

MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Spring Annual Meeting
Hybrid Meeting: In-Person at Poindexter Auditorium
and Zoom Call, 4:30 pm CST
Friday, April 5th

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

President Heather Stone called the Mississippi University for Women Alumni Association (MUWAA) annual meeting to order at 4:37 pm

II. Association President's welcome

President Stone thanked all for coming and for their spirited support of MUWAA and The W over the past year. Everyone's passion and love for our alma mater has been critical in sharing The W story. She encouraged all to leave the meeting inspired by the MUWAA volunteer efforts to get more involved in the MUWAA. President Stone shared the mission of the MUWAA as presented in our governing documents.

III. President's Welcome

President Nora Miller welcomed all in attendance and mentioned that she would try to get through all of her exciting updates quickly so everyone could get to the Magnolia Mingle event sooner. She briefed the Association on the university's current student enrollment number is 2,973, and our student to faculty ratio is 10:1.

MUW produces more baccalaureate nurses than any other institution in the state of Mississippi, and 77% of our graduates remain in the state of Mississippi for at least three years after they graduate. Our Nursing program still remains the top in the state, and MUW's Speech Language Pathology program had a 100% pass rate on the Praxis exam.

MUW is vital for Lowndes county, and several letters of support from community members and community leaders were sent to the Mississippi state legislature. MUW continues to give back to the community through service projects such as the Plymouth Bluff day camp, the 35th Welty lecture series, and MUW students, faculty, and staff have provided over 140,000 community service hours throughout Lowndes county.

The W has the highest number of degrees for every 100 students (33.9 for every 100 students), which exceeds the IHL average of 23.9. There were a total of 869 graduates in the year 2023, and our 8 year graduation rate is 64%, which is much higher than the IHL average.

She discussed the campus master plan, including improving HVAC and energy management systems in residence halls, and submitting grant proposals on building renovations. She announced that Jones Hall will receive a 7.5 million dollar interior renovation and should be completed by 2025.

At the time of this meeting, enrollment for the 2024-2025 academic year is 50% higher for traditional incoming freshmen and 14% higher for junior transfer students than at this time last year.

IV. Reading and Approval of the Minutes.

Annie Oeth made the motion to skip the minutes review, motion carried.

V. Recognition of 2023-2024 MUWA Officers and Board Members

President Stone addressed and recognized and thanked the current Board officers, members, and chairmen.

VI. MUWAA Annual Reports

- Parliamentarian

Board Parliamentarian, Wesley Garrett, had nothing to report.

- Secretary

Board Secretary, Bayleigh Vick, had nothing to report.

- Treasurer

Anne Swearingen, Board Treasurer, gave the following report:

- A total of 8 check requests were approved for payment:

Fund Number & Name	Date	Description	Amount
28238 - Magnolia Mingle Fund	2/7	MM cups and koozies; reimbursement to Bayleigh Vick	\$653.29
28224 - LBL Undergraduate Research Scholarship	2/9	Undergraduate Research Scholarship	147.92
26062 - Activities Fund	2/13	MUWAA President's Pin	633.04

26108 – LBL Auction Fund	2/13	MUWAA Budget Transfers • 28107 – Mortar Board - \$1000.00 • 28208 – Faculty Enhancement Grant - \$1000.00 • 28109 – New Faculty of the Year Award - \$1000.00 • 28224 – LBL Undergraduate Research Fund (restricted) - \$1,000 • 28253 – MUWAA First Generation College Student Scholarship (restricted) - \$1000.00	5000.00
MUW Foundation Shattuck Fund	2/13	26108 - LBL Auction Fund - \$10,000.00 28238 - Magnolia Mingle - \$10,000.00	20000.00
28119 – BLUE Event Expenses	2/13	Sodexo, Inc. – MUW Catering	1476.00
28238 - Magnolia Mingle Fund	2/21	Community Brands - GiveSmart	2562.65
26108 – LBL Auction Fund	2/23	Reimbursements to Katy Pacelli FedEx - \$63.54 Thank Cards - \$62.50 Postage - \$76.50	202.54
TOTAL			\$30,675.44

- Endowed Accounts:

Account Name (Account Number)	Balance
Culinary Arts Advisory Board Scholarship (35287)	\$28,194.03
Southern Grace Scholarship (36062)	\$54,513.75
MUWAA Faculty Enhancement Grants (36109)	\$29,169.00
MUWAA Mortar Board Faculty of the Year Award (36110)	\$27,325.28

MUWAA New Faculty of the Year Award (36111)	\$29,248.82
MUW Legacy Scholarship Endowed (38051)	\$73,831.39
LBL Undergraduate Research Scholarship Endowment (38116)	\$25,005.34
<i>Total MUWAA Endowed Funds held at MUW Foundation:</i>	\$229,665.25

VII. Standing Committee Reports

Nominations/Elections

Chair: Symone Bounds

Symone Bounds gave the following report:

Symone thanked her committee for all of their hard work during the nominations/elections cycle, especially their willingness to adapt and regroup after pushing back the deadline, and she thanked all for nominating so many great alumni this year.

