

## Annual Meeting Minutes

The annual meeting of the Pioneer Valley Wellesley Club was held via Zoom on June 14, 2020. Sixteen members were in attendance.

### Club business and activities

#### Postponed activities that will be held next year

- Faculty lecture

- Three siblings event on food insecurity in the valley

- Summer picnic

#### New officers. Welcome and thanks in advance to

- Helen Clement, treasurer

- Bea O'Shea, website administrator

Rachel Wang served marvelously as treasurer and then as co-treasurer. She initiated sensible procedural improvements and solidified our relationships with college personnel whose cooperation makes our lives easier. Thank you Rachel.

Lindsay Sabadosa had run our website out of the goodness of her heart along with everything else she's doing for the club, the college, and the Massachusetts 1<sup>st</sup> Hampshire District. Thank you so much Lindsay.

#### Treasurers report

Beginning balance (checking and savings): \$4152.41; ending balance (checking and savings): \$5428.11. We donated \$680 to the college on behalf of our members.

#### Reach-out activities since lock-down

Phone calls to older alums were organized by Helen and completed by 8 members and one current undergraduatae

- Letters and gifts to our two seniors

- Beth wrote a congratulatory note to each of them. Lee sent a letter on behalf of the club with congratulations and gifts:

  - A complimentary one-year membership in our club

  - An invitation to the launch lunch to meet the first years


  - A \$25 Visa gift card.

We have 10 local rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors. If anyone would like to write to one or more of them, contact Lee.

Martha Hanner presented our first popup after the lock-down, a history of her involvement with the Jupiter space program. It was a terrific program. Thank you, Martha (and thank you, Rachel, who organized it).

## **New Business**

1. A program of pop-ups. Recognizing that interacting remotely will likely be the norm for some time, and energized by the great response to Martha Hanner's Zoom-based pop-up, the officers decided to encourage members to propose and present more pop-ups. You may use [https://alum.wellesley.edu/cf\\_forms/view.cfm?formID=157](https://alum.wellesley.edu/cf_forms/view.cfm?formID=157) to propose a pop-up. Gigi Barnhill, Margot Cleary, and Rachel Wang are the ad hoc group who will support this effort.

Upcoming pop-up is a conversation on structural racism, facilitated by Alicia Lopez, Lee Sproull, and other officers, June 19, 1-3 pm. Register here  for that pop-up.

Nina Scott will lead a pop-up on the transatlantic pineapple that will be scheduled in the fall.

Gigi Barnhill will inquire if Julie Matthaei, our faculty speaker for 2020, might be interested in giving her lecture via Zoom rather than wait until next spring when, presumably, we can convene in person.

2. Members present voted unanimously to eliminate launch boxes for graduating seniors and instead send each of them a \$25 gift certificate and congratulatory letter.

3. Members present voted unanimously to implement the same dues rate this upcoming year that we've used for the past several years. \$25 for most members. A lower rate for certain groups like young alums, parents of current students.

4. When you receive your annual dues solicitation, if you also donate to the college, you will be able to split your gift, with some going to the Students' Aid Society and some going to the Annual Fund as an unrestricted gift.

5. Lee Sproull gave a brief report on the state of the club. The club had its best year since its reemergence in 2013 from a fallow period. To gauge how we're doing, we track two numbers, members who pay dues and attendance at events., plus all unsolicited compliments and complaints.

45 dues paying members this year. 18% increase over previous year

176 people have attended our events to date. We've already outpaced last year's total attendance figures and that's even though we had to cancel three of our signature events.

Lee noted that our popup program may be a terrific way for the club to come through these terrible times stronger than ever.

## **Brief report on the state of college Admissions Report on class of 2024**

Lindsay Sabadosa reported that the college had a 19% acceptance rate for the class of 2024. Admitted students hail from 1,023 high schools in 49 states plus the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico, as well as 50 countries outside the United States.

Fifty-seven percent are domestic students of color, identifying as African-American, Asian-American, Latina or Hispanic, Native American, or multiracial. Nineteen percent will be the first generation in their families to attend a four-year college. Twelve percent are international citizens. Their average SAT score is 1445, and their average ACT score is 32. This description is based on admissions numbers; the college has not yet posted enrollment numbers.

Locally, from our region, 22 high school seniors applied; 9 have accepted admissions offers and will be enrolling in the fall.

### **News since mid-March**

- College was closed on March 16; remote classes began March 30

- Class of 2020 had a remote graduation celebration on May 31

- Detailed plans for reopening will be announced by July 1

  - Probably two sessions ending before Thanksgiving

  - Students may have a mix of remote and on-campus instruction

  - College Finances saw an immediate loss of \$5-\$6 million as a result of the lockdown, from tuition refunds, starting up remote learning, and cancelling summer programs. That negative impact is likely to grow as the need for student aid is likely to increase, the endowment is likely to decline, and philanthropy is likely to decrease.

### **News announcement related to both college and club**

Darby Dyar, '80, is a recipient of this year's Alumnae Achievement Award, the college's highest award for alumnae who have brought honor to themselves and to the College. Darby is a hugely-accomplished planetary geologist, whose primary academic home is Mt Holyoke College. Darby was an astronomy and art-history major at Wellesley and is a member of our club. You may remember seeing her at two different club events: a star gazing night at the Smith planetarium, and at our three sibs event last year on the topic of girls and women in science. Congratulations to Darby.

Thanks to all officers and to all who attended the meeting. Please stay in touch.