

# Simmons UNIVERSITY

Alumnae/i Association

## Simmons Alumnae/i Association Annual Meeting Minutes 2024

May 18, 2024, 11:00 AM to Noon EDT

<http://meet.google.com/zbu-girh-hfx>

- The meeting began with a video of several Jubilee Class Alumnae/i discussing their Simmons memories and the impact Simmons had on their lives
- **Welcome and Opening Remarks (Barbara Campbell Harvey, '75)**
- **Roll-call (Kaitlin Maloney, '19):** Conducted attendance and recorded a quorum. Present: Karen Thomas, Barbara Campbell Harvey, Adunni Slackman-Anderson, Fay Bean, Courtney Bryant, Pamela Dashiell, Kristin Heineman, Enna Jimenez, Elaine McCarthy, Kelly O'Connell, Morgan Ward. Absent: Priyal Goyal and Maddie Gretzky.
- **Meeting Overview/ Association Goals & Things to Come (Karen Young-Thomas '77),**
  - Acknowledged and thanked President Wooten, Board of Trustees, Faculty, Class of 2024, and Simmons Alums. Thanked the AAEB for supporting the initiatives of the University and interests of the Alums. Thanked Barbara Campbell Harvey for her ten years of service to the AAEB.
  - Reflected on Simmons' Campaign Committee's new tagline: Built for Now and what that means for Simmons as it begins celebrating its 125th year. 125th Celebration plans:
    - The DEI Committee planning work around gender to better embrace and be built around and founded on equality
    - Professional Development hybrid events
    - Celebrating Tea Around the World with Alums around the World
    - Rethinking paradigm of funding activities of engagement and supporting Simmons through scholarships and other ways. Repackage this so that we are solid with engagement and philanthropy.
    - Improved Communications
  - Looking forward to next year's 125th Celebration and the annual meeting in

person on Campus.

● **Alumnae/i Outreach and Engagement Report (Kelly O’Connell, ‘99)**

○ Connecting Our Community

1. Engage Simmons Alumni with activities that bring value
  - a. Town Hall: In person and remote facilitated sessions
  - b. Regional Road Show: Arrive & Thrive sessions in NY, NJ, CA, FL, CT, CO, DC and more
  - c. Career Sessions, Mentorship Moments, Entrepreneurship Conference, Notecards
2. Show Her The Money movie preview was first showing in Boston and in Massachusetts
3. Alumnae/i Outreach Survey
4. Conducted survey in Winter of 2023 to help shape the direction of engagement programs
  - a. Findings: promote connection, professional success, increase communication, provide more value added resources

○ The Rebuilding Alumnae/i Engagement Task Force:

- Enna Jimenez '91, '06EE, HT, President's Advisory Council for DEI
- Kelly O'Connell '99, Alumnae/i Association Director of Alumnae/i Outreach
- Carol Waller Pope '74, HT
- Kaitlin Maloney '19
- Krissy Raposa, Sr. Director, Individual Giving and Alumnae and Volunteer Engagement

● **Advancement Update (Krissy Raposa and Beth Kramer of the Advancement Office)**

- Nine New Advancement Staff since summer ‘23
- Fiscal Year ‘24 Update:
  - Fundraising
    - 125th Anniversary Campaign - \$42,639,762 raised to date (\$125M total goal, \$75M FY23-25)
    - 477 more donors needed to reach 8.2% alumnae/i participation goal this FY (ends 6/30)
  - Communications
    - 210 emails sent; 48% open rate (35% edu. industry avg.)
    - Simmons Network - 5.6K users, 719 new, 67% alums, 59% will help

- Volunteerism - 64 active reunion volunteers (representing 15 classes)
- Experiential/Events
  - May 31 - June 2: Jubilee Reunion (1947-1974): 100 in-person registered, 30 virtual (150 goal)
  - Oct. 5-6: AFFW including Reunion celebrations for '4s and '9s classes after 1974
- Fiscal Year '25 and Beyond
  - New affinity and individual giving model
    - Need to re-engage 2000s, 1990s and 1980s; capitalize on athletics energy; modeling the 4A's
    - Building professional networks aligned with the new academic vision (6 schools) & SIIL
    - The future of Simmons reunions past the 125th, reimagining regional clubs, legacies
- **Student Outreach Report (Courtney Bryant, '94, MBA '01)**
  - Candle Lighting Ceremonies
  - 50 Days to Graduation Event
    - Networking with peers, faculty and staff (Over 70 attendees)
    - Fundraising
    - Head Shots
    - Fun
- **Jubilee Classes Celebration Video**
  - Simmons Alumae/i spoke on their Simmons memories and the impact Simmons has had on their lives
- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Report (The Honorable Pamela Dashiell, '75)**
  - Co-sponsored the Welcome Reception at Family and Friends Weekend on October 13, 2023 with Organizacion Latinoamericana (OLA) celebrating Latinx/Hispanic Heritage Month
  - Made a financial donation to Simmons Hillel
  - Reached out to the Office of Culture Inclusion and Equity (OCIE) to discuss how the Committee might partner with OCIE and student organizations to produce, support or sponsor programs
  - Made a presentation at the Simmons Black Alumnae Tea Party on February 17, 2024 for Black History Month at the invitation of the African American Alumnae Association (AAAA) and the Black Students Association (BSO)

