



ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Date of Meeting: May 15, 2020

Reporter: Allan Wagaman, President, Alumni Association

Executive Summary:

The Alumni Council is wrapping up its efforts for FY2020 and planning is underway for FY2021. Historically, the spring and summer are the key event seasons for alumni, but the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has forced the Alumni Council and the Office of Alumni Relations to alter the plans for nearly all of the events that had been previously planned and scheduled.

The Spring Break-a-Sweat originally planned for April 18, 2020 at the Jamie L. Roberts Stadium was cancelled. This was to be the first instance of this event held at the new stadium; the planning that was done for this year has been preserved so that it can be used next year. Similarly, the Bay to Bay Service Days which were planned to occur throughout the month of April were also cancelled. The Alumni Council's chapter presidents had expended significant effort planning these service events; their planning was preserved and will be used at a later time. Even though these events were not able to proceed this year, they will be well-prepared for future resumption. Finally, Alumni Weekend 2020 was also cancelled. This impacts our reunion classes ending in "0" and "5;" these classes will be celebrated at the next Alumni Weekend.

To raise awareness of the efforts of our alumni community to address the COVID-19 pandemic, Alumni Relations has partnered with its integrated marketing colleagues to solicit stories from and about alumni going above and beyond to help their communities through the pandemic. These stories will be featured on the Alumni webpage and in our social media channels. Examples include Jayson Williams '03 and Matt Newcomer '05 of Maryland Strategic Consulting and Mayson-Dixon Properties & Development, who helped to deliver millions of units of personal protective equipment and other supplies to hospitals, senior living facilities, nursing homes and government facilities in the United States, and Catherine Teater Grube '06 of St. Inie's Coffee who created an initiative called St. Inie's Service Salute to provide coffee and beignets to first responders, medical professionals, and grocery store employees in St. Mary's County during the COVID-19 pandemic.

While the Alumni Council's in-person activities have been disrupted, we have strived to continue as many of our activities as possible that do not require personal contact. The Alumni Council's Recognition Committee has selected the recipients of the 2020 Alumni Association Awards; these award recipients would typically be recognized during a ceremony as part of Alumni Weekend and while there will not be a recognition ceremony this year, this year's recipients will be recognized at the next Alumni Association Awards ceremony. The winners are as follows:

Award	Winner
Outstanding Young Alumni	Justin Harty '13
Society of Distinguished Alumni	Ashani Weeraratna '91
Honorary Alumni	Scott Devine

In lieu of Alumni Weekend, the Alumni Council is working with Alumni Relations and all of Institutional Advancement to find unique and creative ways to utilize digital media, including the new Alumni Instagram account, to celebrate our alumni on June 13, 2020 and throughout the summer. Our chapter presidents continue to work through ideas so that they are prepared when events are able to resume.

This is my final report as the President of the St. Mary's College of Maryland Alumni Association. It has been an honor to hold this position serving St. Mary's College of Maryland, leading the Alumni Council and our chapter presidents, and representing our alumni community for the last four years. Alice Bonner '03 will be our next President. On behalf of the Alumni Council and the Alumni Association, thank you to the Board of Trustees and College administration for your support as the alumni continue to adjust our efforts to enhance the value and reputation of a St. Mary's College of Maryland education to this new environment.