Welcome Alumni:

The Physics Alumni Advisory Board worked hard in the Fall 2015/Spring 2016 academic year to bring together interested alumni to support the Physics Department. In our Fall 2015 meeting we were briefed on the research of 3 of the newer faculty members and began to plan our input to the Academic Quality Assessment and Development (AQAD) Committee (AQAD). This committee reviews the department and makes recommendations to the Provost. During the spring of 2016 we held meetings to form our input to the AQAD committee and nominate an Alumnus of the Year. During the annual SPS banquet we honored Prof Bob Giles with the Alumnus of the Year Award for reshaping the Physics Department, overseeing significant research projects, and establishing educational programs for children in Haiti. Please see meeting minutes for more details on the above.

We Need Your Help! This year besides the fall meeting on November 8th and the spring meeting we are planning two events:

First, this spring we plan to have an alumni symposium where alumni from industry and government research can interact with students, both undergraduate and graduate. We are considering several formats for the event including a kind of speed-dating format with small groups of students rotating between alumni. At each station there would be a brief alumnus background presentation and a discussion about the Alum’s work.

Second, two executive board members are initiating an Astronomy Outreach effort to increase the awareness and use of the department’s astronomy assets and to support the Astronomy program. In particular, this effort will also help find a way to site a superb telescope that was recently donated to the department.

Please volunteer! Contacting either myself at William_Goodhue@uml.edu or Joanne_Gagnonketchen@uml.edu.

Sincerely,
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