

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
2005 Annual Meeting
May 10, 2005
Coffman Memorial Union and Northrop Auditorium

The 101st annual meeting of the University of Minnesota Alumni Association (UMAA) began at 5:30 p.m. with a reception and dinner in and around Coffman Memorial Union. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. in Northrop Auditorium by UMAA National President Andrea Hjelm, who welcomed the audience of 1,400 alumni and friends.

UMAA YEAR-IN-REVIEW

Hjelm reported on alumni association activities during the past year, including:

- Publicly championed the University's initiative to bring Gopher football back on campus;
- Supported the University president's plan to transform the University into a top three public research university;
- Grew the legislative network to 15,000 members, who played a crucial role in lobbying legislators to support the University's bonding request and biennial budget;
- Launched "M Alumni Online," a directory of more than 350,000 Twin Cities alumni which has a wonderful career component that will be a unique and valuable tool for career changers, job seekers, and alumni moving to another city;
- Connected thousands of alumni across the state, nation, and world through our 21 collegiate alumni societies, 7 interest groups, and 70 geographical chapters;
- Hosted a record 950 students at Senior Send-Off to honor and recognize graduating seniors and give them a one-year UMAA membership and graduation gift.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA PRESIDENT

Hjelm introduced Robert Bruininks, president of the University of Minnesota. President Bruininks thanked the UMAA for supporting his recommendations to strategically position the University among the top three public research universities within a decade. He reviewed the components of this transformational plan, stating, "today, the University of Minnesota is a strong and vibrant institution, but we can't assume that the future will take care of itself. We are in a transformative era for higher education. Without planned change, we risk losing our competitive position and face the prospect of eroding quality in an increasingly competitive environment."

Strategic positioning is a roadmap to our future, a dynamic process that we will continue to refine and re-examine in the years to come, said President Bruininks. He thanked Hjelm for her leadership of the UMAA and thanked the alumni and friends in attendance for supporting the University.

ELECTION OF 2005-2006 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Hjelm announced the 2005-2006 slate of officers forwarded by the UMAA Board Development Committee and elected by the UMAA board of directors on March 12:

President	Robert Stein
President-elect	Dennis Schulstad
First Vice President	Tom LaSalle
Vice President	Bruce Mooty
Vice President	Archie Givens
Vice President	Mary McLeod
Secretary-Treasurer	Ertugrul Tuzcu
Past President	Andrea Hjelm

The slate of new board members was introduced, voted upon, and approved by those present:

At-large	Jessica Phillips
At-large	Darcy Pohland
At-large	Scott Meyer
Geographical	Bob Calmenson
Geographical	Doug Kuehnast
Geographical	Lucinda Maine

PASSING OF THE GAVEL

Hjelm introduced Robert Stein, who will take office as UMAA national president on July 1, 2005. Stein, '60 and '61, is executive director of the American Bar Association, which he has led since 1994. Stein has been professor, associate dean, and dean of the University of Minnesota Law School; also, he served as the University's vice president of administration and planning from 1977 to 1980.

Stein congratulated Hjelm on a successful and dynamic year, stating that her wonderful spirit and enthusiasm made her the perfect person to be at the association's helm as the dream of an on-campus football stadium made a giant leap toward reality. "You were incredibly unselfish with your time," Stein said, "representing the association at hundreds of meetings and events in your gracious and professional way. There is a very personal and truly sincere quality to everything that you do, and your passion for the University is so real. The connections that you have fostered will benefit the association and the University for a very long time."

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Margaret Carlson, UMAA chief executive officer, introduced Aaron Brown, the anchor of CNN's "NewsNight with Aaron Brown." Over the past three-and-a-half years at CNN, Brown has covered news from Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Russia, Poland, Africa, and other far-flung locations, for which he has received three Emmy Awards.

Brown, a Hopkins, Minnesota, native who left the University after a year of classes, joked that if someone had told him 25 years ago that he'd be delivering a keynote address in Northrop Auditorium one day, "I would have believed them, because if you don't have a degree, you'd better have confidence."

Brown's speech was largely humorous and self-deprecating, tracing his unlikely path from an 18-year-old talk radio host to national news anchor. He also offered some pointed comments on the television news and media trends, arguing that news media have become timid. "While balance is important, it can be taken too far," he stated. He cited one news show that, in a report on the Holocaust, felt it needed to "balance" the report by giving time to a person who denies the Holocaust ever happened.

Brown also took on "blogs," personal Web logs that lack any kind of fact-checking, but rather churn out rumors and opinion as if they are facts, which sometimes find their way into more mainstream media. And he also criticized viewers, why decry the lack of serious news coverage, yet "vote with remotes" for light, celebrity news.

Following his speech, Brown was presented with the University of Minnesota Award of Distinction.

ADJOURNMENT

Hjelm thanked the alumni and friends in attendance for coming to the Annual Celebration and said, "if you were inspired by this event, I encourage you to join the alumni association if you are not already a member; participate in our Legislative Network and M Alumni Online; support the on-campus stadium; and give a gift to the University." She adjourned the 101st alumni association annual celebration by asking the audience to stand and join Kathleen Hardy in singing "Hail, Minnesota!" and the "Minnesota Rouser."

Submitted by,

Cheryl Jones
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