

# VITERBO UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Reinhart Center Board Room

5:30 p.m. Full Board Meeting

- I. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by Amy Thornton at 5:35 p.m.

Members Present: Julie Bartels, Jackie Baures, Libby Berg, Steve Berg, Derek Burnstad, Kathy Ivey, Sr. Marie Kyle, Jennifer Masewicz, Katie Rowan-Koenen, Paula Skoy, Kristina Schoh, Anna Sprague, Amy Thornton, Michael Walter – MBA Alumni Chapter Rep, Maureen Monk – SFSN Alumni Chapter Rep

Emeritus Members Present: Theresa Smerud, Rose Ann Kazmierczak

Ex- Officio: Kathy Duerwachter

Special Guests: Gary Klein, VP Institutional Advancement; Diane Brimmer, VP Student Development; Alyssa Gray – Co-President of Colleges Against Cancer; Kaila Schoenberger – Co-President of Colleges Against Cancer

- II. Derek Burnstad offered a prayer.
- III. Approval of the minutes from the meeting dated 02/25/2012 was motioned by Kathy Ivey. Steve Berg seconded. The minutes from the meeting were approved.
- IV. Maureen Monk, SFSN alumni chapter rep, and Mike Walter, MBA alumni chapter rep were added to the agenda.
- V. There was a welcome and Introduction of special guests.
- VI. Viterbo students Alyssa Gray and Kaila Schoenberger, Co-Presidents of Viterbo's Colleges against Cancer Organization addressed the group. The organization was formed about 8 years ago and the group facilitated the first-ever Relay for Life held on Viterbo's campus along with UW-La Crosse. The event outgrew the Mathy Center and was moved to UW-La Crosse. Shortly after the move Viterbo's Colleges against Cancer became dormant. Last year Kaila and Alyssa resurrected the organization and promoted student groups and Viterbo community groups to participate. The event was held on Feb. 24 and 25 from 6:00 pm – 6:00 am. The organization has raised \$64,000 so far this year. Kaila

and Alyssa discussed how cancer can affect all of us and especially Alyssa's family with her father passing away when she was only 6. Her mother found out she had cancer last month and is currently battling. Kaila graduates in May and Alyssa will be a senior next year and wishes to continue her leadership in this group. Alyssa and Kaila would enjoy having Viterbo alumni involved alongside students and the Viterbo community. The students cited several other collaborative opportunities such as the Friar Frolic, Speed Mock Interview and Children's Alumni Christmas party. They will let the board know what their plans are for next year.

- VII. Diane Brimmer, Viterbo Vice President of Student Development, was present to provide the board with a University update. Various departments that Student Development incorporates are campus activities, campus ministry, campus safety, recreational sports, counseling services, dining services, intercollegiate athletics, orientation, residence life, ATOD taskforce, emergency response task force to name a few. Attached is more information regarding these student development activities. Diane also discusses ways in which alumni could support the university and be involved including our collaborative involvement with Viterbo Days and Homecoming. Diane encouraged anyone with questions to contact her and gave us her information on the attached presentation. She also had available a calendar of events for the spring semester and student handbook with more detailed information regarding student development. If anyone would like a book to review please let Kathy know.
- VIII. Alumni board retreat outcomes were discussed. The outcomes along with the discussion are attached.
- IX. Amy Thornton discussed the platform goals for the alumni board as a result of retreat outcomes and ensuing executive committee meetings. Alumni outreach is the first goal outlined for the alumni board in the ensuing academic year. Amy challenged board members to reach out now that we have our calendar events by encouraging friends and other alumni to participate. A culture of philanthropy was the second goal of the alumni board. Amy was excited to report that our annual board resolution for 100% financial participation is now at 77% and that we have until June 30 to hopefully achieve 100% financial participation of the alumni board. Philanthropy brochures were in each board members packet.
- X. Steve Berg announced this year's recipients of Sr. Celestine Alumni Children's Scholarship. We had \$2900 in this year's fund and received over 20 applications for this scholarship. This was the most the executive committee had seen and there were many qualified applicants making the selections difficult. Steve explained that the protocol within the scholarship states that the amount has to be at least \$1,000. Because there were so many qualified applicants the executive committee contributed \$100 so we could award 3 scholarships this year. The recipients are: Hunter Beggs from Wisconsin Rapids, WI – wishes to study business in the fall; Jessica Trudo, Brownsville, MN – wishes to study

nursing; and Tyler Blaskowski, Monona, WI – also wishes to study nursing. We received thank you notes from the recipients and Steve read one of them to the board as the students were deeply grateful for their scholarships.

- XI. Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients were announced and they will be recognized at Viterbo Days at an awards ceremony on October 13.

