

Lewis & Clark College
Fall Board of Alumni Meeting (Part One)-- Remote via Zoom
Oct 18, 2020

Board Members Present:

Chris Ohman, *President*,
Mary Bodine-Watts
Katie Byrnes
Anne Caputo
Alexa Cid Carrera, *SAA president*
Jennifer Cox Cyphers
Peter Dempsey
Edgard Garcia
Catherine Gibson
Hanako Imber
Marisol Jenkins
Erik Jensen
Hongda Jiang
Jessica Mullins
Aron Phillips
Stacy Rout Thompson
Anthony J. Ruiz
Richard Sames
Chris Scheffler
Marnie Troska
Barbara Whitaker
Dee Wolfe, *Chair Albany Society Board of Directors*

Board Members Absent:

Ryan Lockard

Staff Present Full BOA meeting:

Andrew McPheeters, *Associate Vice President of Alumni, Parent, and Student Engagement*
Emily Decker, *Senior Associate Director*
Tara McIrvin, *Associate Director*
Caroline Mead, *Associate Director*

Guests:

Bruce Suttmeier, *Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences*

Pre-Meeting resources:

- CAS Fundraising Update Fall FY21** (PDF provided to members via email)
- Equity Pause Information** (Document provided to members via link)

Notes:

SESSION I

Chris Ohman - **Call to Order**

Introductions: Peter Dempsey '01 and Marisol Jenkins '15 introduce each other to the board.

They both give self-introductions by sharing fun facts they learned about each other.

Chris Ohman - **Welcomes everyone.**

Chris explains the fall meeting structure: The meeting will be in two parts. Today's meeting is Part 1 and Part 2 will happen on December 6th.

Chris Ohman– Introduces Bruce Suttmeier, *Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences*

Update and Q & A - Bruce Suttmeier:

- Bruce gives an overview of the preparation for the fall opening and some of the challenges, as well as an update on the current CAS situation.
- Bruce spoke about how a great amount of work went in over the summer to adapt to teaching in the era of Covid. New technology is being utilized in creative ways, and measures such as outdoor classrooms have been used. This fall about 25% of classes went completely online and just under 2/3 are hybrid courses. A total of 14 courses require an in-person component. We have about 345 students who opted to go fully remote.
- Students have been doing a great job following protocols, and the good news right now is in terms of the rate of covid on campus we are doing very well. We have not had a positive case since August. The first-year students are feeling a bit less connected because there's less opportunity for that kind of social cohesion, that is important for first year students.
- Bruce highlights the work that faculty have been doing coming out of the summer on racial justice and equity. The faculty retreat at the beginning of the fall was devoted to racial justice and racial inequity at the college, both in terms of the curriculum and in terms of everything else. One of the things we wanted to do is recognize that this is work that white faculty and not faculty of color need to help organize and it's work that we need to do.
- Bruce also mentions that the college is now a part of the **Posse Foundation**. A five year partnership to expand the recruiting pool of outstanding young leaders from diverse

backgrounds, help build more interactive campus environments for people from all backgrounds, and ensure Posse Scholars take on leadership positions in the workforce upon graduation.

- **Changes to the spring calendar.**

There will be no fall break, which would have been October 10 or so. Instead, we gave an entire week off at Thanksgiving. Therefore, November 20 is the last day of in person classes. On November 30 when classes start up again they will be 100% online. This is to avoid students traveling and then coming back to campus, which we thought would be one of the primary ways to spread covid. We like most schools have done away with the full week of spring break. And what we've done instead is to do some two small mini breaks. At the end of February there will be a Thursday and Friday off and in March, there will be a Monday and Tuesday off.

Spring course modality numbers are similar to the fall, although about 45 courses are in-person required. There has been a lot of outreach to students about their options, and students who are currently remote or took a leave of absence have been invited back to campus. Several of those students who took a gap year, who were freshmen are starting in January. So that has been very positive that we think our good results in the fall, have made some of our more anxious students feel sufficiently confident that they're coming back to do their classes in the fall.

Q&A with Bruce.

Discussions and questions form board members for Bruce.

Chris Ohman- formally welcomes new members of the board.

Chris Ohman - **Welcomes new members** (Dee Wolfe *ASBD Chair*, Jennifer Cyphers, Jessica Mullins, and Marisol Jenkins).

Chris Ohman - **Asks for a motion to approve the June meeting minutes.**

Aron - **Motion to approve minutes.**

Edgard - **Seconds the motion.**

All 21 members approve minutes.

Approval of Minutes.

Introductions: Hongda Jiang'08 and Jennifer Cox Cyphers '98 introduce each other to the board.

Hongda and Jennifer share each other's brief biographies.

Short 5 min – Break

Chris Ohman – **Welcomes some of the SAA ambassadors who are joining today’s meeting:**

Alexa Cid Carrera ’21 – *SAA President*
Hazel Anderson-Larson ’23 – *SAA Ambassador*
Katrina Kuzmina ’23 – *SAA Ambassador*
Tuse Mahenya ’21 – *SAA Ambassador*
Cas Mulford ’23 – *SAA Ambassador*
Emma Pell ’22 – *SAA Ambassador*
Grace Ralston ’21 – *SAA Ambassador*
Luca Sax ’22 – *SAA Ambassador*
Jenna Timmerman ’22 – *SAA Ambassador*
Kara Wood ’21 – *SAA Ambassador*

Update: Alumni Connections and Development Committee and SAA – Chris Scheffler and Alexa Cid Carrera, SAA President

Chris Scheffler gives an overview of the work of the committee:

- The committee is in charge of the SAA scholarships that are awarded to about one dozen students yearly. The Student Alumni Ambassadors help us with student/alumni events and those joining us today will get to share with us some of their insights into the life at Lewis & Clark.
- Works in partnership with the Career Center on campus.
- This fall we started a new initiative called *Board Buddies*. Chris thanks those board members who have been involved so far.