- Future projects include a program on Gender Studies on a date to be determined in October 2024, and further collaboration with other alumni associations, including the graduate schools for programming at the 125th celebration in 2025

- **Finance Report (Barbara Campbell Harvey, '75)**

- Treasurer's Report:
  - Our Vanguard Investment account (7.8% rate of return) has: \$130,869.51
  - Our TD Bank checking account (before the Awards checks) has a balance of: \$12,533.08
  - Our expenses include: Board Activities; funding for DEI expenses; Student Awards; 50 days to graduation, etc., Google Suites & Wix for our website; Bookkeeping services, etc.
  - Some changes this fiscal year include: Closing the SVB Private account and moving to TD Bank and the Loss of Liberty Mutual income stream
- Barbara's last report as Treasurer since 2015 and she turns the reins over to Fay Bean, '75, and Kaitlin Maloney, '19.

- **125th Anniversary Report (Enna Jimenez)**

- Enna invited all Alumnae/i to come back to campus for the 125th Anniversary Celebration
- Goals:
  - To bring 500 Simmons Alums back to campus for the 125th Reunion of all classes June 6-8, 2025
  - To raise \$500,000 for scholarships
  - Weekend packages from \$200-\$5,000
- Activity Highlights:
  - Sneaker Ball
  - Tea
  - Workshops and Panels
  - Friends and Fun
- Get Involved!
  - Bring mementos from your time at Simmons and share your stories
  - Be prepared to confirm your package when registration opens in September
  - Look for and respond to upcoming communications and planning

events

- **Awards Report (Morgan Ward, '16)**

- 2024 Highlights:
  - April 30, 2024: Priscilla McKee Award presented at the Simmons Service Awards to Professor Margaret Menzin
  - May 14, 2024: The Alumnae/i Honor Award presented to Nardos Alemu '24 and the Alumnae/i Achievement Award was presented to Chelsea Hau '24.
- Upcoming:
  - The “Alumnae/i Service Award” to be re-named in honor of Peggy Saslow '44 in remembrance of her commitment and service to the Simmons Alumnae/i Association and greater Simmons community, details will be announced soon.
  - All alumnae/i awards will be presented during the 2025 Reunion weekend! Check out the alumnae/i association website for descriptions of awards.

- **Conversation with President Lynn Perry Wooten**

- Kristin Heineman, Class of 1993, interviewed President Lynn Perry Wooten
- President Wooten discussed a recent Mellon Foundation meeting where the current status and the future of historically women's colleges was discussed
- The Academic Redesign was discussed including the curriculum with six areas of academic excellence and building side of the redesign
- President Wooten was asked about Major Challenges and Victories for Students and the University in the past year:
  - When Simmons Leads, the World is a Better Place
  - Class of 2024 started during the pandemic with that Geo-Political Climate
  - Civil Unrest and Simmons: Simmons Women elevate their voice in a dignified way while thinking about systems change, respect, and civility
  - Anticipating the impact of the upcoming November Elections
- President Wooten was asked what she would like to ask the Alumnae/i - She would like ideas for engagement as she has a goal of 25% engagement
- President Wooten closed with asking everyone to get ready for the Sneaker Ball and coming back to campus in 2025 and ended with a

moment of gratitude

- **New Slate of AAEB Officers (Elaine McCarthy, '76)**

- Elaine thanked Chris Conroy and Chris Pope-Campbell for helping out with recruitment
- Two open positions: Director of Communications/ Media, and Director of Operations.
- Elaine presented the below new slate of officers for 2024
  - Fay Bean - '75/Treasurer
  - Kaitlin Maloney - '19/Assistant Treasurer
  - Kelly O'Connell - '99/Director of Athletics
  - Priyal Goyal - '14/Vice President

- **Resolutions (Kaitlin Maloney, '19)**

- Operations
  - **Passed - 05-24-01** - AAEB approved the minutes from 2023 Annual Meeting
  - **Passed - 05-24-02** - AAEB adopted the 3 strategic goals for 2024-2026 as presented
- Volunteers/Nominations
  - **Passed - 05-24-03** - AAEB approved the inclusion of a Steering Committee of the Board composed of the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Director of Operations
  - **Passed - 05-24-04** - The AAEB accepted the 2024 slate of officers as presented
- Awards
  - **Passed - 05-24-05** - The AAEB renamed the Alumnae Service Award to The Peggy Saslow Service Award at Simmons University

- **Class of 2024 and AAEB Student Intern Video (Sophia Getz, '24)**

- AAEB Student Intern and Simmons recent graduate, Sophia Getz, discussed everything she accomplished with the AAEB in 2023-2024 including working on the spring newsletter, updates to the website, attending the 2024 Simmons Leadership Conference, working on the social media campaign for the Alumane/i Association's Instagram and TikTok, and putting together the video compilations for the annual meeting

- **Closing Remarks (Dr. Adunni Slackman Anderson, '73)**

- Adunni thanked the Alumnae/i for joining in the meeting and encouraged them to continue to be involved with the AAEB
- Adunni closed with a moment of inspiration quoting “The Mountain” by Laura Ding-Edwards and encouraging the Alumae/i to get loud and lift as we climb as we are Simmons University.

The meeting was closed by Karen Thomas.

**Recording of the meeting and these minutes can be found at:**

<https://www.simmonsalumassoc.org/2024-annual-meeting>