



## Alumni Association Board Meeting

October 2, 2011

*Attendance:* Dr. Linda Casser, Dr. Robert Duszak, Dr. Anthony Fiorelli, Dr. Shereen Hakki, Dr. Michael Katz, Dr. Thomas Landry, Dr. Thomas L. Lewis, Dr. Dennis Lyons, Dr. Amanda Marchegiani, Dr. John T. Ochsenreither, Dr. Robert A. Rosenberg, Dr. Robert N. Spivack, Ms. Lynne C. Corboy. *Joining the meeting via conference call:* Dr. Krista David-Anderson, Dr. Tomi Browne, Dr. David W. Friess, Dr. Gary Litman, Dr. Ryan McKinnis.

Dr. Ochsenreither called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. As there were no proposed changes to the April 30 meeting minutes, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Dr. Friess gave the Treasurer's Report. [Please see attached.] The balance in the Alumni Associations's account as of June 30 was \$66,602.

Dr. Ochsenreither gave the President's Report. Heather Giampapa has left the University and Lynne Corboy is currently interviewing candidates for a new Director of Annual Giving and Alumni Relations.

In the entering class this September, there are 162 students admitted into O.D. Class of 2015, 25 admitted into Au.D. Class of 2015, and 45 admitted into the PA Class of 2013. This is our largest AuD class ever as well as one of the largest in the country. Students are admitted into the Public Health and Education and Rehabilitation programs at various times during the year.

This year's Annual Giving Program started with the phon-a thon in September. As of Wednesday (9/28) alumni and parents had pledged \$29,838.

Salus alumni are being offered various insurance coverage opportunities through Meyers and Associates and Liberty Mutual. In July, the Class of 2011 was sent information on health insurance. In November, all alumni will be sent an overview mailing of the program. Information is currently available on the Salus website. The Alumni Association will be receive a royalty for purchased and renewed policies.

University President Dr. Thomas Lewis updated the group on new programs at the University as well as the project at the Eye Institute. The University is currently starting an MSc/PhD in

Biomedicine. We anticipate approval for this program from the Pennsylvania Department of Education by the end of the year. The University is also developing masters and doctorate programs in Occupational Therapy (entering students in 2012) and Speech-Language Pathology (entering students in 2013). Both programs must be approved and accredited.

At the Eye Institute, the lower level is complete and we have been seeing patients there since May 31. Renovations continue on the upper level where faculty offices and administrative functions will be located. We expect this to be completed by the end of the calendar year. The project is on time and on budget.

The \$11.2 million cost of the project is being funded through \$5 million in bond financing, \$2.5 million from the University's capital budget, a \$1.25 million grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and a \$2.5 million fund raising campaign. The Campaign has not been successful among foundations, but corporations have been fairly generous. We hope to raise \$1.265 million from the alumni.

In answer to questions Dr. Lewis told the group that the satellite optometry clinics are doing well and the University would like to open an additional clinic in Norristown. We will be looking at adding audiology to this site.

He also responded that the International Program fluctuates but is generally doing well. The University would like to expand into other countries and other disciplines other than optometry. We will be using the AuDOnline model to expand into Canada and India. We are also looking at a "refresher" course of those with an MS in clinical optometry. PCO is also refining its program for foreign optometrists to complete an OD degree on our campus.

PCO Dean Linda Casser then made some comments to the group. Pennsylvania has some intrusive and negative legislation pending in the legislature and the College is committed to helping to address that. AOA president Dori Carlson recently visited the campus, and the POA held their board meeting and a CE program here. The College also brought two bus loads of students who visited their elected officials in Harrisburg. The PCO Advisory Board met via webinar in June and discussed various issues including the Scholars Program.

Dr. Casser reported that several companies have been helpful to the College. Heine and Keeler have made permanent loans of BIOs for faculty use. Hoya has committed \$80,000 to redesign and renovate the optics teaching lab.

PCO students have won some recent honors. Ian McWherther '12 won the Varilux Student Bowl at the American Optometric Association meeting. The team of James Deom '14 and Abby Brubaker '14 won the Second Annual Project Foresight Competition, a national competition focused on practice management sponsored by Walmart .

Dr. Casser reported on some faculty transitions. Dr. Pierette Dayhaw-Barker has stepped down as Associate Dean, the Foundations of Optometric Medicine and will now be devoting her time to developing the MSc/PhD in Biomedicine. Dr. Melissa Trego will replace her as the Associate Dean. Drs. Andy Buzzelli and Srihari Narayanan have both left the University. Dr. Melissa Vitek

'05 has been appointed Interim Director, Electives and Advanced Studies. Dr. Erin Draper '09 has been chosen for a two year position as Hafter Fellow in Neuro-Ophthalmic Disease. Sara Shkalim '10 has joined the faculty as an instructor in the Feinbloom Center. Dr. John Baker '84 has joined the University as Associate Dean, PCO Scholars Program.

Dr. Casser commented on the PCO Scholars Program. The College is not changing its core program – rather the Scholars Program is an addition program which will admit 6-10 students in the first year. This program is not for everyone and only students meeting specific criteria will be considered for admission. The perception that “PCO is going to a three year program” is not accurate and it will take time and perseverance to make sure that everyone has good information.

Dr. Landry gave the Awards Committee report. He provided a listing of all the awards given by the Alumni Association as well as listings of the recipients of the awards over the years.

On September 21 an email was sent out to optometry alumni who have email addresses that included a description of the Alumni Association awards and a link to a form through which nominations could be made. A number of nominations have been received, and all are due by October 21. The Alumni Office staff will collect information on the nominees and distribute this information to the Awards Committee so that selections can be made.

Historically the Albert Fitch Memorial Alumnus of the Year Award has been given out at the alumni reunion in May. Most of the other awards have also been given out at that time although some of them have been given out at other events, for example, at the graduation of an international program class in Israel.

The bylaws of the Alumni Association allow for one Alumnus of the Year Award to be given in each of the four colleges. The group discussed a process for beginning to choose an awardee from the College of Audiology. Drs. Marchegiani and Browne agreed to organize this process in coordination with Dean Bray.

Dr. Oschenreither presented the Reunion Committee report on behalf of Dr. Savitsky. The reunion in May of 2012 will especially honor the classes ending in 2s and 7s. The fiftieth reunion class will be 1962 and the twenty fifth year class will be 1987. The Alumni Office has begun to reach out to the class representatives to ask them to identify 3 or 4 people who could help drum up enthusiasm for attending the reunion.

The Alumni Office is also talking with Tony Diecidue (Class of 87) about having his band provide music for the event.

2012 will be the first year that there is also a residential audiology class that will be having a fifth reunion. There are only 3 people in that class and we would like to find a meaningful way to include them in the on-campus festivities.

Ms. Corboy shared slides of the newly renovated Eye Institute with the group.

Dr. Ochsenreither adjourned the meeting.