**Community Service**

Sandra Schwalbe '63  
Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry  
La Crosse, WI

**Professional Development**

Karolee Sowle '77  
Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
Palm Springs, CA

**Service to the University**

Joyce Hagmann '47  
St. Francis School of Nursing  
La Crosse, WI

**Spirit of St. Francis**

Eileen (Sullivan) Schragger '63  
Bachelor of Science Education – Elementary Education  
Chicago, IL

**Young Alumni**

Zach Johnson '11  
Bachelor of Arts – English Major, Servant Leadership – Minor  
La Crosse, WI

- XII. Patrick Gibbons hosted an alumni event in the Twin Cities in March and wanted to let the board know that it was a wonderful time to meet other alumni in the Twin Cities area. He also wanted board members to know that they can support Viterbo and be involved in different venues.
- XIII. Kathy Ivey reported the Countdown to Commencement event this year. Countdown has evolved into a celebratory event for graduates to provide a one stop place for graduates to take care of their upcoming graduation needs. Students pick up their cap and gown, may have a professional portrait taken, order announcements, class rings, diploma frames, verify how their name will be on their diploma, visit with alumni board members as they learn about Viterbo's alumni association, benefits and involvement. Alumni board members and faculty congratulate graduates and join in the festivities with celebratory music, Ninth Street Singers performed and shared hors d'ouerves and refreshments.

- XIV. The executive committee approved the calendar of events for the 2012-13 academic year. The calendar is in the packets this evening and will be sent to all members electronically.
- XV. Dahl School of Business – Certificate for Nonprofit Leadership program brochure was in everyone’s packet. Julie Bartels and Kathy Duerwachter are currently in the certificate program and will complete this May. They both indicated the certificate program was very beneficial to their work with the alumni board as well as other boards and committees they serve on. Amy Thornton has signed up for the cohort that begins next fall. There are still spots available. Any questions can be directed to Kathy Duerwachter or Sara Cook in the Dahl School of Business.
- XVI. Julie Bartels, Steve Berg and Katie Rowan-Koenen have completed their first three year term on the alumni board and will begin their second three year term this fall. Thank you!

The board wishes to thank Ron DuCharme, Jennifer Masewicz and Allie Romens who all will complete their term on June 30.

The alumni board asks each of you to prayerfully consider the role of Secretary. Past secretaries have found this role very rewarding and have indicated it’s a great learning experience for them. The secretary also serves on the executive committee which meets in between meetings to follow up on business and plan board meetings. If you wish to be part of a great group please let Kathy know. Online voting will take place in May or June for the secretary position and for new board members.

- XVII. MBA Alumni Chapter Rep, Mike Walter updated the board. The chapter is volunteering in Neighbor’s Day this Saturday, toured the food pantry at Viterbo and is thinking of ways to support, evaluating and updating bylaws, preparing for chapter board elections this summer, planning for an MBA graduate social in June to welcome the MBA grads, planning for the 5K.
- XVIII. SFSN Alumni Chapter Rep, Maureen Monk let the board know that they are having their annual lunch on Wednesday, August 1<sup>st</sup>. They will have mass, lunch, brief meeting and nursing center tours.
- XIX. The board thanked Amy Thornton for her leadership as president the past two years. Amy has served as a liaison to the Board of Trustees and has lead us into new directions. We had a cake to celebrate our success with Amy over the past the two years. Amy will remain on the executive committee as past president and Heather Ladwig will take on the role of president commencing on July 1.

XX. Upcoming Events:

~Saturday, April 28, Kristina Smaby Schoh, is hosting an Intergenerational Prom at the Mathy Center. People of all ages are welcome. There will be complimentary refreshments, entertainment and food. There is no admission charge for this event.

~Saturday, May 12 – Commencement Quick Stop station – La Crosse Center

~Heather Ladwig will lead the graduates in the Prayer of St. Francis at Commencement on May 12

~Mark your calendar for Viterbo Days – Oct. 12-13

XXI. Celebration of the Alumni Board's Success – Amy Thornton highlighted the following over the past academic year:

a. Alumni Reunion Weekend – intergenerational events and enhanced programming. The most attended reunion Viterbo has hosted. Additional programming provided by the MBA alumni chapter and the MASL alumni group.

b. Combining Alumni Awards and Student Leader Recognition awards.

c. Speed Mock Interview Event

d. SFSON scholarship exceeds \$21,000

e. Alumni Board resolution – 100% participation for our goal

XXII. Meeting ended with a group photo and a social consisting of cake and refreshments to celebrate the year.

XXIII. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 28, 2012 – 5:30 pm.

XXIV. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. Kathy Ivey motioned to adjourn the meeting. Steve Berg seconded.