



Viterbo University Alumni Association

**Monday, April 14, 2014, 5:30–7:30 p.m.
Reinhart Center Boardroom**

Members Present: Heather Ladwig, Kathy Duerwachter, Patrick Gibbons, Karen Kouba, Julie Bartels, Margaret Hammell, Joelle Kaufman, Paula Skoy, Ed Smudde, Derek Burnstad, Sandra Hooser, Rita Modjeski

Alumni Emeritus Members and Guests Present: Carolyn Hogan, Sr. Rochelle Potaracke, President Artman, Gary Klein–VP Institutional Advancement, Denise Lorenz–Community Engagement Coordinator, Pat Kerrigan–VP Communications & Marketing, Maureen Monk, SFSN Alumnae Chapter Board President, Shawn Keenan, Institutional Advancement – Annual Fund Gift Officer. Potential alumni board members: Laura Deering, Juan Jimenez and Leah Misch.

I. Call to Order by Heather Ladwig: 5:35 p.m.

II. Prayer by Rita Modjeski: 5:35 p.m.

III. Welcome and University Update by President Artman: 5:40 p.m.

A. President Artman thanked alumni board members whose terms are ending: Heather Ladwig, Paula Skoy, Rita Modjeski, Nick Johnson, Frank Abnet and Lisa Skemp. He presented those in attendance with the book purchased in their name for the campus library.

B. International Conference on Student Leadership: 17 people will travel to Dublin in late June, including 5 alumni. In addition to the conference, the trip includes a 5-day servant leadership course. Board members are encouraged to consider partnering with other programs within the university for travel programs.

C. Board members will be invited to dinner with Board of Trustees following their May 19 board meeting. A formal invitation will be sent in the next couple of weeks. The dinner will take place in the FAC lobby, no formal program, just an opportunity to meet 15-18 trustees and their spouses. More information to come.

D. Recognition for Viterbo:

a) Mayor Kabat recognized Viterbo University for their neighborhood revitalization efforts.

b) Viterbo was ranked 3rd in the nation and 2nd in the state for graduate starting salaries.

E. Retiring this year from Viterbo: Bonnie Nesbitt–Nursing, 40 years of service; Lyon Evans, English; Ed Wenzel–Education; Jim Bagniewski–Education.

F. Regarding the fall semester, we are 11% ahead of last year for deposits by incoming freshmen.



G. Thanks to Heather Ladwig and Dahl Ford for bringing Leadercast 2014 to La Crosse. Alumni can get Viterbo's discount when registering.

IV. San Damiano Chapel will be renovated this summer. Phase 3 of Dahl School of Business will also be underway.

V. Tonight is the 18th annual Volunteer Recognition Night event, honoring high school students who have demonstrated volunteer service in their community/school. Over 150 people will attend, including 6 students from each high school. Viterbo University's Volunteer President's Award goes to Elizabeth Eckert, who is tonight's speaker.

VI. 125th Anniversary Celebration – Pat Kerrigan

A. Pat showed us the website and distributed the 2014-15 events calendar. Kickoff date is August 19 with a showing of the 125th anniversary video and a university picnic. Students and faculty will record service hours with the goal of achieving 125,000 hours for the academic year and alumni are highly encouraged to participate in recording service hours with students. The university would like to announce the number of hours at graduation. Also, alumni are encouraged to share their Viterbo memories. Banners will be placed around the city. They are open to any other ideas, just run them through Kathy.

VII. Internships - Denise Lorenz – Community Engagement Coordinator

A. Denise's responsibilities include internships, service learning, and volunteering. She is the liaison between community agencies and Viterbo students and faculty, tracking and reporting student service in the community.

B. Viterbo received a \$135,000 grant from Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corporation and will apply for another. The grant covers students of junior and senior eligibility who are enrolled in the internship online course and who meet financial eligibility requirements.

C. Last fall 21 of 39 interns were unpaid. Currently 55 interns and 39 are unpaid. Pay is \$8/hour, 20 hours/week. State average is \$10/hour. Contact Denise for more information regarding internships at dmlorenz@viterbo.edu

VIII. Approve Minutes from February Meeting: Rita motioned to approve and Patrick Gibbons seconded the motion.

IX. Alumni Board Updates

A. Heather Ladwig: Thanks to board members for donations enabling us to award a fourth alumni children's scholarship. The committee reviewed candidates for distinguished



alumni awards and that information will be shared soon. Carolyn Hogan, emeritus alumni board member, is receiving the Service to the University Award.

B. Karen Kouba: Update on March speed mock interviewing event.

C. Heather: Thank you for alumni board participation in Homecoming events. A thank you note from the athletic department was read to the board and the athletics department for our board participation in the Wall of Fame Ceremony. Homecoming and our February meeting will be scheduled for the same time for next year.

D. Kathy: Countdown to Commencement – over 200 grads, or 54%, participated. The highest percentage of participation in the past 3.5 years.

E. Sandra Hoerer: Follow up on team chaplain discussion from our last meeting. Sandra and Kathy have been meeting with Viterbo women's softball team. They coordinated and attended a March 28 dinner at alumni board members', Katie Rowan-Koenen & Scott Koenen's home. They've also attended some of the games and practices and are enjoying supporting the team. They wish to learn and develop more the chaplain position.

F. Frank Perez-Guerra: MBA Alumni Update: Frank was unable to attend, and Kathy filled in for him. In January the chapter served at the Place of Grace. This month they will participate in Neighbors Day. This summer they hope to have a social for graduates who come out of the MBA program to welcome them into the alumni chapter.

G. Maureen Monk: St. Francis School of Nursing scholarship fund is ongoing; it's at about \$35,000. The next annual luncheon meeting is the first Wednesday in August, and Viterbo is hosting.

H. Heather: President-elect and secretary positions are both open. Cari Loomis accepted a nursing position in Minneapolis and has relocated to the twin cities in April. We have candidates for both, but if anyone else is interested let Kathy know by April 30. There is also executive committee at large positions available, please notify Kathy. A Survey Monkey poll will be sent in May to vote on those candidates as well as the new board members.

1. Thanks to all board members, special thanks to Kathy for her extra efforts.
2. Congratulations to board member Margaret Hammell on her retirement from Trane.

Upcoming Events:

Quick Stop Station/Commencement – Need 4 volunteers
Saturday, May 10, La Crosse Center

Next Board Meeting
August 2014

Meeting Adjourned 7 p.m., followed by a social