

Alumni Programs/Alumni Association – March 30, 2006

The Alumni Programs team works to maintain a connection between alumni and Webster under the auspices of the "Webster University Alumni Association." The Alumni Association was created in 1923 and is an unincorporated organization which exists as a part of Webster University by authority of the Board of Trustees of Webster University. All students automatically become members upon graduation. There are no fees associated with being a member of the Alumni Association. Currently, the Alumni Association has nearly 120,000 members worldwide.

The Alumni Association is governed by a Board of Directors which includes up to 24 alumni as directors and any number of ex-officio members, including the Director of Alumni Programs. The Alumni Association Board of Directors meets five times per year. Its numerous committees, including the Executive Committee; Worldwide Alumni Chapters Committee; Liaison Committee; Nominating Committee; Student Awards Committee; Alumni Awards Committee; Alumni Coming Together (ACT) (a social committee); Young Alumni Committee (YAC); the Community Service Committee; and the Homecoming/Reunion Committee meet on an ongoing and as-need basis. The Alumni Association is organized for the following purposes:

1) **"To articulate the mission and activities, programs and needs of the University to Alumni."**

This is accomplished through both formal and informal communications with alumni, including Webster World magazine, frequent broadcast e-mails, events, and personal meetings with alumni.

2) **"To offer opportunities for personal and professional growth of the University's Alumni."**

Networking is one of the key messages of the Alumni Association. Alumni are invited to various events and activities depending on their geographical location. The Alumni Association currently recognizes 20 official Alumni Chapters in cities around the world, and hosts activities in at least a dozen more locations. The Alumni Office also works closely with the Office of Career Services at Webster to promote the career-related services available to alumni. One popular program is "Career Builders," a day-long seminar on various career topics, that travels to cities around the world.

3) **"To foster relationship among Alumni, students, and faculty."** Again, this is accomplished both formally and informally during the various activities and events sponsored by the Alumni Association.

Most notable in St. Louis is the annual Homecoming/Reunion Weekend that has incorporated a student aspect in spite of the fact that Webster does not have a football team!

4) **"To recognize and increase visibility of alumni accomplishments and achievements within their communities and the University."** Alumni accomplishments are reported in the "Alum News" section of Webster World magazine, and online in the "Class Notes" section of the Alumni Online Community. The Alumni Association also selects several alumni each year to receive the Distinguished Alumni Award, the Loretto Award for Service, and the Mary Elizabeth Award for Loyalty. In addition, the Alumni Association recognizes undergraduate and graduate students of distinction at the time of graduation at Webster campuses around the world.

5) **"To promote alumni contributions of time, talent and financial support to the University."** The Alumni Association invites alumni to volunteer in their local Alumni Chapters (or start one in their city). Alumni Chapters, in turn, work on fundraising projects to support students at their local Webster campuses. For example, the Space Coast Alumni Chapter hosts an annual alumni cruise which raises scholarship money for students at Webster-Space Coast. The African-American Alumni Chapter was the first Alumni Chapter to endow a scholarship at Webster University. The AAAC Fund for Minority Students is currently valued over \$70,000.

6) **"To serve the needs of the Alumni with special interests within the framework of the Association."** Three of the 20 official Alumni Chapters are affinity-based, not geographically-based: the Alumni-Athletes Alumni Chapter; the International Space Alumni Chapter, and the African-American Alumni Chapter.

7) **"To focus the efforts of Alumni commitment of service to others."** The Community Service Committee of the Alumni Association Board of Directors encourages Alumni Chapters to participate in the University's annual "Webster Works Worldwide" community service day every October. There are also various community service projects in various Chapters throughout the year.