

Simmons AAEB 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes

Saturday, June 4 2022 12:30-2:30pm, virtually due to the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic

(AAEB- Alumnae/i Association Executive Board)

Welcome Remarks

Krissy Raposa, Director of Alumnae and Volunteering Engagement welcomed alumnae to the meeting along with going over some housekeeping items. The annual meeting is held on the second day of the reunion.

Opening Remarks (Lynne Devnew)

Lynne (AAEB Co-President, 2019-2022) welcomed alums to the meeting including sharing the agenda.

2021 Annual Meeting Approval

The business portion of the meeting began with setting a motion to accept the minutes from 2021 Annual meeting.

- Barbara Campbell Harvey (Treasurer 2019- current) set the motion to accept the meeting minutes from 2021 annual meeting
- Renata Bule (Director of Awards, 2019-2022) seconded the motion

A poll was initiated in the chat room asking attendees to “check AYE if they approve the minutes and NAY if they disapprove the minutes”

- 20 attendees outside of the Alumnae Association Board approved the meeting minutes from 2021 annual meeting.
- All present Alumnae Association Board members also approved the meeting minutes from 2021 annual meeting
- 1 abstention was received by an alum attendee.

The 2021 Alumnae Association Annual meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report (Barbara Campbell Harvey)

Below financial statement was presented to the attendees during the meeting for the period of May 2021-May 2022.

Account	May 2021	May 2022
Boston Private		
Checking Account	\$21,070.28	\$11,573.21
Savings Account		\$250.00
Vanguard		
	\$174,397.29	\$170,601.04
Total cash on hand	\$195,467.57	\$182,424.25

The major source of income for the Alumnae Association comes from alums purchasing an insurance policy from Liberty Mutual and periodic gains from Vanguard investments. Primary expenditures of this balance include awards to alums, grants to Simmons students and alums and other alum programming.

By-Laws Change (Lynne Devnew)

Lynne spoke about the change in by-laws being proposed by the AAEB to the alumnae community. Below changes were proposed:

- Adding the option to have co-presidents to serve the board instead of President and Vice-President
- Adding the option to have a Director of Operations instead of a Secretary who would not only help take minutes during the board meetings but also help expand the initiative of launching a repository that would help keep a record of documentation for AAEB business
- The by-laws were adjusted to make all the officer positions gender neutral
- The by-laws were adjusted to allow virtual meetings to continue the business of the association's activities

A motion was made to accept the by-laws:

- Barbara Campbell Harvey initiated the motion to accept the changes in by-laws as described above
- Bobbi Thompson seconded the motion

No questions were asked during the amendment of the by-laws.

A poll was initiated asking for folks to vote AYE/NAYE depending on their preference.

- All Alumnae Association Board members had previously accepted the changes in the by-laws
- 35 acceptances were received from the attendees
- 1 NAY was received from an attendee

The changes to the Alumnae Association By-Laws were approved as presented.

Alumnae/i Association Highlights of 2021-2022 (Presented by Co-President Theresa Brewer)

- AAEB Strategy Planning - The board was involved in a strategic planning exercise this year and as part of that exercise came up with a proposal to help guide them to plan programming over the next few years.
- ALANA Student Alumni Mentoring Program - This mentoring program was dormant during Covid and was resurrected this year. The Office of Student Life will work to pair ALANA (African Latino Asian and Native American) students with ALANA alums to help provide them with better support.
- Presentation by University Partners - AAEB met with a lot of representatives from the university this year including the President and various important partners from the university on a regular basis
- BlackLight Project - A project inspired by a Simmons alum in response to the letter sent out by the co-presidents after the George Floyd murder. This project would support black speakers to come to the campus on an annual basis. AAEB is working with the Black Student Organization (BSO) and seeking recommendations from black students on campus for artists
- Boston Marathon Alum Support - Alumnae Association supported an alum who reached out seeking support for her effort to run the Boston marathon.
- Alumnae/i Communications and Engagement - The association will continue to communicate with alums about our programming and initiatives through our social media channels as well as our new website - www.simmonsalumassoc.org
- Student engagement and support - The association will continue to communicate with students and work with students on programming initiatives
- REEF Center Support - The association made a donation to the REEF Center (Resiliency Efficacy and Empowerment through Foundation) support services this year in order to help kick-start the launch of this initiative on campus.
- Courageous Conversation on Racial Equity - We hosted an event with alums on courageous conversation about racial equity this year and brought in a couple speakers including a Simmons alum.
- Women's Leadership Conference - The board participated in the Women's Leadership Conference during the year
- Board of Trustees, Committees - The co-presidents continue to be participants in activities of the board of trustees and be involved with multiple Trustee committees

- Convocation, Commencement, Candle Lighting, Honorary Degree, Investiture - The AAEB continues to attend events during commencement and senior week to honor and celebrate the graduating class
- Monthly meetings with President Wooten - The co-presidents meet with President Lynn Perry Wooten on a monthly basis to discuss about issues and updates at Simmons
- Regular meetings with the Office of Advancement - The board and the co-presidents continue to meet with the members of Advancement Services to learn more about how to improve alumni engagement.

