Alumni Association Board Gathers for Spring Meeting in Millwood

Traveling from as far away as California, Maine, Utah, Florida and Washington, 19 members of the Alumni Board gathered in Millwood from April 2nd through April 4th as guests of HOPE. With daffodils blooming and spring (finally) in the air, they embraced a packed agenda of presentations, meetings and discussions, with time out for talk, tours and a wine tasting.

Early on the first day, the group heard from Alumni Association President John Wilhelm, and then received program updates by Stuart Myers, Senior Vice President for Global Health, and Matt Peterson, Senior Manager, Volunteer Operations. The board business meeting rounded out the morning’s schedule (see below).

The afternoon included presentations from our Volunteer of the Year awardees — Dr. Alan Jamison, a pediatrician from Morristown, TN, who donated 376 volunteer hours in African programs; and Carma Erickson-Hurt, a hospice and palliative care nurse from North Bend, OR, with 1,425 volunteer hours in Japan and the Philippines. They shared their experiences and expressed a sentiment familiar to many HOPIES: Volunteer with Project HOPE has changed their lives.

Rich Rumsey, Vice President, Development and Communications, and his senior team members, Jann Schultz and Elia Desruisseaux, spoke about the renewed emphasis HOPE is putting on engaging alumni in many ways: through improved communications, local events and an increased emphasis on capturing HOPE’s history. The board was strongly encouraged to help staff members find the best ways to “get the word out,” to improve our database, and provide alumni with the kinds of information, opportunities and connections that alumni most want.

Continued on back page >
Our alumni want a better connection! To HOPE and to one another. And we are working on it! Alumni Association VP Debbie Reister and board member Bob Morrow are starting an Alumni Facebook Group, and we want you to join! Send us your thoughts and ideas. Or donate your time, talent and expertise. We welcome your participation. And stay connected to HOPE by staying connected through HOPE! Our alumni are an intrepid group, traveling and moving often. We need your new address and your email contact information, so we can keep in touch. And if you haven’t visited the alumni webpage in a while, take a look! Updated regularly, the site is adding pictures, stories, news and information about HOPE and HOPIES. Go to projecthope.org and click on “Get Alumni Updates.” If you have news to share, please reach out to alumni liaison Brooke Herndon at bherndon@projecthope.org. Send us your photos and stories about HOPE get-togethers, and we’ll share them with everyone. Better yet, tell us about your get-together in advance, and we’ll send a HOPE-imprinted gift for everyone who attends!

HOPE History: Alumni at the Heart of It All
Now the Work of Documenting Project HOPE’s Storied Past Begins

Several HOPIES stepped forward with serious offers to combine scholarship, hard work and a love of Project HOPE as they undertake significant history projects. Carolyn Kruger, former HOPE Director of Nursing, presented the work she has begun on HOPE in Central and Eastern Europe. She is reaching out to HOPIES associated with these programs, asking that they share their stories and recollections.

Alumna Nancy Savage, meanwhile, will be undertaking the history of HOPE nursing in China, and Fayre Pyles and Diane Speranza will begin work on the HOPE Navy Missions, starting with the tsunami. Debbie Reister will spend several weeks at HOPE this summer, delving into the archives and beginning to catalogue important historical items. Alumni associated with any of these programs or those interested in helping should forward their names and contact information to Dr. John Wilhelm at jwilhelm@projecthope.org.

Meanwhile, HOPE has launched an oral history project, capturing brief interviews and remembrances of our HOPE alumni on video. The first interviews were filmed during the Alumni Board meeting and are being edited for posting on the alumni website in the coming weeks. Plans are underway to continue capturing these interviews at alumni events around the country. Stay tuned!

HOPE History: Alumni at the Heart of It All
Now the Work of Documenting Project HOPE’s Storied Past Begins

Several HOPIES stepped forward with serious offers to combine scholarship, hard work and a love of Project HOPE as they undertake significant history projects. Carolyn Kruger, former HOPE Director of Nursing, presented the work she has begun on HOPE in Central and Eastern Europe. She is reaching out to HOPIES associated with these programs, asking that they share their stories and recollections.

Alumna Nancy Savage, meanwhile, will be undertaking the history of HOPE nursing in China, and Fayre Pyles and Diane Speranza will begin work on the HOPE Navy Missions, starting with the tsunami. Debbie Reister will spend several weeks at HOPE this summer, delving into the archives and beginning to catalogue important historical items. Alumni associated with any of these programs or those interested in helping should forward their names and contact information to Dr. John Wilhelm at jwilhelm@projecthope.org.

Meanwhile, HOPE has launched an oral history project, capturing brief interviews and remembrances of our HOPE alumni on video. The first interviews were filmed during the Alumni Board meeting and are being edited for posting on the alumni website in the coming weeks. Plans are underway to continue capturing these interviews at alumni events around the country. Stay tuned!

We Heard You — and We Want to Hear More

Our alumni want a better connection! To HOPE and to one another! And we are working on it! Alumni Association VP Debbie Reister and board member Bob Morrow are starting an Alumni Facebook Group, and we want you to join! Send us your thoughts and ideas. Or donate your time, talent and expertise. We welcome your participation. And stay connected to HOPE by staying connected through HOPE! Our alumni are an intrepid group, traveling and moving often. We need your new address and your email contact information, so we can keep in touch. And if you haven’t visited the alumni webpage in a while, take a look! Updated regularly, the site is adding pictures, stories, news and information about HOPE and HOPIES. Go to projecthope.org and click on “Get Alumni Updates.” If you have news to share, please reach out to alumni liaison Brooke Herndon at bherndon@projecthope.org. Send us your photos and stories about HOPE get-togethers, and we’ll share them with everyone. Better yet, tell us about your get-together in advance, and we’ll send a HOPE-imprinted gift for everyone who attends!
Dear Friend,

So much joy in people’s hearts, and yet so much suffering. So much genuine hospitality and love, and yet so much poverty.

This is Africa.

Like many HOPES, I’ve been privileged to be part of Project HOPE’s work in Africa many times on humanitarian missions. We’ve been taking an active role in these beautiful, yet troubled countries since 1964. In fact, the first mission in Africa was a voyage by the SS HOPE to Guinea.

Today, that tradition of help in Africa continues through your dedication and talent. Because of you, HOPE is in many poverty-stricken countries helping people to lead healthier, more productive lives.

In all of these countries, people are suffering and dying from AIDS, tuberculosis and other deadly diseases. And they’re struggling with oppressive poverty. Many countries in Africa are so poor that medical care simply isn’t available for broad swaths of the population, and people are left on their own with tragic consequences. So many die agonizing — and completely avoidable — deaths.

But we’re determined to put a halt to this suffering. We’re working to get diseases like AIDS and TB under control, improve detection and diagnosis, and improve treatment so more people will be saved.

Your dedication and effort are vital — because it’s a big job. As big as the beating heart of Africa.

Sincerely yours,

John P. Howe, III, M.D.
President and CEO