
La Crosse, WI 54601