A total of 39 alumni were nominated, a few people were nominated multiple times. There was also an increase of voting participation throughout the Association- a total of 161 votes this year!

Bylaws

Chair: Terry Gargano Coffey

Terry Coffey gave the following report:

Terry discussed the importance of our Bylaws and policies and procedures. She stated that any changes, additions, deletions to the bylaws must be voted on by the Association, policies and procedures explain how those laws are carried out. The Board votes on updates to the policies and procedures document.

This committee addressed one Bylaws item this year, and three items in policies and procedures. This includes the P&P references to time frames. All “yearly” and “annual” mentions will now refer to the fiscal year, July 1-June 30.

This committee also added the MUWAA First Generation College Student Scholarship and the Undergraduate Research Scholarship into the P&P document.

Recruitment & Retention

Chair: Ashley Dean

Ashley Dean gave the following report:

This committee successfully piloted moving their nominations window up a month from November to October for Alumni Awards, and had over 50 nominations this year! This change was voted on at the previous MUWAA Board of Directors meeting to be added to the Policies and Procedures.

They explored changing the name of the committee, but decided to not move forward with any changes with the implementation of the Alumni Recruitment team.

This committee also facilitated the notification process of the Faculty Member of the Year award and The Faculty Enhancement Grant. They also worked with Cathryn Borer to select the MUWAA Student Scholarship selection committee, and added the MUWAA scholarship applications online to make filling the applications out easier for students.

Chapters & Constituency Groups

Chair: Cynthia Kittrell, President Stone gave the report in her absence.

Cynthia Kittrell gave the following report:

This committee worked hard to connect with the contacts of our 40+ chapters and constituency groups. The new Texas chapter had their first interest meeting in February, and will continue on as an informal chapter. Two constituency groups have formed from the School of Education and the Math and Science- both have meet and greets during Homecoming.

President Stone also mentioned that a few chapters have become active again after the Pandemic, including DFW, Mississippi Delta, Starkville-area, and Little Rock.

Special Events

Chair: Bayleigh Herron Vick

Bayleigh gave the following report:

Bayleigh thanked everyone for their support for LBLA last year! We raised over 30k for scholarships and the MUWAA pledge for the Shattuck renovation. The GiveSmart platform has been great with MM and LBLA. She announced that if anyone brought LBLA Auction items, they can deliver them to the Alumni and Development office this weekend.

She shouted out the entire committee for being rock stars with MM planning and set up, thanked everyone for their support, and encouraged all to head to the event directly after the meeting at Shattuck Lawn.

Finance

Chair: Anne Swearingen

- There was no additional report from the previous Treasurer's report at the beginning of the meeting.

Public Relations
Chair: Annie Oeth

Annie gave the following report:

This committee has written news releases for MUW's 2024 Magnolia Mingle, MUWAA award winners, faculty award recipients, MUWAA student scholars, Homecoming, BLUE and the election of the newest MUWAA President Elect and Board of Directors.

This committee has collaborated with the DMC and the *Spectator* to support the campus newsource through advertising.

Past Presidents
Chair: Katherine Shell Benson

President Stone gave the following report in her absence:

This committee reconnected as a group during Welty weekend, sponsored the MUWAA Long Blue Line Auction, and led the Homecoming ribbon restock. President Stone thanked the committee for all their support of MUW.

VII. Special Committee Reports

Membership Recruitment
Chair: Monique Jenkins

President Stone gave the following report in her absence:

The "Why do you 'W'" campaign will kick off Monday, April 8th, right after Homecoming. This committee also participates in all three commencements throughout the year, purchasing, preparing, and presenting the welcome gifts to the newest members of the Long Blue Line.

This committee partnered with the Rec Center for the Homecoming event, Alumni vs Student Kickball game earlier today.

