

**Northwestern Foundation & Alumni Association**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**Thursday, September 20, 2016 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Welcome**

Dr. Megan Darrow, chair of the Executive Committee, welcomed guests to the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Northwestern Foundation & Alumni Association.

**Approval of the 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes**

Darrow asked for approval of the 2015 Annual Meeting minutes. A motion to approve was made by Dick Caruthers and seconded by Sheila Ferrell. The motion passed.

**Chief Executive Officer's Report**

Skeeter Bird reviewed the total funds raised over the last 10 years, noting that 2016 proved to be the best fundraising year to date, with more than \$5.6 million raised. As oil and gas revenue decreased, Bird said attention moved to donors who were not significantly tied to those markets, as well as wheat and cattle markets.

Also in 2016, a record number of donors – 1,445 – invested in our students and Northwestern. Endowments increased by 25. Bird said that Northwestern has the most endowed chairs – 43 – of the universities in the Regional University System of Oklahoma. He added that 1,205 – or six out of 10 – Northwestern students received scholarships during the 2015-16 academic year, putting the Foundation and Northwestern closer to their goal of seven out of 10 students receiving scholarships. The total value of endowed scholarships is \$11,692,349.76, and Bird acknowledged the great work done by the Investment Committee in keeping our endowments strong.

**Capital Campaign Progress.** Bird reviewed the goals of the Capital Campaign, reminding the attendees that Northwestern is still in the quiet phase of the campaign. Bird noted the goal of “co-creating a corporate culture that emphasizes University-wide fundraising” is working well, as faculty, staff and the Foundation and Alumni Association are partnering to raise funds. Each week, leadership from both the University and the Foundation and Alumni Association continue to meet to discuss fundraising opportunities and issues. Also, the Capital Campaign Steering Committee – comprised of community members, University leadership and Foundation and Alumni Association representatives – meets monthly. The result, Bird believes, is that more than \$21 million in actual dollars, pledges and planned gift has been raised.

“I do know that anything is possible when you are surrounded by amazing people focused on a common goal – our students.”

Looking ahead, the key events for the Capital Campaign include:

- Determine Goal for Campaign – no later than March 2017
- Launch Public Phase – Spring Alumni Reunion weekend, April 2017
- Launch Capital Campaign Video and Website – no later than April 2017
- Homecoming, with the theme “Come Back and Give Back” – Fall 2017

### **Student Presentation**

Thomas Sander, a senior biology major from Seiling, Oklahoma, told the audience that when shadowing a doctor in Okeene – who was a Northwestern graduate – he realized that “every Ranger is family”. Sander was a member of the President’s Leadership Class (PLC) in 2013, and reflected that President Janet and Rick Cunningham, as well as Northwestern donors, invested in him and his PLC colleagues before any of them really knew what the PLC members were capable of.

Sander believes Northwestern students are blessed with the faculty at the university; “they are not professors, they are drill sergeants. They are going to have you ready for what you want to do in the future.” Sander plans to begin Physician Assistant studies after graduation, and concluded his remarks by thanking the donors for believing in the class of 2017.

### **Investment Committee Report**

Steve Bahm, financial consultant with 6 Meridian (formerly with Morgan Stanley), provided a breakdown of the financial portfolio. The total investment managed by Bahm and 6 Meridian is \$21,458,652. With the addition of cash (\$211,800) and real estate (\$2,588,156), the total portfolio is \$24,258,608. Bahm reported the investments had a 6 percent return for the trailing 12 months.

Bahm said the Investment Committee had met earlier in the day and unanimously approved continuing the services of Bahm and his partners as they transition from Morgan Stanley to their own firm, 6 Meridian.

### **2015-2016 Annual Audit Report**

Jim Hinkle, auditor with Hinkle & Company, acknowledged the copies of the financial statement available to the guests. He said his company has issued a clean report, with no disagreements or problems with management.

### **Governance Committee Report**

Sue Fellers, chairwoman, reported that four trustees have agreed to a second consecutive term, including Susan Tucker, Tommie Rhoades, Dr. Megan Darrow and Bryan Fischer. Also, Gil Michaelis has agreed to serve his first term in the only trustee opening, which is on the Investment Committee.

### **2016-2017 Committee Appointments and Trustee Plaque Presentations**

Fellers offered the motion to accept the aforementioned individuals to serve as the incoming Class of 2019. Paul Corr seconded and the motion passed.

Dr. Darrow announced that Mike Rauh is the only individual whose trustee tenure is ending. Rauh asked that a plaque not be presented. Dr. Darrow acknowledged Rauh’s service and contribution as a trustee. She then thanked the members of each committee, including the Governance Committee, Investment Committee and the Stewardship Committee, as well as the members of the Capital Campaign Steering Committee.

### **Donor Gift Presentations**

Bird read the names of donors who achieved a new level of giving, and President Janet Cunningham presented the gifts.

### **University Report**

President Janet Cunningham shared that enrollment numbers for fall 2016 had increased four percent to 2,220 students (compared to 2,135 in fall 2015). The freshmen class increased 12.2 percent, from 385 (fall 2015) to 431.

This year's enrollment includes one National Merit Scholar, 10 students with an ACT score of 30 or higher, six Regional Baccalaureate Scholars, 33 valedictorians and 25 salutatorians.

Northwestern also has welcomed its first Fulbright Scholarship student, Riskariyani Amin, a graduate student from Indonesia.

Eight new faculty joined Northwestern this semester.

A recent renovation on campus was done on Coronado Hall. The renovation included new HVAC and bathrooms, as well as new furniture on the fourth floor.

President Cunningham invited the attendees to participate in Homecoming 2016 activities, adding that Dr. Linda Stewart, retired theatre professor at Northwestern, will be the parade marshal. More than 80 theatre alumni are planning to return to celebrate 50 years of theatre at Northwestern.

Northwestern has received the following national recognitions:

- Most Affordable Undergraduate Business Schools, 27<sup>th</sup> of 30 schools ranked by *College Choice*
- Best Online Master's Degree Programs in Psychology, 8<sup>th</sup> of 90 schools ranked by *GradSource.com*
- Lowest Student Debt at Graduation, 2<sup>nd</sup> of 20 schools ranked by *LendEdu.com*

In reference to State budget cuts, President Cunningham said that University leadership, faculty and staff are committed to moving the institution forward. A new strategic plan will soon be implemented; the launch of the public phase of the Capital Campaign is near; and the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program is moving forward to begin in fall 2017.

President Cunningham concluded her remarks by expressing gratitude to the supporters of Northwestern.

“People have stood up and made great things happen.”

### **Adjournment**

With no further business, the Annual Meeting 2016 was adjourned.