



Bloustein School Alumni Association (BSAA)

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Meeting Minutes from May, 25 2011

E.J. Bloustein School Building

6:00 pm

In attendance:

Board Members - Peter Amari, Emily Grant, Ngozi Obi, David Hojsak, Vito Gallo, and Aaron Richton,

Bloustein School: Donald Sutton and Hillary Bardwell

Other: David Greenblatt, Alumni , Carolyn Worstell, Planning Student and Melanie Davidson , Eng. Student

New Business

- Congratulations to the school for being selected among the top three Graduate Urban Planning programs in the country by the Planetizen Guide to Graduate Urban Planning programs.

BSAA Account Update

- Peter Grof and Scott Baumann went to Bank of America to begin process of changing signatories on BSAA account, but it turns out that Scott is not a current signatory. The current signatories are: Swati Leli, John Dean, Anthony Marchetta, Vito Gallo, Randy Solomon, and Bill Bower.
- Next step is for a current signatory to provide BofA with a copy of the minutes in which the new signatories were selected and for the new signatories (Peter Amari, Emily Grant, Maria Connolly, and Peter Grof) to complete the necessary change paperwork at a bank branch with a current signatory.
- The balance in the account was \$10,836 as of April 1st.
- The address on the account needs to be updated to read as follows: Bloustein Alumni Association; c/o Peter Grof plus Peter's home address.

BSAA Donations

- Vito Gallo (a current account signatory) signed two checks that the Alumni Association presented to the school along with a letter from Peter Amari. (Copy Attached.)
 - \$500 to the Brandon Poli Scholarship which provides a \$1,000 award to a student in planning, in memory of this former member of the program.
 - \$500 to the RAPPS Scholarship which is awarded annually to the winner of an essay competition judged by Bloustein faculty.
- On behalf of the Dean, Don thanked the Association for the first of many future gifts to support students at Bloustein.

Bloustein Graduation

- Peter Amari attended the May 15th graduation ceremony.



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- There were 97 master's level and 12 doctoral candidates (55 Master of City and Regional Planning (MCRP) students, two MCRP/Juris Doctor (JD) students, four Master of City and Regional Studies (MCRS) students, 24 Master of Public Policy (MPP) students, and 11 Master of Public Affairs and Politics (MPAP) students).
- Christopher J. Daggett, president and CEO of the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, a former commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and a former independent New Jersey gubernatorial candidate was the convocation speaker. His message focused on the "*public service as a high calling, worthy of the best and brightest of our students and citizens.*" More about his message and graduation on the Bloustein web site.
- The outstanding student academic achievement awards were presented to Caitlin Salemi (Planning) and Jessica Godofsky (Policy). The outstanding student service awards were given to Christopher Dochney (Planning) and Vanessa Matthews (Policy). The American Institute of Certified Planners award, recognizing a student in the planning program for outstanding academic and professional attainment in the study of planning was presented to David Stanek.
- David Novak was selected to speak on behalf of the planning students and Megan Carolan spoke on behalf of the public policy class.

BSAA Role at Bloustein Graduations

- BSAA would like to have a greater presence at graduation in the future. Suggestions for increasing the alumni role at the event were: (1) allowing the BSAA President to say a few words at convocation, (2) having the Dean include a few words to the graduates on behalf of the alumni in his remarks; (3) having BSAA representatives on hand to hand out RU alumni pins (or Bloustein Alumni pins created for the occasion) and contact information cards.
- Peter Amari will draft a letter to the Dean expressing BSAA's interest in taking on a larger role at the graduation ceremony to begin a discussion about the form that participation will take.

Alumni of the Year Event

- Robert Summer will be honored as the Alumni of the Year at an event to be held at the Trenton Marriott on Monday, September 26th. (*Please mark your calendar*)
- Amy Cobb from Bloustein has been working with Vito and the Marriott staff to finalize the terms of the contract. As it stands now there will be a \$250 room reservation fee and a per person charge for food. A decision still needs to be made about whether an open bar or two drink tickets will be included with the price of admission.
- A \$500 non-refundable deposit is due once the menu and terms are settled.
- A motion was made and passed to grant Vito the discretion to submit the deposit once terms he feels are reasonable are sorted out with the venue. As Vito is a current signatory on the BSAA account, he took a check and will make it out at the appropriate time.
- Don suggested creating a journal for the event and sending a letter from the BSAA to Bob Summer's contacts to fill the journal. Follow up calls will also be made. David Greenblatt volunteered to assist with the follow up phone calls. Individuals or entities that purchase space in the journal would be eligible for certain benefits including tickets to the event. The details of the pricing will be discussed at the next meeting.



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- Peter Amari and Don Sutton will meet with Robert Summer on Friday June 3rd to discuss logistics of the event and to get a list of his contacts that we can invite to support the event.

eNJOY Solar House

- Members of the Rutgers team will be presenting their solar house from September 23rd through October 2nd. The house will be positioned on the Mall near the FDR memorial in Washington, DC.
- The house which is built from concrete will be one of 20 teams competing in this competition sponsored by the Department of Energy.
- There had been discussion about hosting a Bloustein event at the house during the competition, but given time and other constraints, a University-wide event may be more feasible. BSAA will continue to be involved in planning and publicizing the University-wide event. The planning committee (Tony Marchetta, Peter Amari, Aaron Richton, and Don Sutton) will keep the BSAA apprised of the status of the event.
- Carolyn Worstell, a member of the Rutgers team from Bloustein, attended the meeting and expressed a potential need for housing in Washington during the event. She will update the association as their particular needs are determined. Carolyn also talked about a bus trip that will be planned for students and alumni for a day trip to Washington to visit the house. She will keep the association informed of these plans.

20th Bloustein School Anniversary

- A keynote speaker for the kickoff celebration is still being determined. There is some hope that *Michelle Obama* might be able to attend, but the school is pursuing other options including *Robert Reich* and *Ruth Bader Ginsberg*.

New Business

- Aaron Richton has expressed an interest in planning smaller scale events targeted to more recent alumni. These events which have high visibility among alumni and a low cost of entry may be a good way to increase involvement. Vito noted that the NJAPA has an active young alumni group which BSAA may want to model its events after or even work together to plan events. The establishment of these types of events will be discussed at the next meeting.
- At the last meeting an alumni interviewing program was discussed. The interviews would ask prominent alumni about their career path, what they are currently doing, tips for success, etc. The interviews, which could be text, podcast or video, would be posted on the website in cooperation with Karen Olsen. Peter Amari, Tony Marchetta and the Dean will hold a conference call to discuss the structure and potential alumni to interview, although it was suggested that Robert Summer might be a good first candidate. Emily and David have volunteered to conduct the first interviews.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 22nd to be held at the Bloustein School.