

**MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP  
Limbirt Assembly Room, Cochran Hall  
Saturday, April 2, 2016**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

MUWAA President Amy Strickland Tate called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

**II. ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S WELCOME**

MUWAA President Amy Strickland Tate welcomed everyone to the annual meeting.

**III. UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

Dr. Jim Borsig, University President, presented a PowerPoint presentation with an update on the University. He highlighted the following noteworthy points regarding The W.

- Great Colleges to Work for Honor Roll
- Top 20: President's Higher Education Service Honor Roll
- No. 51: Washington Monthly's Top 100 Master Universities
- No. 18: US News & World Report Best Colleges (Southern Public Regional)
- Mississippi's "best value" – lower tuition, retention, students among top earners
- No. 10: Most affordable competitive colleges for online RN to BSN degrees
- 2016 Military Friendly School
  
- Annual total headcount: 3207 (up 8% since 2009)
- IHL best degree completion ratio (27.6/100 FTE's)
- 50% increase (573 to 860) in degrees conferred, 2010 – 2015
- 322% increase (90 to 380) in BSN's conferred 2010 – 2015
- 71% increase (168 to 287) in degrees conferred to African-American students
- 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year for Washington Monthly Top 100 Master's Universities & Great Colleges to Work for Honor Roll

Dr. Borsig also outlined the priorities at The W: Advancement Excellence; Regional Stewardship; 21<sup>st</sup> Century University; and Degree Completion (details are in a separate publication included in the Homecoming Registration package).

**IV. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Katy Canion Pacelli moved that we suspend with the reading of the minutes and approve as presented. Barbara Austin seconded. The motion carried.

## V. MUWAA PRESIDENT'S REPORT, OFFICERS' REPORTS, & COMMITTEE REPORTS

MUWAA President Amy Strickland Tate presented the MUWAA President's Report that highlighted the work of the Board of Directors for the 2015 – 2016 year. Her PowerPoint presentation highlighted the various chapter gatherings over the past year; events that the Alumni Association hosts (100<sup>th</sup> Night for the seniors and the new Faculty luncheon); recognition awards for Alumni and friends of the University; and grants for faculty members. She noted the Scholarship recipients that the Alumni Association awards: Legacy Scholarship – Dustin Bailey; Southern Grace Scholarship – Katherine Hendrick; and Culinary Arts Scholarship – Megan Davis. President Tate said she was extremely proud of the work of the Board members and various committees such as the Public Relations Committee in encouraging the 20% increase in active alumni membership during the “Back to Blue” campaign. She encouraged those present to continue encouraging other alumni to become active members of the Alumni Association and to give back to our alma mater.

The Nominations Committee, chaired by Immediate Past President, Jenny Katool, and the Elections Committee, chaired by Troy Lewis, conducted a successful nominations and elections process. Chairman Katool noted that Policies and Procedures for the nominations and elections process were approved by the Board at the July Board meeting. Rebecca Rogers, Class of 2001, was approved by the Board on April 1, 2016, to fill the unexpired term of Courtney Ballard Murtaugh, Class of 1978, who is assuming the position of President-Elect. Chairman Lewis presented the certified results of the recent election.

The Bylaws Committee, chaired by Brandy Burnette, undertook revisions to the Policies and Procedures and Bylaws of the MUWAA in order to better reflect the current nominations and elections process including the write-in candidate process. Other minor edits were made to correct titles of University personnel. Those changes were presented to Dr. Borsig for his approval as per the Affiliation Agreement. He provided his approval on March 22, 2016. The final revisions were approved by the MUWAA Board of Directors on April 1, 2016. These revisions will be presented to the full MUWAA membership for approval this year.

The Recruitment and Retention Committee was chaired by Katherine Shell Benson this past year. The Faculty Awards and Grants for 2016 were awarded as follows: New Faculty Award Winner – Mr. Lee Crouse and Faculty Enhancement Grant Winner – Mr. Valentin Bogdan. The Alumni Award winners are: Doris A. Taylor '76 – Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award; Chris Jenkins, Friend of the University – Distinguished Achievement Award; Elysa Harvey MacLellan '88 – Alumni Service Award; and Joey Barnes '05 – Outstanding Recent Graduate Award. Alumni were encouraged to attend the reception honoring the Alumni Award Winners immediately following Convocation in Rent Atrium of Whitfield Hall. The R&R Committee selected current faculty and staff members of the University to chair the Faculty Scholarship Committee that will choose

faculty recipients in May who will be announced in August. The R&R Committee also hosted the New Faculty Luncheon and the 100<sup>th</sup> Night ceremony for graduating seniors.

The Chapters and Constituencies Committee, chaired by Katy Canon Pacelli, conducted a comprehensive membership drive, “Back to Blue”. It was very successful as there was a 20% increase in dues paying members for the MUWAA. The number of alumni active for 2016 is 1,681. She emphasized that more than 200 alumni made a first-time donation and an additional 203 alumni gave for the first time in the past five (5) years. The PR Committee has circulated a press release publicizing these wonderful increases. Chairman Pacelli also reported that the MUWAA Board approved a change to the Chapter Guidelines to read: “All officers should be active members of the MUW Alumni Association and will be elected by a majority vote of membership at an annual meeting.”

