An Update Letter from President Aletta Diamond

Greetings from the Hill,

As we begin to wrap up a rather unusual year for Wagner’s Guild (and the country) I would be remiss if I didn’t thank all who ZOOMED in for our luncheons. Virtual meetings had to suffice due to COVID, but many members did attend enthusiastically. Thank you to our guest speakers for their willingness to “step up:” Chef Michael Purpura, Honorary Guild Chair Jan Martin, Dr. Pat Tooker, Pam Silvestri and of course our wonderful students: Julia Francis ’23, Franciska “Franci” Milo-Sidlo ’20 M’21 (who “zoomed” in from Hungary), and Amna Amjad ’22. These young people are our future, and they make Wagner proud!

The college fully intends to reopen in the fall, and I look forward to seeing you on campus. Our goal is to have our next luncheon in person! Again, THANK YOU for continuing to make the Guild a relevant part of Wagner College life.

Aletta Kipp Diamond ’65 H’15

Meet Student: Tom Corel ’22

Please say “hello” to Tom Corel! A rising senior from Sydney, Australia, Tom is studying International Relations and is also a member of our track and field team. Tom has been a globetrotter since he was young: he was born in Hong Kong, lived most of his life in Australia, and now splits his time between London and New York (Wagner). Regarding his decision to attend Wagner, Tom says, “My decision to come to Wagner was indeed a life-changing one. The experiences I’ve had and the people with whom I’ve had the pleasure of sharing them with are lifelong joys.” After graduation, Tom wants to stay in the USA and pursue a master’s degree in our nation’s capital. Does Tom get homesick? Not likely – his twin brother, Nick, is also a Wagner student and a member of the track and field program. Tom has a special message to the Guild: “If those who can attend Wagner because of the generous support of our alumni and friends are able to find even an ounce of the fulfillment that I found here within this institution, and this incredible city; then I would say that you have done a great deed - a deed that will serve Wagner students truly not just for four years; but for a lifetime.”

Basket of Wagner Swag Winner!

Congratulations to Henry “Hank” Murphy ’63, the lucky winner of the basket of “swag” filled with Waggie attire and gift items. There were 55 tickets sold and the basket raised $1,100 in support of the Make a Difference Fund!
You Are Making a Difference!

Thanks to your generous support, the Guild has raised almost $11,000 for the Make a Difference Fund this academic year! As you may remember, this fund is designed to provide emergency assistance to Wagner students in need. The impact of the COVID pandemic has made this fund more important than ever. Thank you for your continued support!

Memorial Day

By David Martin, Director of College Relations, Captain, USCG (ret)

Memorial Day is an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings, and participating in parades. Unofficially, it marks the beginning of the summer season. A few years ago, I took my son Jonathan to Arlington National Cemetery where we walked among the final resting place of some of America’s greatest military heroes. While walking down a street inside the cemetery, I came across the grave of Major Walter Murphy, USMC, who was killed in the Vietnam War. Walter was a Wagner graduate, member of the Delta Nu fraternity, and the brother of Bob and Hank – two members of our Guild family. May we never forget that freedom isn’t free!

Member Spotlight!

By Michael Muccino ’73, First Vice President

Fred Williamson ’64 is another one of those fantastic individuals whom we are proud to say is a Wagner alum. Forming a friendship with Fred is quite easy for anyone who is fortunate enough to know him. When you meet him, you’ll be struck by his engaging smile and honest handshake.

Fred was a multi-sport, student-athlete at Wagner, playing football and participating in the track and field program. He was a member of the Alpha fraternity and many other clubs and organizations on campus. Upon his graduation in 1964, Fred joined the U.S. Marine Corps and was commissioned as an officer. He was sent to Vietnam and commanded a rifle platoon.

Fred is not one to talk about himself and all he has meant to us – so allow me to say a few things about Fred. While in Vietnam, Fred served with such honor and valor that he earned the nation’s third highest (combat) award – the Silver Star. The Silver Star Medal is awarded primarily to members of the armed forces for gallantry in action against an enemy. Fred earned the Silver Star. Not once, but twice. When asked about his combat experiences, Fred will likely shrug his shoulders and make an offhand comment such as, “I was a young kid back then and didn’t know any better.” Not hardly. Our friend, and fellow Guild member, Fred Williamson, is a real American combat hero. But if you ask Fred, he’ll quickly say that he is a proud Wagner alum who enjoys all of the wonderful programs and activities that the college offers. Fred, thank you for your service!

For more information about the Guild, please contact Dave Martin at 718.420.4341 or dmartin@wagner.edu