The iSchool Alumni Association

The mission of the iSchool Alumni Association Chapter is to promote and support the College, encourage academic and professional excellence, facilitate career development for both current students and graduates, while fostering and strengthening a lasting relationship between the College and its alumni.

If you would like to volunteer to serve this chapter, have questions or comments about the chapter, engaging with or supporting the iSchool and our academic mission, please contact Larry Liff at lliff@umd.edu.

Join the University of Maryland Alumni Association and become an automatic member of the iSchool Alumni Chapter. Visit http://ischool.umd.edu/content/ischool-alumni-chapter.

The iSchool Alumni Chapter Board

*President:* Sue Baughman, 1981

*Vice President:* J. Linda Williams, 1977

*Secretary:* Nicholas Connizzo, 2011

*Treasurer:* Deirdre Clarkin, Treasurer, 1980

*Young Alumni Officer:* Melissa McDonald, 2012

*Member At Large:* Victoria Weaver, 2005

*Member At Large:* Mary Edsal Choquette, 1995

*Member At Large:* Joyce Tenney, 1983

President’s Report

Alumni who agreed to serve as Chapter Board members informally met in November 2012 to develop a plan for reactivating the College of Information Studies’ Alumni Chapter. The Alumni Association Board of Governors approved the updated Chapter Bylaws in February 2013, which reactivated the chapter. The Chapter then began receiving funds from the University Alumni Association based on the number of current members in the iSchool Chapter.

The Board administered a survey to over 1,300 iSchool alumni to get their input on the types of activities and programs that would be of interest. This feedback noted alumni interest in in-person and virtual programs, financial support for student groups, mentoring of students and alumni, and continuing education support for alumni. Since early 2013, the Chapter has created processes for supporting student activities and continuing education opportunities for alumni, hosted receptions at conferences, conducted a program on leadership, and offered a happy hour meet and greet for alumni. The Board’s goal is to continue building a strong program that supports alumni, current students and the mission of the iSchool.
The Nominating Committee of the iSchool Alumni Chapter is charged with identifying and recruiting volunteers and recommending a slate of future members for the iSchool Alumni Chapter board. The iSchool Alumni Chapter has six officers and four members-at-large. The Officers include the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Young Alumni Officer, and Past President. These six (6) Officers shall constitute the Executive Committee, which oversees the leadership, budget, administration, and day-to-day operation of the Board of Directors. The Members-at-Large are representatives of the diverse groups that comprise iSchool alumni.

Members of the Board should exemplify the mission and values of the Chapter and serve as a resource, providing time, professional talents, and service to advance the goals of the iSchool Dean, the College of Information Studies, and the University.

The Sponsorship and Awards Committee is charged with reviewing applications for scholarships, financial support for student groups and the iSchool, and professional development grants for alumni, and making recommendations to the Alumni Chapter board. This past year we have awarded financial support for iSchool student group programs, regional programs for iSchool Alumni, and have started awarding professional development grants for iSchool Alumni. Check out the information on iSchool Alumni Professional Development Grants at http://ischool.umd.edu/content/alumni-resources.

The Membership Committee of the iSchool Alumni Chapter is charged with recruitment and retention of Alumni Association members by extending invitations, reviewing and updating benefits of membership, and advising the iSchool Alumni Chapter board on recruitment materials. The Membership Committee is continuing to keep iSchool alumni engaged through mailings and social media outlets such as FaceBook and LinkedIn. Some of the benefits to being a UMD alumni member include:

- Offering career information, especially for young alumni
- Travel abroad opportunities
- Alumni sponsorships for conferences/professional activities
- Professional networking and exclusive invitations to special events, sports, VIP tours, etc.
- iSchool Alumni Chapter Board and Committee participation
- COMING SOON - Relevant discounts (i.e. discounts on professional training, courses, professional memberships, etc)

The Program Committee The Program Committee in conjunction with the Alumni Chapter board, develops and markets programming for alumni; including social, educational, and professional development activities which may be held on campus, off-campus, or online. The Committee plans on presenting two programs yearly. Using the results of the member survey, and other input, our first program was held in October, with Elliott Shore, Executive Direct of the Association of Research Libraries, addressing “Leadership in the 20th Century”. Our second program “Future Skills Needed for Librarians” presented by a moderator and panel is being held at todays’ annual meeting. Social meet and greet networking sessions are being planned regionally to accommodate as many alumni as possible. In April we met at the ALA Washington Office. Another opportunity to connect with alumni for anyone attending the American Library Association Conference, will be an alumni reception on Sunday, June 29th. We welcome input from alumni as to the types of programs and events you would like to see take place. We also invite any alumni to join this committee to help plan those events.

The Fundraising Committee of the iSchool Alumni Chapter develops strategies to increase alumni giving that will support iSchool Alumni activities and iSchool development efforts.