Notes from the Alumnae Association Annual Board Meeting
October 11, 2014

President Mic Pietrykowski called the meeting to order at 2:10 PM

- Sister Georgann Krzyzanowski, SSND gave the opening prayer
- President’s Report. President Dr. Eileen Schwalbach presented her report. She provided us with an update on the student demographics: ~1500 students are enrolled, with 930 undergraduates, 553 graduate students. There are now 8 graduate programs and doctorates are now offered in art therapy and occupational therapy. President Schwalbach stated that this is the largest class in the last 5 years and that this year there are more traditional age students. She also informed us that retention has gone up from 67% to 77% over the past year. This is amazing! The diversity of Mt. Mary University continues to grow. The student population is 15% Hispanic, 7% Asian, 20% Black and 53% White. The University will be offering a degree in nursing next year as our own program instead of being united with Concordia. Again, exciting steps towards future development. President Schwalbach informed us of the presence of the SSND’s still on campus. There are 6 as faculty, 6 as administrators and 3 students from Africa (2 undergraduates and one graduate). She also stated that the trip to Italy was fantastic and she was looking forward to the next trip! The President had to leave us in order to meet with Tim Gunn from Project Runway. How awesome is that?
- Mic gave kudos to Sue Nieberle and Sarah Olejniczak for all of their tireless efforts for the past year getting Homecoming put together. Nice job ladies-thank you!
- Mic introduced the Executive Committee.
  - Jana Champion, class 1984 Angelus Club Rep and President Elect
  - Tiffany Washington, -class 2009/11 Grace Scholar Rep
  - Sister Georgann SSND -class 1966 -SSND rep
  - Sister Mary Alyce Lach SSND class 19 - SSND rep
  - Debbie Mamon ~class1997 - Starving Artist Show Chair
  - Leslye Schlack ~class 2001 - Recent Grad Traditional
  - Carissa Ihms - class 2003- Carolyn Scholar Rep
  - Kathy Schneider -class 1968-Awards and Alumnae Relations Chair
  - Jean Tauer - class 1972 - Student Recruitment Chair
  - Isabelle Piana -class 1969 - University Representative
  - Mary Potter Hummer-class 1984-Treasurer
  - Rosemary Schwantes-class 1971 -Past President
  - Mary Ellen Luxem-class 1968-Personal Advisor to the President
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- Treasurer’s report. Treasurer Mary Potter Hummer read the report as follows: The fiscal year runs July 1 through June 30. **GET REPORT FROM Mary?** Move to accept treasurer’s report was made by Mary Ellen Luxem and seconded by Beth Kowall.

- Mic presented the new By-Laws that were amended. She stated that on the new draft under Article 13, it should read as follows: “An Article of the Bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Board of Directors by a two-thirds vote of those present...” not “to those present”. Mic asked for discussion on the bylaws. There was none. There was a motion made by Beth Kowall to accept the Bylaws and that was seconded by Kathy Schenider. It was unanimous vote to accept. Mic then asked for a suspension of the Bylaws in order to accommodate bringing the new President-elect up to speed. This would entail Mic staying on as the President, Jana Champion becoming the President Elect and Rosie staying on as the Immediate Past President. A motion was made by Mary Bock and seconded by Beth Kowall. Unanimous vote to accept.

- The two Alumnae Scholars came up to introduce themselves.
  - Andrea Roell is a sophomore from Iron Mountain, Michigan. She is majoring in biology with a chemistry minor. She is looking to go on to Physical Assistant School and become a PA some day. Having the scholarship allows her to focus on academics and be involved on campus. She is the Student Alum Ambassador, participates on the Women’s Leadership Institute, and is active in campus ministry. She plays volleyball, is a student athletic advisor and is working to host some special Olympic events on campus. Wonder what she does in her spare time?
  - Megan Wenzel is from Lena, Wisconsin. She is a freshman living on campus and is majoring in Fashion Merchandising. She said she is too new to make any bold statements but she did let us know that coming to Mt. Mary was the best thing she ever did.

- Starving Artist 2014 Show Report- Debbie Mamon Bednarski provided a PowerPoint presentation on the 2014 show. It was a great show and the weather was perfect. 232 artists and 166 volunteers. The jury fee was raised this year from $20 to $25 and the admission fee was raised from $5 to $10. This year was the first year to accept credit cards and that was a huge success. Overall it proceeds are up $38,000 over last year even though attendance was down. The lower attendance appears to be a national trend in art shows. We did not have a major sponsor for this year’s show. We are hopeful that we will obtain a major sponsor for next year’s show which is scheduled for Sunday September 13, 2015. Mark your calendars. The show committee will be looking to attract younger and more energized artists for future shows. Next year the parkway is scheduled to be under
construction so we may need to relocate the event to another area on the grounds. If you are interested in helping with next year’s show, please contact Debbie or the Alumnae office.

- **Alumnae Giving Report**- Sue Nieberle informed the group that she would like to see the Alumnae Association be integrated into the annual campaign fund raiser instead of having another fund raiser. She stated that currently only 12.23% of the alumnae are giving. That is really a low number. If Mt. Mary is to attract other potential donors, it does not look good to have the alums not participate at a higher rate. Sue suggested that she would like to grow the donors by 10% for the upcoming year. A suggestion was made that possibly we could work this into a networking opportunity so that not only could a group pool their resources and feel like the donation was meaningful but make long lasting connections within the alum community. Sue asked for volunteers to work on this committee and she received several names. Someone mentioned why not try for 100%? Mic asked the group to ask others “Give me your time and a dollar”. Someone else said we should give it a title- “50 percenter” or “Give Back”

- **Executive Committee Report.** Get PowerPoint from Leslye Last year when the executive committee met, we wanted the board to know that we heard all the great input that was provided and we took it to heart. “Wouldn’t it be great if...” was presented by Leslye Schlack ’11, Tiffany Butler Washington ’09 and Isabelle Piana which showcased all the events that we have made possible this past year and that will be ongoing.

- Sister Mary Alyce Lach SSND gave the closing prayer

- Meeting adjourned 3:20 PM

- Next meeting will be March 21, 2015.