

## President's Report – September 2020

This Summer has been rather full even though most of the meetings and events have been virtual.

I am glad to have had access to campus so I can keep track of AAMC business and also have opportunities to see students on campus. These times on campus made me aware of the hardships of our international students. Additionally, I have had several meetings with Martha Levin, the Assistant Director of International Scholars and Global Learning, to coordinate efforts to help the students. This fall I have been invited to lead a workshop for international students in a one credit course being taught by Martha Levin and Chicora Martin.

There have been monthly Trustee meetings to make up for the extended times we used to meet. I continue to meet with Beth Hillman monthly as well.

Weekly Office of Institutional Advancements meetings has kept me informed and connected to their initiatives from fundraising to Alumnae events. The AAMC and AR teamed up on some initiatives. We worked together send congratulatory cards and window decals to all graduates. AR helped us record the DVD for the international students hardship fundraiser, received the communications and funds.

They also helped us record Taco Tuesday wishes for students and distributed them to all incoming students. The Writers Salons AR held to showcase the writings and publications of alumnae, were very well received.

The Ad Hoc committee has had several meetings to prepare the Board for the phone tree outreach to alumnae ahead of the Town Hall meeting with Beth Hillman. I am very grateful for the amazing women I have had the privilege of working with during these challenging times at Mills.

The Executive committee, which have been tasked and given the powers to act for the BOG and the AAMC during the COVID pandemic, has met a number of times to take care of the AAMC business. It was good to have this committee as community at such a time as this.

Soon after the President's first Town Hall meeting I formed a crises communications team to think through the BOG's response to the extended partnership between Mills and UCB. Alexa Pagonas and Dawn Cunningham joined me in this task and I am very proud of the work they have done and grateful for their tireless efforts at making sure our voices are heard and concerns addressed. The last Town Hall meeting is a testament to their stellar work.

I had the joy of doing orientation for our newly elected Governors. It gave me the opportunity to get to know each one of them and hear about their hopes and commitment to the AAMC and Mills. We are enriched by their presence on our board!

Orientation for students started the first week of classes and I was able to participate in several of those orientation sessions. Cherlene Wright participated in one of those sessions and did an amazing job engaging the students and welcoming them to the AAMC. I was asked to do a keynote address at the candlelight ceremony for the first year students. It was wonderful to hear the dreams and hopes of the students. Dara Orlant, Chaplain/Director of Spiritual Life meaningful and memorable ceremony for all.

During the summer we lost an outstanding alumna Leah McNeil. She was a lifelong learner and contributor to Mills and the AAMC. She had served on the BOG and chaired the Travel committee among other volunteer efforts. I sent flowers and card on behalf of the BOG to Lesli.

This Fall we lost another beloved alumna, Peggy Woodruff. She was one of the first students of color to enter Mills and was also one of the founding members of the Alumnae of Color Committee. Peggy was intelligent, articulate and was known for her volunteer work with the AAMC.

Leah and Peggy will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege and joy of knowing them.