The Special Events Committee, chaired by Kristie Hipp Mosley, coordinated a very successful Long Blue Line online and silent auction to benefit the Legacy Scholarship. This year saw a record number of donated items for the auction – 197. As of the most current count, \$9,817.00 had been raised through the auctions. Chairman Mosley reported that there are still a few items that the moneys have not yet been collected.

The Finance Committee, chaired by Malinda Mabry-Scott, Treasurer of the MUWAA, continues to work on the long-term endowed funding for the Legacy Scholarship. The committee moved \$3,000.00 from the Southern Grace Fund to the Culinary Arts Scholarship. The committee combined the Legacy Scholarship Fund and the Faculty Awards Fund to simplify bookkeeping for the Foundation. The committee presented the proposed budget for the 2016 – 2017 year that was approved by the MUWAA Board on April 1, 2016.

The Public Relations Committee, chaired by Elizabeth Whittington, reported that her committee has done eight (8) press releases this year and plans to issue three (3) following Homecoming. The committee continues to use new media sources such as Facebook and Twitter to engage with alumni and others. The committee has introduced new Board members via Facebook profiles and has purchased advertising in The Spectator for Graduation (welcoming graduates to the Long Blue Line and encouraging membership in the Alumni Association); 100<sup>th</sup> Night (honoring seniors); Welty Weekend (welcoming alumni to Welty weekend); and Homecoming (encouraging membership in the MUWAA). The committee has worked to promote the Back to Blue campaign as well as the Long Blue Line Silent Auction. The committee recently released a new quarterly email newsletter.

The Past Presidents Committee was chaired by Sherrie Jackson Cooper. She was unable to attend Homecoming due to a death in the family. Dr. Borsig hosted a breakfast earlier this morning at the President’s Home for past Presidents of the MUWAA and past Chairs of the MUW Foundation.

The Southern Grace Committee, chaired by Courtney Ballard Murtaugh, recommended to the MUWAA Board that the current inventory of approximately 1400 cookbooks be

reduced by giving them as gifts to graduates that walk and turn in their caps and gowns and also give them as gifts from the MUWAA Board to new faculty; Welty speakers; Graduation speakers; and other visiting VIP's. The MUWAA Board approved these recommendations.

#### VI. RECOGNITION OF 2015-2016 MUWAA OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President Tate recognized and thanked all the outgoing Board members for their dedicated service and hard work on behalf of their alma mater. Those members are Barbara Austin; Jenny Katool; Wanda Ray; Elizabeth Whittington; Troy Lewis; and Donna Marrero, who was not able to attend.

#### VII. INSTALLATION OF 2016-2017 MUWAA OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

MUWAA President Amy Strickland Tate presented and installed the slate of officers and directors who were elected to serve.

MUWAA Board of Directors to Serve the 2016-2019 Term:

Carolyn Wilson Byrd, Class of 1976, Mobile, AL  
Melissa Hays Gilmore, Class of 1982, Columbus, MS  
Kristie Lynn Metcalfe, Class of 2004, Jackson, MS  
Pam Towery Rhea, Class of 1992, Columbus, MS  
Heather Fasciocco Stone, Class of 2002, Longmont, CO

MUWAA Board of Director Filling an Unexpired Term of 2016-2018:

Rebecca Rogers, Class of 2001, Memphis, TN

Board of Directors Officers Elected to Serve the 2016-2017 Term:

Sue Simmons Freeman, Class of 1980, Gallman, MS, Secretary  
Erica W. Woodard, Class of 1991, Memphis, TN, Treasurer

President-Elect for the 2016-2017 Term:

Courtney Ballard Murtaugh, Class of 1978, Barrington, IL

President for the 2016-2017 Term:

Deborah Stockman Hodges, Class of 1990, Lucedale, MS

#### VIII. OPEN FORUM

There were no comments.

## IX. PASSING OF THE GAVEL AND INCOMING PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

MUWAA President Amy Strickland Tate asked Deborah Stockman Hodges to come forward. President Tate passed the gavel to her. President Hodges then presented President Tate with a Past President's Pin.

President Hodges presented her Plan of Action for 2016-2017. Her main focuses will be as follow.

- Increase membership in the Alumni Association by working with Alumni Chapters; identifying Constituency Groups and develop ways for them to connect with The W; and increase attendance at Homecoming and other University events by reaching out to various groups.
- Continue to identify and refer students to MUW.
- Continue to fund the MUWAA scholarships and awards, and at the same time develop a long range plan to endow the awards.
- Execute an effective financial plan including budgeting and income.
- Develop strategic goals for the Alumni Association in support of the University's recently announced initiative.
- Continue to be responsive to the requests of Mississippi University for Women.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

Sue Simmons Freeman, Secretary