



Annual General Meeting
June 14, 2021 (virtual)

Mount Saint Vincent Alumni Association (MSVAA)

Annual Report 2020-2021



**Mount Saint Vincent Alumni Association
2021 Annual General Meeting**

**Monday, June 14, 2021, 6:00 pm
Virtually Via Zoom**

AGENDA

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----------------------|
| 1. | Call to Order and Welcome | Alison MacDonald |
| 2. | Approval of Agenda | Alison MacDonald |
| 3. | Approval of 2020 AGM Minutes | Alison MacDonald |
| 4. | MSVU Greetings | Dr. Ramona Lumpkin |
| 5. | MSVAA President's Report | Alison MacDonald |
| 6. | Treasurer's Report | Linda MacKay |
| 7. | Ratification of Nominating Committee Report | Tanya Lorimer-Charles |
| | i. Installation of Board | |
| 8. | Governance – By-laws Update | Carolyn O'Malley |
| 9. | Appointment of Auditors | Linda MacKay |
| 10. | New business | Alison MacDonald |
| 11. | Adjournment | |



**Mount Saint Vincent Alumni Association
Annual General Meeting**

Monday, June 15, 2020

Virtually Via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/94414040966>

AGENDA & MEETING MINUTES

12. Call to Order and Welcome Alison MacDonald

Alison welcomed everyone to the meeting. She described this virtual meeting as a first but under the current circumstances, fortunate to be able to gather this way. She welcomed all members joining and noted appreciation of continued interest of members in the Association's activities and commitment to the Mount.

Land recognition statement was issued. Alison confirmed for the minutes that, with the number of alumni present, plus the number of proxies received prior to the meeting, we have achieved quorum. Meeting Protocols were outlined:

- 1) Meeting documents were emailed out last week from the alumni office. If you have not received, please comment in the chat and these can be emailed to you now.
- 2) We have motions already pre-determined therefore there is no need to move on any of the agenda items.
- 3) If there is opposition to an agenda item or if further discussion is required, please do acknowledge by coming off mute. Silence will be acknowledged as approval of the motion.
- 4) Mute should always remain off otherwise.

13. Approval of Agenda Alison MacDonald

Alison asked if there were any additions to the agenda? None currently.
Lynne MacQuarrie moved to approve the agenda as presented.
Carolyn O'Malley seconded
Carried

Approval of 2019 AGM Minutes

Alison MacDonald

Alison asked if there were any additions or corrections to the 2019 Annual General Meeting Minutes. None currently.

Jeremy Neilson moved to approve the 2019 AGM Minutes.

Vanessa Yurchesyn seconded

Carried

14. MSVAA President's Report Alison MacDonald

Alison presented highlights from the year – presentation available.

15. Treasurer's Report Linda MacKay

Linda confirmed that a copy of the draft audited financial statements was emailed in advance of the meeting to Board members.

Linda reviewed the statements – she noted change in Segmentation expenses due to Mentorship platform subscription and additional meeting costs.

Linda MacKay made a motion to accept the draft audited financial statements as presented.

Penny Henneberry seconded.

Carried

16. Ratification of Nominating Committee Report Tanya Lorimer-Charles
i. Installation of Board

Tanya detail the process for nominations:

- A call for submissions went out in April 2020 for three (3) vacant Board positions, and there were twelve (12) quality submissions received. The applications were a diverse slate of candidates which made this selection process extremely difficult.
- The nominating committee reviewed the candidates, and a motion went to the Board prior to the AGM to accept the nominations.

We are very pleased to welcome our new Board members for a 2-year term. They are:

Nancy Dorey: Nancy is a 1997 PR grad and is currently principal of Nancy Dorey Public Relations in Halifax. Nancy brings great experience in governance and looks forward to helping to shape and influence the future success of MSVU students and alumni in a new way.

Aris Hernandez: Aris is a 2017 Bachelor of Business & Tourism graduate and is currently Retention Coordinator for EduNova. Aris is excited about joining the Board and believes there are great new technologies and ideas out there that help us join all generations of Mount graduates.

Tanya Lush: Tanya is a 2016 grad of the master's in education program. Tanya has extensive experience in educational leadership and program management, particularly Internationally where she spent a good majority of her 20-year career. She is surely a champion of higher education.

Special welcome to all of you and looking forward a great year ahead.

Also, a very sincere thank you to our outgoing Board members who have given much time and energy in helping us move our mandate forward.

- Robyn McIntosh
- Christine Qin Yang

They will be missed however we look forward to continuing to engage you in future events and initiatives. They were wonderful ambassadors for the Mount.

