



**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the NMH Alumni Association
October 3, 2020
(This virtual event replaced the Association's June 6, 2020
annual meeting, cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.)**

Molly Goggins Talbot '93, P'21, P'23, Association President, called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm, introduced herself and welcomed everyone to our first virtual Alumni Association meeting. She invited us all to imagine ourselves looking over the campus and down to the river and reminded us that all those who have attended NMH are automatically members of the 30,000 strong Alumni Association. We are guided by the Alumni Council, which is made up of seven committees with a total of 80 members. This weekend the Council itself held a series of virtual meetings during which goals for our 20-21 efforts were established. Molly thanked council members and the NMH Advancement Office for providing the support necessary for all our work throughout the year and especially this weekend.

Molly encouraged everyone to anticipate a variety of school and association virtual events and posts on Facebook and Instagram throughout the coming year. She then reported that 81% of the Alumni Council has already made a donation to the NMH Fund with 100% participation by the officers, chairpersons, and the Nominating Committee. Molly also reminded the attendees that a \$100 gift certificate to the farm or school store would be awarded to a randomly selected winner at the close of the meeting.

Jared Gourrier '06, co-chair of the Alumni Council's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee, delivered a very personal Moment of Silence. He thanked his NMH mentors, Pam Shoemaker, director of the Transition Year Program, and George Tiggle '94 for their vision, guidance, and compassion and alumni brothers Bob '53 and Barr Ashcroft '59 for their generous financial aid support. Jared acknowledged the impact of values and lessons learned at NMH and the goal to live and lead with humanity and purpose. As Dean of Students at a New Orleans public charter school, he strives to provide his students with an education for the head, heart, and hand.

Wendy Alderman Cohen '67, Secretary of the Association, declared that our required quorum of 200 alumni was met and surpassed with 245 virtual attendees. She then explained the virtual election procedures. The motion to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2019 Annual Meeting of the Alumni Association was made by Jared Gourrier '06, seconded by Tom Baxter '59 and approved unanimously. The motion to re-elect Molly Goggins Talbot '93, P'21,

P'23 to her second term as President of the Association (term to expire June 2023) was made by Jared Gourrier '06, seconded by Tom Baxter '59 and approved unanimously.

Head of School, Brian Hargrove P'24 shared a review of the last year beginning with a reference to NMH's mission of serving with humanity and purpose and its roots in Moody's vision of educating young people to lead and serve. The school strives to make a difference in the world, one student at a time.

Brian continued by highlighting the many challenges, learnings, and successes presented to the NMH community due to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Our rural location and its protected setting is an asset.
- Faculty and students pivoted to very different teaching/learning situations in a short period of time. Brian commended everyone's flexibility and collaboration among all members of the community.
- NMH created a new lab program for distance learning.
- All classrooms now have a camera so students have access to all classes whether learning remotely or in person.
- A majority of students returned to campus housing in September 2020. COVID protocols are being observed and the campus remains healthy. Students have been especially cooperative in following safety guidelines.
- Some of the safety modifications include: an outdoor classroom in the woods; outdoor pavilions where small groups of students can gather socially; and grab and go meals.

Enrollment updates:

- The 2020-2021 enrollment is 669 students and includes on-campus, day, and distance learners. We are actually overenrolled due to a high yield of accepted students.
- The student body has members from fifty countries and forty states.
- 23% of the students are people of color and 27% are international students.

NMH Fund updates:

- The 2019-2020 NMH Fund exceeded our goals by 20% for a total of over \$4 million.
- This allowed NMH to invest in its people with an increase in compensation and new resources for financial aid.
- It also allowed for building improvements in Cottage I and V, AC in the library, and new windows in Beveridge.

Brian then treated the convocation to a virtual tour of the campus, including photos of the outdoor classroom and pavilions mentioned above. One special feature included the Draper Boat House, already in use and being enjoyed by the rowing teams. The Boat House will be dedicated in the future after COVID restrictions are lifted.

The highlight of the "tour" was seeing the progress of the Guilder Center, our new building dedicated to math and science. With initial funding of \$10 million from

Dick Gilder '50 and now fully funded at \$30 million, ground has been broken, framing is up and the outside of the building will be secure before the snow flies. Interior work will then commence with an anticipated opening for the '21-'22 academic year. Unfortunately, Dick Gilder passed away shortly before ground was broken, but his generosity toward NMH will live on in this beautiful new resource.

Next on the agenda was the announcement of the Alumni Association's annual award winners as detailed by Tom Baxter '59, chair of the Awards Committee.

Alumni Citations were given to Katherine Mary Truax '70, Nancy Chambers Goff '60, Tony Cantore '65, and Al Smiley '55, P'84.

The **Young Alumni Award** was presented to Casey Woo '10.

The **Community Service Award** was presented to Lila Javan '90.

The **William H. Morrow Award** was awarded to Hughes Pack P'04, '07.

The **Distinguished Service Award** was presented to David Robinson '70 P'98.

The **Lampighter Award** was presented to Irma Klein Schachter '45.

Molly thanked Tom and the Awards Committee for all their hard work.

Brian Hargrove then announced that this year's **Head's Award**, honoring a person whose philanthropy to NMH has had a significant impact on the life of the school, was posthumously awarded to Dick Gilder '50. In addition to the Gilder Center, Dick made many generous gifts to NMH including the Rhodes Art Center's Lois Chiles Theater (named after his wife) and renovations in Alumni Hall. Dick's love for the school made him a strong advocate and he was known to say that NMH put his life on a different path.

We next listened to a rousing version of Jerusalem, lead by our newest alumni from the class of 2020. Andrew Ness '04, Association Vice-president, announced that Mark Auerbach '68 was the randomly selected winner of a \$100 gift certificate to the farm or school store.

Molly then adjourned the meeting at 5:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Alderman Cohen '67
Alumni Association Secretary

