

Virtual Alumni Week 2021 Recap

With the cancellation of Alumni Weekend 2020, we were hoping to welcome our alumni back to campus and celebrate in person this spring. However, with the slow pace and navigation of COVID-19 and with everyone's safety in mind, we made the tough decision to turn our annual Alumni Weekend into a virtual event.

Despite the disappointment of not meeting on campus, Virtual Alumni Week 2021 was very successful, with 241 attendees registered for different events throughout the week, joining us on Zoom and other platforms to come #togetherfromadistance. While not the same as meeting in person, it was still fantastic and bittersweet to see many different faces of alumni, friends, and classmates on camera throughout the week from all over the nation.

Some Noteworthy Events From the Week

Meet the Student Government Leaders:

On Monday, alumni had the opportunity to meet four of Student Government Association leaders: Daisha Walston '21 (President), Jessie Sprague '22, and Alex Arzuaga. Dean of Students, Dr. Elizabeth Hernandez, helped lead the event.

Feeding the Moonfish:



We hope you joined us and live-streamed the one-act play, "Feeding the Moonfish", featuring St. Andrews Theater

students Daryn Friedman and Kylie Raye Morgan, directed by Cinny Beggs. Thank you to the St. Andrews Theater program for putting on this production and allowing us to share it during Virtual Alumni Week! If you would like to support the Theater

Program, you can make a gift using our online giving form at www.sa.edu/give. In the "Areas of Support" tab, select "Other" and write St. Andrews Theater in the "Comments" box. This was a one-time-only viewing due to streaming rights, but we hope you will join us on campus for next year's production during Alumni Weekend!

Writers' Forum:

The Writers' Forum was a huge success, led and hosted by Alumni Council Member Terra Elan McVoy '96. Eight readers "took the podium" and read a variety of different works. Thank you to all our participants for making it a great event: John Lawson, class of 1971; Mackay Asbury, class of



Screenshot from the Virtual Writers' Forum on Zoom

1975; Dan Wetmore, class of 1986; Rod Gammon, class of 1994; Terra Elan McVoy, class of 1996; Donna Sammänder, class of 1998; Kristie Williams, class of 1999; and Marlon Carey, class of 2000. This year's theme was change. Host and alumna, Terra Elan McVoy '96, commented on the event: "Not even the strange format of Zoom could dampen the unique energy that is shared and created at an SAU Writers' Forum. Thank you to all the readers and listeners who were present. To quote Donna Sammänder ('98)'s poem, 'Where there is green at the heart it lives,' and I am honored that the creative writing spirit is certainly still green among us alumni!" If you missed the Writers' Forum, you can watch the recording [here](#) or visit the "Alumni Week" page of the St. Andrews website.

Alumni Awards Ceremony:

A big thank you to Alumni Council members Gregg Stupinski '93 and Joy Berry '92 for hosting the annual Friday Night Alumni Awards Ceremony. With over seventy people in attendance from all over the nation and world, the Alumni Council was pleased to honor several Alumni with special recognitions in front of their friends and family. The Distinguished Merit Award was presented to



Paul Baldasare '77, Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient

the Neylans family in honor of Dr. Catharine



Dr. Catharine Neylans, Distinguished Merit Award Recipient



Charles Dailey '76, Men's Baseball, Athletic Hall of Fame Inductee



Stephanie Ladell Means '95, Women's Soccer, Athletic Hall of Fame Inductee

Neylans, who passed away on September 7, 2020. Dr. Neylans was a professor of the Romance Languages from 1961 – 1998 and was a beloved faculty member to many. The Distinguished Alumni Award was introduced by Pete Peery '69. Upon his retirement as President last May, the Alumni Council chose Paul Baldasare '77 as this year's recipient

for his many years of service and dedication to St. Andrews, not only as an employee but also as an alumnus. Lastly, two new inductees were nominated into the Athletic Hall of Fame: Stephanie Ladell Means, St. Andrews Women's Soccer player and class of 1995 and Charles Daily, St. Andrews Men's Baseball player and class of 1976. Longtime friend and alumnus Matthew McElwee, class of 1992, introduced Stephanie, and Juergen Sommer, along with several other players and supporters, introduced Charles. Charles and Stephanie

made a lasting impact at St. Andrews and in their lives and careers; not only are they great athletes, but they are also well-respected individuals and true friends. If you missed the Alumni Awards Ceremony, you can watch the recording [here](#) or visit the “Alumni Week” page of the St. Andrews website.

Virtual Live Auction:

The Virtual Live Auction took place after the Alumni Awards Ceremony, and we are so pleased to announce that it raised over \$2,000 thanks to our Alumni and friends who joined! Thank you to our sponsors who donated the items for this event!

Virtual Live Auction
Alumni Week 2021

Science Homecoming:

Thank you to Dr. John Knesel and Mr. Rooney Coffman for agreeing to keep tradition and hold the



8th annual Science Homecoming during Virtual Alumni Week. Alumna, Dr. Heather Jenkins Brazzell '93 also helped host this wonderful event. With over thirty science alumni, friends, faculty members, and students in



attendance, St. Andrews Interim President Dr. Ellen Bernhardt gave the traditional President's welcome to get things started. We heard news and updates from both new and longtime St. Andrews Science faculty members, along with getting to meet several senior students who talked about what the Science program at St. Andrews has meant to them. If you missed Science Homecoming, you can watch the recording [here](#) or visit the “Alumni Week” page of the St. Andrews website.

Reunions:

To wrap up the week, the classes of 1995 and 1975 celebrated their delayed 25th and 45th reunions on Zoom. Thank you so much to our alumni volunteers, Debora O'Neill '95 and Kathy Salkin '75, for hosting these events!

