

Report of the Andover Alumni Council, 2019–2020

Stephen E. Matloff '91, Alumni Council President

The [Andover Alumni Council](#) is the governing body of the Andover-Abbot Alumni Association, whose membership includes all alumni/ae of Phillips and Abbot Academies. The Council seeks to promote beneficial relations by strengthening connections among alumni and serving as a liaison with the Academy. As outlined in its Strategic Plan, the Council's vision is "to enrich the lives of our alumni by inspiring them to live the values of the Academy and be catalysts for lifetime engagement."

The Alumni Council comprises approximately 140 members and meets each fall and spring, conducting much of its work through [eight standing committees and several ad hoc committees](#).

The Alumni Council had a productive and impactful year both before and after self-isolation and social distancing needs arose. While campus was closed for the spring meeting which prevented the Council's in-person meeting, the Council continued its work in new and different ways using online platforms. Interestingly, certain aspects of the Council's virtual gatherings were so productive that plans are in place to continue using such meetings when conditions allow a return to "normal" in-person gatherings.

Highlights of each committees' work include:

- The Alumni Admission Representatives Committee is looking to establish guidelines and best practices for remote interviewing.
- The Alumni Communications Committee, in partnership with the Office of Alumni Engagement, launched [Switchboard](#), a networking platform for the Andover Alumni Community, and circulated the first issue of the Alumni Council Newsletter.
- The Annual Giving Board hosted a virtual Coffee Break with John Berman '90, Co-Ancor of CNN's "New Day" for Bullfinch Loyalty Society members and Non Sibi Donors.
- The Athletics Committee reviewed candidates and selected the [2020 Athletics Hall of Honor inductees](#) including Alison Coughlin Averill '95, P'23, Hope Barnes '76 (D), John Clark '69, Christopher Kreider '10, Charles Miers '75, James Shea '70, P'99 and the 1965 Lacrosse Team
- The Class Secretaries committee hosted virtual gatherings for Class Secretaries of various decades.
- The Equity & Inclusion Committee hosted events on the West and East Coasts bringing together individuals in and allies of our LGBTQ+ community.
- Regional Volunteers created a guide for hosting virtual events.
- The Non Sibi Committee focused on pivoting rapidly to offer virtual Non Sibi projects and share the good work of Non Sibi heroes who are healthcare and front-line professionals fighting against COVID as part of the "In Unity" dance party co-hosted with the Af-Lat-Am Alumni Committee.
- Abbot@Andover hosted virtual storytimes for children of faculty, staff, and alumni, as well as events around Tiffin, a longstanding Abbot tradition.
- The Af-Lat-Am Alumni Committee hosted a variety of virtual events including Netflix watch parties, an "In Unity" dance party (in partnership with the Non Sibi Committee), and the Af-Lat-Am Community Reflection Series in response to the loss of black lives and the enduring effects of systemic racism.
- The [Alumni Award of Distinction Committee](#) reviewed candidates and selected the 2020 recipients are Christine Balling '86, Susan Chira '76 and General Barry McCaffrey '60.
- [Andover and the Military](#) hosted the 10th Annual Veterans Day Program and dinner on November 11, 2019 with featured guest speaker Lt. Col. Kenneth Weiner '96.
- The Governance Committee made tremendous progress on an exhaustive Bylaws review which will be presented to Council for consideration at the 2020 fall meeting.
- The Nominating Committee reviewed potential candidates for the Alumni Trustee election and [presented the slate](#) which was approved by the Executive Committee and accepted by the President of the Board of Trustees. The four candidates for consideration were Christopher J.W.B. Leggett '78, Megan A. McClellan '96, Stacy F. Metcalf '90 and William M. Tong '91.

This committee also reviewed nominations for Alumni Council membership and presented a slate of 35 new members which was approved by the Executive Committee.

For more information or to express your interest in Andover's Alumni Council, please email [Karleigh Antista](#) in the Office of Alumni Engagement.