Tanya Lorimer-Charles motioned to approve the new slate of officers for the 2020-2022 term.
Ashley Stewart seconded
Carried

17. Appointment of Auditors Linda MacKay

Linda MacKay moved to appoint KPMG as auditors for the Association for the coming year.
Heather Strickey seconded
Carried.

New business Alison MacDonald

Alison asked if there was any new business to bring forward. None currently.

18. Adjournment

Alison thanked everyone who joined.
Robyn McIntosh moved for adjournment.
Brienne Bezanson seconded
Carried

Thank you!

President's Message

Alison MacDonald, BPR '88

What a year it has been! As I conclude my two-year term as president of the Mount Saint Vincent Alumni Association (MSVAA), I reflect that while things did not progress as planned this past year, I am incredibly proud of how we responded and what we accomplished.

Our mission is to engage and celebrate our alumni which stands at an amazing 35,000 worldwide. Despite the limitations the pandemic created, we found new and innovative ways to achieve that mission by being flexible and adapting to the reality that we faced.

As we turn a corner and emerge from the pandemic, we continue to hold in our hearts and minds our newest alumni from 2020 and 2021 whose final years at MSVU looked a lot different than they planned. We welcome them to our alumni family and are anxiously looking ahead to how we can properly celebrate their accomplishments.

I want to thank all MSVAA Board members who, despite our current challenges, continue to be engaged and invested in the initiatives and offerings we provide our fellow alumni.

We are saying goodbye to five dedicated Board members. I look forward to recognizing and celebrating their contribution to the MSVAA when it is safe to do so:

- Brianne Bezanson, who served for four years and co-chaired the Mentorship Committee.
- Tanya Lorimer-Charles, who, after 11 years, is retiring from the Board. She served as Board president in 2018 and 2019 and has been a dedicated advocate for alumni and an invaluable resource to me.
- Carolyn O'Malley, who served for six years and was Board Secretary and chair of the Governance Committee.
- Trevor Poole, who served for six years and was the 2020-2021 AERC alumni representative.
- Vanessa Yurchesyn, who served for two years and co-chaired the Mentorship Committee.

Thank you again to these incredible volunteers. As I enter my new phase as past-president, I welcome Joanne Bernard into the role as president. Joanne is a proven leader who is a passionate advocate for everything the Mount represents.

Regards,



Mount Saint Vincent Alumni Association - Board of Directors 2020-2021

Executive Committee

President: Alison MacDonald, BPR '88
Vice President: Joanne Bernard, BA '96
Past President: Tanya Lorimer-Charles, BBA '89
Secretary: Carolyn O'Malley, BBA '14
Treasurer: Linda MacKay, BA (AIT) '99

Members at Large

Brianne Bezanson, BAH '11
Nancy Dorey, BPR '97
Penny Henneberry, BSc '87
Roberta Hibbert, BBA '15
Aris Hernandez, BBA '16
Tanya Lush, MEd /06
Lynne MacQuarrie, BPR '96
Jeremy Neilson, BA '10
Trevor Poole, BA (AIT) '10
Ashley Stewart, BSc '06
Heather Strickey, BAH '95
Vanessa Yurchesyn, BHN '12

Alumni Representatives on MSVU Board of Governors

Alison MacDonald, BPR '88; Joanne Bernard, BA '96; and Carolyn O'Malley, BBA '14

Ex Officio Members

Dr. Mary Bluechardt, Former President and Vice-Chancellor, Mount Saint Vincent University
Bernard Besong, Vice President Communications, MSVU Students' Union
Lori Lancaster, Manager, Alumni Engagement, Mount Saint Vincent University

Thank you!

The MSVAA, together with Mount Saint Vincent University, would like to take this opportunity to extend sincere appreciation and thanks to the following outgoing MSVAA Board members for their years of dedication, service, and hard work on behalf of all Mount alumni.

Brianne Bezanson, BAH '11 – 4 years of service
Tanya Lorimer-Charles, BBA '89 – 11 years of service
Carolyn O'Malley, BBA '14 – 6 years of service
Trevor Poole, BA (AIT) '10 – 6 years of service
Vanessa Yurchesyn, BHN '12 – 2 years of service

President's Report

Alison MacDonald, BPR '88

Despite an unprecedented and challenging end to our 2020-2021 year, the MSVAA accomplished a great deal.

Alumni Branding: A renewed brand for Mount Saint Vincent alumni launched earlier this year and feedback has been very positive. The new brand encompasses two separate logos – a main logo, which showcases maple leaves and the university's crest, and a secondary logo, which showcases these elements plus Evaristus. The elements encompassing the new brand have been beautifully highlighted and I encourage you to read those in the rebrand pages of the alumni website (msvu.ca/alumni).