Discussion on Strategic Priorities for the Alumnae Association Executive Board

- Creating and cultivating pathways to increase alumnae/i engagement within the Simmons community
- Promoting, processing, and practicing commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion
- Celebrating and supporting alumnae/i success

Alumnae Association Executive Board Members Introductions

All the board members introduced themselves to the attendees of the meeting along with sharing something personal about them.

- Theresa Brewer '78 - Outgoing Co-President for AAEB
- Lynne Devnew '67 - Outgoing Co-President for AAEB
- Priyal Goyal '14 - Director of Operations
- Barbara Campbell Harvey '75 - Treasurer
- Maddie Gretzky '2016 - Director of Student Outreach
- Jasmine Clark '2015 - Director of Nominations and Volunteer Recruitment
- Gina Patterson '06 - Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Bobbi Thompson '77 - Director of Communications
- Renata Bule '15 - Director of Awards
- Kelly O'Connell '99 - Director of Alumnae/i Representation and Regional Programming

Introducing our new Co-Presidents (2022-2025)

- Bobbi Thompson '77
- Karen Young Thomas '77

The Alumnae/i Association Executive Board (AAEB) is excited to announce the election of Karen Young Thomas '77 and Bobbi Thompson '77 as the next Co-Presidents to lead the Alumnae/i Association of Simmons University.

Both Karen and Bobbi received their BA degrees in Communications from Simmons and have been actively involved in the Simmons community in many ways since their graduations. These include serving on the AAEB – Karen many years ago when her roles included Vice President of the Alumnae Association and Bobbi at two different times, formerly as Director of Career and Life Transitions and currently as Director of Communications, and both participating on the Simmons Leadership Council, (Bobbi chaired the Leadership Council twice). Karen received the Alumnae Association Achievement Award in 2000 and has also served as an adjunct professor, teaching a course in digital culture at the Gwen Ifill School of Communications.

They each led exciting careers outside of Simmons. Some of Karen's many roles have included founding and guiding the Marion P. Thomas Charter School in Newark, NJ and creating and producing The Essence Awards, an EMMY award-winning prime time television special. Bobbi's career included being VP of Motion Pictures for the William Morris Agency and multiple entrepreneurial roles in the arts world including Handmade by You/Crafting LA.

Please join us in welcoming Karen and Bobbi to their new role.

2022 Alumnae/i Association Awards

Renata Bule, Director of Awards presented the alumni awards during the meeting.

- **Priscilla McKee Award for Faculty & Staff Award was presented to Richard Voos '90 MS**
 - Established in 1988 by the Alumnae/i Association of Simmons University, the Priscilla McKee Award is presented annually to one member of the faculty or staff of the University in recognition of exceptional service to the Simmons community. Priscilla McKee, Vice President of Simmons College from 1979 to 1988, was noted for her intense dedication to the best interests of the College. Priscilla retired in 1988. In recognition of her 31 years of service to Simmons, the Alumnae/i Association Executive Board voted unanimously to make her an honorary member and established the Priscilla McKee Faculty/Staff Award for outstanding service to Simmons.

- **Alum Service Award was presented to Enna Jimenez '91 '06 E HT**
 - Established in 1964 by the Alumnae/i Association, the Alum Service Award recognizes a graduate who has demonstrated dedicated service to the Alumnae/i Association through leadership in class, club, and/or Alumnae/i Association programs and committees. This award seeks to honor a graduate who has served Simmons and the Alumnae/i Association with dedication through leadership, and who has exhibited an outstanding and ongoing commitment to the University and the Association. Criteria for recognition may include extensive work with clubs, class, the Association and/or students; fundraising, visibility created for Simmons University and longevity and dedication in leadership roles.

- **Community Service was presented to Kenyora L. Parham '10**
 - Established in 1999 by the Alumnae/i Association, the Community Service Award was created in support of the Simmons commitment to community service, and as a means of recognizing the long history of alum commitment to their communities and volunteer organizations. This award seeks to recognize a graduate who has made a significant volunteer contribution to the world around them, and who has undertaken unique and innovative approaches to solving community issues and bettering the world. The goal of the Community Service Award is to recognize an undergraduate alum who is actively engaged in voluntary service that benefits the local or regional community, a specific non-profit group, or the national or international community.

- **2022 Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Jane Frahm '59**
 - The Lifetime Achievement Award is a wonderful opportunity to recognize an undergraduate alum for outstanding achievements and to celebrate their commitment to the community and beyond. This award honors an undergraduate alum whose lifetime accomplishments have brought them to the top of their field of endeavor. The committee welcomes nominations that reflect the diversity of Simmons alum and their many avenues of achievement.

Closing Remarks (Lynne Devnew & Theresa Brewer)

Lynne and Theresa thanked everyone on the board and the alum community for working with them through the very tough times of COVID-19 pandemic. The university and the association went through a lot of changes during COVID-19 and their journey was filled with ups and downs. They thanked everyone for their support, care and love during their tenure as co-presidents.

The meeting was then adjourned.

A recording of the 2022 Annual meeting has been posted on Youtube and can be viewed at this link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rYszLEaI3TY>