



PARENT NETWORK
CLAREMONT MCKENNA COLLEGE

Wednesday, February 24, 2021
9:00 a.m. PT

PNB Members in Attendance: Allison Aldrich P'24, Sherie Bernardez P'22, Tracey Breazeale P'23 P'23, Marc Chiang P'21, Manoj Chitre P'18 P'22, Jay Cohen P'23, Jane Cohen P'23, Susan Daly P'23, Jon Frank P'21, Lori Fujimoto P'24, Teresa Gagnon P'23, Chesica Hall P'23, Nicole Heath P'22, Gaby Jenkins P'21, Steve Kapner P'22, Ginny Lee P'21, Amy Mehlman P'21, Kristi Mitchell P'23, Anne Sinek P'22, Rajita Singh P'23, Jill Slansky P'23, KK Streator P'18 P'21, Rick Verjee P'21

Absent: Laurie Bessey P'23, Jay Bhatt P'21, Chris Campbell P'23, Sudhir Goel P'20 P'24, Nidhi Gupta P'22, Kim Karloff P'22, Suharsh Mittal P'22, Jyoti Narula P'19 P'22, Surojit Shome P'22, Balaji Venkatraman P'22, Suzanne Wallace P'23

Guests in Attendance: Erin Aliaga P'24, Kristan Goldfein P'24, Kristin Merk P'24, Paula Nohalty P'24, Lisa Therron P'24, Pat Wilson P'24

Staff in Attendance: Nick Macias-Williams, Rebecca Pelén, Evan Rutter '06, Jennifer Sandoval-Dancs, Jon Shields, Jeannie Scalmanini, Ray Watts

- I. Call to Order and Introductions:
 - a. KK Streator called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m. Pacific Time.
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Ms. Streator called for a move to approve the minutes of the October meeting. Nicole Heath moved to approve the minutes and Teresa Gagnon seconded the motion.
- III. College Update
 - a. Recently, Los Angeles County is now allowing college campuses to open their recreational facilities to students and members of their community. Evan Rutter'06 explained, however, that there has been no approval to resume residential living. Effective immediately, however, students can use facilities like Roberts Pavilion, Axelrood Pool, and the track. Students, as well as staff and faculty, must make appointments through CMS Recreation. Regarding fall 2021, CMC fully intends to open unless prevented by the Los Angeles County.
- IV. Committee Updates
 - a. Jil Stark'58 GP'11 Award
 - i. Ms. Heath is happy to report that Rick Verjee P'21 is this year's recipient of the [Jil Stark Parent Volunteer of the Year](#)

[Award](#). Rick's work with the Communications Committee has been amazing. Congratulations to Rick!

b. Career Development

- i. As part of Spring Family Connections, the committee organized a panel of parents and a representative from KKR to engage in a discussion titled [“Recruitment in the New Normal: Communicating the CMC Advantage”](#). The program was very well received, and there were great questions and input. The audience of 127 guests was included parents and students from all classes, and even included a few young alumni. The panel offered advice on searching for internship and jobs during the challenging COVID 19 environment. One of the key takeaways from the program is that companies are now able to interview and consider applicants from all over country, whereas before they only focused on those from their region, making the competition tougher.

c. Parents Fund

- i. As of February 2021, there are 481 parent donors to the Parents Fund. The goal for this year is to have 735 parent donors, which means we are 65% towards participation goal. The Parents Fund currently has \$730,000 in unrestricted gifts toward the one million dollar goal in unrestricted gifts. Currently the fund is at 73% toward million-dollar goal. The Board is currently at 37% participation. Ms. Streater encouraged the members to [send in a gift of any amount](#) to ensure the Board reaches 100% participation by June 30, 2021.

d. Communications

- i. The winter newsletter open rate is 40%, which lower than the others newsletters, which are usually 45-47%. The highest clicks were for the articles “Together While We Are Apart: A New Initiative to Keep Students Connected” and “Life Hacks: Helping your Student Find Their Way to the Soll Center.”

The Claremont McKenna College Parent and Families private group continues to be busy with discussions on commencement, the reopening of campus, and county restrictions. Mr. Verjee has been diligent to keep this group of parents up-to-date. The committee is still searching for new Co-VPs and Mr. Verjee will meet with Steve Kapner P'22 to see if he would like to join the committee and assume a leadership role.

e. Admission Liaison

- i. The committee reports that there was a recent effort to reach out to first-year families for to check-in and remind them about Spring Family Connections. One first-year parents expressed concern that their student was receiving too many emails. Many in the PNB advised the first-year

families to be aware that while it may seem overwhelming at first, it is the main form of communication from various organizations on campus.

Kristi Mitchell asked how the First Year Guides (FYGs) are operating during the pandemic. Ms. Breazeale explained that her son is FYG and that it has been challenging but the FYGs are committed to connecting with and supporting first-years. The College does have plans for the Class of 2024 that can help the class connect once they are back on campus. Ms. Mehlman commended the College and the committee for the programs designed for first-year families.

f. Programs

- i. Jon Frank reported that the Spring Family Connections is currently underway. He hopes that many families attend the programs and that the College return to in-person programs soon.

g. Nominating

- i. Ms. Breazeale welcomed two P'24 parents, Lori Fujimoto and Allison Aldrich, to the PNB. The committee is still searching for volunteers to fill the open positions. The committee has asked the Board to help identify parents who could serve on the PNB.

V. Staff and Faculty Presentations:

- a. Jennifer Sandoval-Dancs shared with the Board the final results of the admission process for the Class of 2025 and transfer students. There was a six percent increase from last year. Through the early decision 1 process, CMC admitted 160 students, early decision 2 admitted 49 students, and about 49 students will be returning from a gap year. CMC did not admit fewer student even though a large number of gap students are returning. CMC will accommodate all students and the first-year class will be a larger than most years. There were increases in students coming from India and Hong Kong and there were decreases of students coming from Washington, D.C., Washington State, Chicago, and Hawaii.

CMC has decided to stay test optional until the fall of 2022. Through virtual programming, the Admission office was able to increase its outreach to prospective students. The office will notify regular decision applicants on March 25. Decision day has been aligned with the Ivy Leagues, which is Monday, May Since COVID restrictions have been eased in Los Angeles County, CMC has allowed for campus tour to those who have been admitted to CMC.

- b. [Professor Shields](#) discussed the class he teaches, The University Blacklist, which he teaches with Professor Phil Zuckerman (Pitzer College). This class aims to teach students to approach civil discourse with an open mind, and to teach young adults to become good citizens, by learning intellectual humility and critical thinking skills.

Often, classrooms are not politically diverse and this class provides a space for students to connect with others who do not have the same opinions. Students who participate in this class have the opportunity to read a wide range of opinions. Professors Shields and Zuckerman hope that this style of teaching will become more popular in liberal arts colleges. These classes can lead to positive civil discourse and real friendships.

VI. Adjournment and Next Meeting

- a. Ms. Streater adjourned at 10:37 a.m.
- b. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 28 at 9:00 a.m. PT.