Representing the diversity of alumni was a critical piece of this rebrand and is reflected in the alumni name within the brand. We are currently in the process of working with the alumni office on brand updates to such things as alumni pins and promotional elements. Thank you to all alumni who provided their feedback and insights into the formation of the new brand.

Mentorship Program: The Mount Mentorship program officially launched in February 2021 providing support and guidance to final year students and new graduates with the transition from university. Immense thanks to all alumni who are giving back, signing on as mentors providing a means to support students during these uncertain times. We value greatly your involvement. The program current has 140 registered participants with 108 of those currently matched as mentors and mentees.

Alumni Awards: In January 2021 we celebrated Tina Murphy and The Limestone Group as winners of our 2020 Alumni Awards virtually allowing people from various corners of the globe to attend and join in on marking these wonderful accomplishments. Plans are already underway for the 2021 Alumni awards.

We continued to have a voice on the MSVU Board of Governors (BOG) and its various committees. This year we were represented by: Joanne Bernard, Vice President; Carolyn O'Malley, Member at Large; and Alison MacDonald, President.

Treasurer's Report

Linda MacKay, BA (AIT) '99

See Draft Financial Statements.

Nominating Committee Report

Tanya Lorimer-Charles, BBA '89

This year, the Nominations Committee reviewed needs for the upcoming year and identified three (3) Board vacancies. A call for Board submissions was sent in April and response was well received with 12 quality submissions. The Committee interviewed potential candidates virtually and was pleased to put three (3) new Board candidates forward as part of the 2020-2021 slate of officers.

Slate of Officers for Executive Committee 2020-2021

President	Alison MacDonald, BPR '88
Vice President	Joanne Bernard, BA '96
Immediate Past President	Tanya Lorimer-Charles, BBA '87
Secretary	Carolyn O'Malley, BBA '14
Treasurer	Linda MacKay, BA (AIT) '99

Members at Large

Penny Henneberry, BSc '87
Roberta Hibbert, BBA
Lynne MacQuarrie, BPR '96
Jeremy Neilson, BA '10
Trevor Poole, BA (AIT) '10
Ashley Stewart, BSC '06
Heather Strickey, BAH '95

2020-2021 In-Coming Members at Large

Aris Hernandez, BBA '16
Nancy Dorey, BPR '97
Tanya Lush, MEd '06

Alumni Representatives on the Mount Board of Governors

Alison MacDonald, BPR '88, Joanne Bernard, BA '96, and Carolyn O'Malley, BBA '14

Reunion Weekend 2020

Lori Lancaster (University Advancement)

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the decision was made to cancel Reunion Weekend 2020 (originally scheduled for October 15-17). Packages were prepared and mailed to 50th classes to mark their special occasion. Congratulatory notices also went to milestone years with the opportunity for milestone pin requests.

Awards Committee Report

Ashley Stewart, BSc '06

Over the last year, the Awards Committee remained committed to honoring the good work by our alumni and students. Unfortunately, the academic awards celebration slated for April was cancelled but the MSVAA-sponsored award winners (six academic prizes, two varsity prizes, and one research) were recognized through a small congratulatory package which was mailed. Congratulations to the following **academic award** winners:

- **Julia Dick** - Sister Rose Celestine Prize in French
- **Megan Savary** - Dr. Patrick O'Neill Prize in Public Speaking
- **Jennifer Kearley** - Sister Francis d'Assisi Prize in History
- **Kristen Carew** - Sister Marie Agnes Prize in English
- **Jasmine Tang** - Dr. Lillian Wainwright Biology Prize
- **Sara MacIntyre** - Dr. Mary Schoeneberger Education Prize
- **Rachel Waugh** - Sister Francis DeSales Endowed Research Award

Varsity Prize Winners: Awarded to a graduating female and graduating male student athlete who has contributed to student life and shows promise of continued community service. The 2021 recipients were **Donald DeWolfe** and **Julia Short**.

Alumni-Students' Union Leadership Award: This award, co-sponsored by the Association and the Students' Union, recognizes outstanding student leadership at MSVU. We were really pleased to be able to award this year's award to **Cheyenne Hardy**.

Alumni Recognition Awards: In January, we celebrated **Tina Murphy** and **The Limestone Group** as winners of our 2020 Alumni Awards virtually allowing people from various corners of the globe to attend and join in on marking these wonderful accomplishments. Plans are already underway for the 2021 Alumni awards which we hope to host as part of our Reunion celebrations in October 2021.

Graduate Scholarship: The 2020-2021 recipient of the Lisa Whynott graduate scholarship was **Rosanne Burke**.

