

DMAA Annual Report – June 2020

Highlights from 2019/2020 at the DMAA

Events

In 2019, the DMAA partnered with the Faculty of Medicine to continue the momentum of the DalMed150 Gala Weekend by hosting the DalMed151 Gala Weekend. The weekend included continuing professional development sessions, a dean's reception, a fun run, an alumni awards luncheon and a celebration gala in the Halifax Convention Centre. The DMAA Awards Luncheon was an opportunity to celebrate the winners of the four alumni awards and included videos and brief speeches from each of the award winners. That evening at the gala, the MD Class of '78 was recognized for winning the \$300k Cup, the first class to achieve this honour. The DMAA also hosted a reception during the parade of lights where cookies and hot chocolate were given out to alumni in the lobby of the CHEB, which was on the parade route. The DMAA was planning to host a reception in the Dalhousie president's house for class presidents in June 2020, but unfortunately this had to be cancelled due to COVID-19.

Board Activities

The DMAA board of directors was comprised of 14 members in 2019-2020. It was the second year of Dr. Peggy Leighton's term as DMAA president. The executive included Dr. John Steeves (past president), Dr. Kathy O'Brien (vice president) and Dr. George Ferrier (treasurer). The board worked on a number of projects this year including revamping VoxMeDal and instituting two new resident leadership awards.

Office Activities

Allison Bain took over the role of Interim Alumni Relations Officer in July 2019. Allison is returning to her previous role as Administrative and Communications Assistant but will still handle some alumni relations activities as the search for an Alumni Relations Officer continues. Over the past year, the DMAA assisted with 14 class reunions. The DMAA published two issues of VoxMeDal in summer 2019 and fall 2019. Another edition had been prepared for spring 2020, but due to COVID-19 the content needed to be reworked to reflect the changes brought on by the pandemic and so it has been delayed to June 2020 and will be released as a virtual issue. The DMAA took part in both resident and student orientation events in 2019, assisted with convocation activities and worked with the communications coordinator at DMNB to support their 10 year anniversary celebration plans. The DMAA continues to work with the Office of Advancement on alumni engagement and fundraising activities.

Moving Forward

Planning for 2020/2021 is a significant challenge due to the uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. At this time, plans for the DalMed152 Gala weekend have been cancelled and the DMAA and Faculty of Medicine are working with Parkhill Events to secure a date and venue to host the gala in 2021. A virtual celebration is being planned in place of the DMAA Alumni Awards Luncheon to celebrate the winners of the four alumni awards and two resident leadership awards. Many class reunions that were planned for 2020 are being postponed to 2021. Allison is working on projects that can be done from



Medical Alumni
Association

home including records management, VoxMeDal, supporting the board of directors and communicating with alumni through phone and email. Allison will also be working with the MedIT department to arrange the virtual DMAA Awards Luncheon.