Mentoring
Chair: Andrea Fulgham Germany

President Stone gave the following report in her absence:

This committee sponsored Spring Fling on Thursday for juniors and seniors to take professional headshots and resume tips. This committee leads the annual BLUE professional development

session, where the Executive VP at St. Jude and an alumni panel talked with students. Both events were successful!

Strategy & Support

Chair: Jermarra Jones-Price

Jermarra Jones-Price gave the following report:

This committee sent out the end of year board survey to last year's board members and committee chairs, which was successful!

This committee also began the conversation about Beta testing a Homecoming app. They partnered with the PR committee to fine tune MUWAA committee external one-sheeters that will be sent out later this year to promote more clarification on what each committee does, and an internal one-sheet for committee chairs to pass down to future chairs.

This committee also created buttons for all the MUWAA Board to wear with a QR code that directs to the interest survey. JJ highlighted her committee and thanked them for their service to the Strategy and Support committee.

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Chair: John Jacob Miller

President Stone delivered the following report in his absence:

DEI speaker series will kick off in the spring! This program is open to both students and alumni who are interested in professional development while keeping DEI at the forefront.

Digital Marketing

Chair: Bridget Smith Ellis

Bridget Smith Ellis gave the following report:

DMC focused on crafting organic content while sharing the "W" story on social media. This committee partnered with MUWAA committees to promote alumni events such as BLUE, Magnolia Mingle, Nominations and Elections, among others.

They also worked hard on campaigns to promote content for alumni spotlights, campaigns for Black History Month, Women's History Month, Founder's Day, Charter Day, "Refer a Student" Day in collaboration with the office of Career Services, and general Association news.

Social media numbers are up! Bridget encouraged all to follow, like, and comment on the MUW Alumni Association social media channels, including the MUWAA page, BLUE, Magnolia Mingle, and Long Blue Line Auction accounts

- VIII. Presidential Commendations
- IX. Recognition of 2024 Alumni Award Winners

2024 MUWAA Award Recipients:

- Alumni Achievement Award: Elizabeth Yoste Whittington, '00
- Alumni Service Award: Katy Canion Pacelli, '00
- Distinguished Achievement Award: Wahnee Sherman
- Outstanding Recent Graduate Award: Captain Taylor Vick, USAF, '16

Student Scholarships

- Katelyn Francisco: Legacy Scholarship
- Laura MacLellan: Southern Grace
- Alisa Smith: Office of Undergraduate Research
- Ayoowula Ilesanmi: Office of Undergraduate Research

Faculty Awards

- Dr. Travis Hagey: 2024 Faculty Enhancement Grant
- Dr. Cecilia Brooks: 2024 New Faculty Award

X. Recognition of departing members

- Symone Bounds, Pearl, MS, '12
- Ashley Dean, Lebanon, TN, '06
- Bridget Smith Ellis, Arlington, TN, '04
- M. Clare Haefner, Round Rock, TN, '03
- Michelle R. Wescovich, Diamondhead, MS, '07
- Nicolas T. Wright, Baltimore, MD, '14

XI. Installation of 2024-2025 MUWA Officers and Board Members

MUWAA Board of Directors to Serve the 2024-2027 Term:

- Jonathan Cumberland, Tuscaloosa, AL, '09
- Anne White Foster, Dallas, TX, '71
- M. Clare Haefner, Round Rock, TX, '03
- Dana Jackson, Chattanooga, TN, '93
- Elysa Harvey MacLellan, Pascagoula, MS, '88

President-Elect for the 2024-2025 Term:

- Ashley Dean, Lebanon, TN, '06

President for the 2024-2025 Term:

- Jermarra Jones-Price, Southaven, MS, '08

XII. Open Forum

Kristi Mosley, class of 1999, asked about when the governing documents would reflect fiscal vs calendar year in Section E of the Bylaws.

President Stone stated that the Bylaws committee is currently reviewing the verbiage and is expecting that the verbiage in the governing documents will be completed by the end of her term.

XII. Passing of Gavel and Incoming President's Remarks

President Stone passed the gavel to newly elected MUWAA President Jermarra Jones-Price. In return, Incoming President Jermarra Jones-Price presented Past-President Heather Stone with a branded MUW lapel Pin.

Incoming President Jermarra Jones-Price expressed gratitude to President Stone for her dedication during her term, and addressed members of the Association. She extended a warm welcome to Homecoming festivities and encouraged all attendees to fully engage in the weekend's activities.

XIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:59 pm CST.