Awards Committee: Ashley Stewart (Chair), Alison MacDonald, Tanya Lush

Board of Governors

Joanne Bernard, BA '96

The MSVAA was well represented on the MSVU's Board of Governors (BOG) this year by Alison MacDonald, President; Joanne Bernard, Vice President; and Carolyn O'Malley, Member at Large.

The BOG hosts six (6) meetings during its mandate with new members taking part in a fall orientation session. All board meetings, orientation and board retreats were held virtually this year due to COVID-19 public health orders.

The BOG conducted a special board meeting by phone on March 12, 2021, to discuss the resignation of President Bluehardt and the appointment of Dr. Ramona Lumpkin as interim president. Subsequently, the Terms of Reference for the Presidential Search Committee were passed in April's BOG meeting and the Committee is currently being populated with the stakeholders in which the TOR identified.

The Strategic Plan was approved in November 2020 and will be the guiding blueprint for the institution over the next seven years (2021-2028). The plan was developed with wide consultation from both internal and external stakeholders.

At each BOG meeting, an MSVU staff member attends and presents on their area of work. This year some of these presentations included:

- Karen Smyth, IT Director reported on Cyber Threats and Security protocols faced every day by MSVU.
- Tanja Harrison and Alina Ruiz from the Library Archives department presented on the digitalization of decades of print materials, photographs and memorabilia which is currently available on-line for viewing.
- Dr. Derek Fisher presented on his research project "Cannabis and the Brain."

The BOG participated in a retreat in late winter hosted by Ann Divine, focusing on diversity and inclusion with Board recruitment. The session was well attended and since then, intentional recruitment to the BOG has resulted in excellent candidates being recommended.

With the assistance of Provincial government COVID-19 funding, fiscal remediation and higher than predicted enrollment, MSVU ended the year with a surplus and passed a balanced budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The Rapid Response Team worked diligently all year to ensure a seamless delivery of classes virtually while ensuring all public health measures were followed by staff, faculty and students.

Dr. Julie McMullin left the university in April 2021 and Dr. Brooke Taylor was appointed interim Vice President Academic and Provost until a permanent replacement is put in place.

BOG Representatives: Alison MacDonald, Joanne Bernard, Carolyn O'Malley

Governance

Carolyn O'Malley, BBA '14

The Governance Committee had another successful year. The Committee worked diligently to complete a review of the Association's by-laws which had not been reviewed since 2012. Amendments to the by-laws reflect new terminology based on the recent alumni rebrand, as well as revisions to the Chapter structure which is now being referred to as Regional Networks. The Committee looks forward to the upcoming year where the Association's Terms of References will be examined in their entirety. As Committee Chair, I would like to thank the members of the team - your contributions and support have been amazing.

Governance Committee: Carolyn O'Malley (Chair), Nancy Dorey, Penny Henneberry and Heather Strickey.

Mentorship

Brianne Bezanson, BAH '11; Vanessa Yurchesyn, BHN '12

The 6-month pilot of the Mount Mentorship program successfully concluded in spring of 2020. The pilot was conducted in partnership with local mentorship software supplier *En Point* and provided an excellent foundation to launch the fully-fledged Mount Mentorship Program in February of 2021.

The current program connects mentees - 3rd and 4th year MSVU students and new graduates (5-years out) - with MSVU alumni mentors in their respective fields of study or career interests. Participation in the program this year exceeded expectations; as of May 2021, 108 of 140 participants were successfully matched and are moving through the various stages of the program.

The recruitment of program participants will be an important aspect for program facilitators for the 2021 program (to launch in January), with the hope of more equally balanced mentors and mentees numbers in varying fields of study to assist with participation demand.

Overall, an incredibly successful first year of the program!

Scholarships, Bursaries and Award Recipients 2020-21

Assisium Endowed Scholarship: [Meaghan MacDonald](#)

Awarded to a student in the Bachelor of Business Administration program.

Maureen Mantin Johnson Alumnae Jubilee Endowed Scholarship: [Emily Guy](#)

Established by Mount Saint Vincent Alumnae Association, friends and family in memory of an exemplary student and devoted Mount alumna.

125th Anniversary MSV Alumnae Association Endowed Entrance Scholarship: [Kylie Simpson](#)

Established by the MSV Alumnae Association, this scholarship is for a student entering the Mount on either a full-time or part-time course of study.

Mount Saint Vincent Alumnae Association Endowed Bursary - Name not released

Toronto Chapter Golden Jubilee Bursary - Name not released

2020-21 Affinity Partner

- TD Meloche Monnex

2020-21 Internal & External Partners

- Biscuit General Store
- Centre for Women in Business
- Mount Fitness Centre
- Mount Library Services
- Mount Career Counseling
- Mount Conference Services
- Mount Print Shop
- Pacrim Hospitality
- SoftMoc