Alexa outlines the SAA events for this year. All the events are designed to bring together Alumni from different fields and connect them with current students.

SAA Events 2020-2021:

- So you want to talk about the Education Industry?
- Careers in Public Health
- Surviving the Apocalypse through Arts with Alumni
- LGBTQ+ Conversations over Brunch.

SAA also plans a long overdue revamping of the SAA Instagram page. Please follow them here: https://www.instagram.com/lc_saa/

Board members and SAA members split into 5 - small break out rooms.

SAA members share with the board some of their insights into the life at Lewis & Clark.

Topics including SAA life with COVID, Anti-racism, wildfires and protests

Introductions: Hanako Imber’10 and Anne Caputo ’69 introduce each other to the board.

Hanako and Anne share each other’s brief biographies.

Equity & Inclusion Committee – Hanako Imber

Hanako **presents an *Equity Pause* activity.**

(Equity Pause Information document provided to members via link)

Board members break out into committee groups to participate the activity.

The ***Equity Pause* activity** is to give the board a framework to look at what the board is doing with a lens of Equity, and develop equity goals.

Groups return from breakout rooms and each committee group chair gives a brief report.

■ Alumni and Outreach Committee (Catherine)

1. Widen the net so that we get a more diverse pool of candidates for the honor awards.
2. Ensure everyone is being asked the same questions and are being given the same types of information. Also provide more consistent information to the board and our nomination slate.

■ Alumni Connections and Development Committee (Chris Scheffler)

1. Review and improve targeted recruitment and outreach strategies.
2. Selection process: Make the application more inclusive and remove potential for biases.
3. Discuss adding new questions to the interviews for 2021-2022.

■ Administration Committee (Peter)

1. Solidify our equity stance in the evaluation process of new candidates to the board.
2. Evaluate the bylaws and see if we can remove any barriers to equity that exist.
3. Find ways we can engage a broader group of alumni.
4. Push the school as an institution to lead more from a top down approach with regards to equity.

Introductions: Mary Bodine-Watts '09 L'13 and Stacy Rout Thompson '79 introduce each other to the board.

Mary and Stacy share each other's brief biographies.

Update from APP – Andrew, Caroline, and Tara.

■ New Parents & Families Web site: <https://college.lclark.edu/parents/>

We have updated the parents website to improve on how we communicate with parents.

■ Virtual Programing continues.

Since September 17th we've featured 49 events that includes 32 which were associated with

Black & Orange parties. As part of the month of October Homecoming we launched four new virtual alumni series events. Each series kicked off in October and will continue on with an event in November and then December.

- Notable Alumni Series
- Alumni Wine Tasting Series
- Science Faculty Lecture Series
- Emeriti Faculty Lecture Series

Black & Orange debrief – Caroline

This year was an experiment, you know, with our virtual parties taking place over the course of a week and featuring a video from Wim and the trivia game. We had 32 parties in pretty much every time zone across the globe. Overall registration numbers were down. We about 250 people attend. However, the actual attendance was similar to previous years in that it's like around 50% of people who register actually attended. Parties were small, but our staff felt that we got to really know the people on the calls. We heard the video with Wim was enjoyed and a success. The trivia was fun but I heard that some of the questions were too hard.

Month of October Homecoming update – Tara

So overall, things are going really well, albeit some smaller crowds, but that has allowed for some great conversations and dialogue around topics. We're seeing lots of new faces at some of our events that we haven't seen before.

■ **Highlights so far:**

- **Speech and Debate Tournament** “State of the Debate” and Finals.
- **Alumni Film Festival:** We had we showed three alumni made films and we were able to dive into some important topics around mental health sexual assault and the Holocaust.
- **Athletic events:** Seven total events, four in which we were collaborating with the **LC pioneers live show** with Ryan Goff, *Director of Athletics Communications*. Ryan does a great job interviewing Alumni and the Hall of Fame inductees. If you haven't checked out this show. It is really well done.
- **Alumni Wine Tasting Series:** [Okapi Wine Tasting Event](#) with Kim Johnson '86.
- **Science Faculty Lecture Series:** [Virtual Lecture with Professor Tamily Weissman-Unni](#), Mapping the Brain in Living Color with “Brainbow”.
- **Gente Latina Unida (GLU) Career Panel**

■ **Homecoming events still to come in October:**

- **Notable Alumni Series:** Doodlers Master Class: Art Therapy for Trying Times with Matt Wuerker '79
- **Fall Philosophy Course:** The Moral Machine: A Humanistic Approach To Artificial Intelligence and Big Data

- **Music events:** We will be live streaming both the Lewis & Clark Orchestra Concert and the James W. Rogers Virtual Concert.
- **Notable Alumni Series:** A Conversation with Congressman Earl Blumenauer BA '70, JD '76
- **Center for Community and Global Health Celebration**
- **Emeriti Faculty Lecture Series:** Featuring Stephen Dow Beckham

Andrew solicits feedback and thoughts from the board.

Board members give advice and comment.

Introductions: Catherine Gibson '85 and Jessica Mullins '10 introduce each other to the board.

Catherine and Jessica share each other's brief biographies.

Chris Ohman thanks all the members of the board and looks forward to hearing from the other committees in the Fall Board of Alumni Meeting (Part Two)—on Dec 6th.

Meeting adjourns.