

**Lycoming College  
Alumni Association Executive Board Meeting  
May 29 & 30, 2025**

**Meeting Attendance**

*Those in attendance indicated in bold.*

**AAEB Members**

**Holly Andrews '10 (President)**

**Mike Ruddy '05 (Vice-President)**

**Erica (Dohner) Vargo '96 (Secretary/Treasurer)**

Sarah (Kiely) Balduino '05

**Sarah Banatoski '14**

Brenda Bowser Soder '98

**Jamie (Rowe) Brown '09**

**Andy Bucke '71**

**Seth Burch '89**

Joe Ciccione '95

**Alyssa (Riggle) Correll '14**

Rebecca "Reb" Donohue '19

Paul Ferrante '16

Sandi (Groman) Gackenbach '94

**Mindy (Bierly) Gunn '94**

**Len Hahn '94**

**Meghan Jacobi '07**

Kerri Kearney '14

**Donald "DC" Keys '17**

Jake Kiessling '12

**Randy King '97**

**John Kneisly '04**

**Hank Knerr '77**

**Dr. Sherry Macpherson '74**

**John Maina '12**

**Shauna McQuillen '01**

**Holly (Young) Meckley '04**

**Heather Myers '99**

**Nancy Rudolph Myers '86**

Mary-Louise Paucke '97

**Lizzie Ritter '18**

**Tara Shaffer '12**

Dr. Jason Stamm '95

**Melissa Stiles '07**

**Rebekah "Beckie" Sweet '82**

**Nathan Tatro '03**

**Dr. Lillian "Cookie" Weekes '73**

**Staff, Faculty, & Guests**

**Amy (Dowling) Reyes '04**

*Associate Vice President for Alumni Engagement & Assistant to the President for Institutional Initiatives*

**Lara Collins Breon '04**

*Associate Director of Alumni Relations*

**Chip Edmonds, '98 President- Elect (Day 1)**

**President Kent Trachte (Day 2)**

**THURSDAY, MAY 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Call to Order**

AAEB President Holly Andrews called the meeting to order at 1:17 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes & Treasurer's Report**

AAEB Secretary/Treasurer Erica Vargo presented the minutes from the Fall 2024 meeting and Treasurer Report.

Action Item: Len Hahn moved that the minutes be approved as presented; Shauna McQuillen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Holly announced that the Recruitment and Recognition Committee is seeking individuals who are interested in the position of Secretary/Treasurer as Erica Vargo's current term on the AAEB will conclude at the end of the Spring 2025 meeting. Interested individuals are requested to speak to Holly, Amy, or a member of the Recruitment and Recognition Committee prior to Friday's session.

### **Alumni Engagement Update**

Holly yielded the floor to Amy Reyes, who provided an update on College alumni and advancement activities.

*Advancement Update:* Amy announced that Vincent Giacalone had joined the advancement team as Development Officer and reviewed the 5-year status of Lycoming Fund from FY'21-current.

*Day of Giving:* Amy shared highlights and outcomes of the most recent Day of Giving, which generated \$425,405 in gifts to the College. There were over 1000 donors, with 146 new donors. It was noted that Day of Giving has become a high point of engagement for alumni and key campaign for the department.

*Program Updates:* Amy presented on various program updates. Over 50 donors have taken advantage of the Endowed Scholarship Match. Improvements to the Mary L. Welch Theatre are underway with a ~\$200,000 project to improve the theatre as both classroom and performance space for students and faculty. The baseball stadium project remains ongoing with 25 donors and 35% of the goal achieved. Several key naming opportunities are still available.

*Enrollment Initiatives:* Amy presented on new enhancements to Lycoming academic programing, including the planned rollout in Fall 2025 of several "Early Warrior" Dual Enrollment programs. The College has also partnered with Montoursville Highschool on a Future Teachers Initiative and is evaluating similar opportunities in the future with other local high schools.

*Affiliation Programs:* The College has grown its Affiliation Programs to include a 4+1 Accelerated B.S. in Nursing with DeSales University that will be available up to 5 Lycoming students per year as well as a Dual Degree in Engineering (5-6 years) with Washington University. The Board discussed other potential partners and areas of study which may be of interest to the College for future Affiliation Programs.

*New Academic Programs:* The College continues to evaluate and implement new academic programs, including new majors to support students, including programs in data science, finance, environmental studies, and legal studies. Additional programs will continue to be considered for 2026-2027.

*New Faculty:* Amy introduced new faculty to support existing new academic programs. New faculty include Rachid Belhachemi (Mathematics), Tyler Houser (Criminal Justice), Donald McClelland (Biology), Eric Shoemaker (Philosophy), and Jake Vargas (Psychology).

*Admitted Student Letter Writing Campaign:* Amy reported on the successful outcomes of the AAEB postcard campaign for admitted students. The AAEB volunteers mailed 310 cards, with 4 students "Deposit Pending" and 9 enrolled for the fall as of the time of meeting.

*Alumni Events:* Amy highlighted upcoming Alumni Events for attendance.

- 6/14- Old City Philadelphia: A Walk Through Revolutionary History- SOLD OUT
- 6/26- Lycoming Alumni Night at the Somerset Patriots

- 8/6- Lehigh Valley IronPigs
- 8/7- Avalon, NJ
- 8/8- Williamsport Crosscutters
- 9/13- Phillies

Amy reminded the AAEB that Homecoming & Inauguration will take place October 3-5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and the AAEB Fall Meeting is scheduled for October 2&3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025.

### **Update: President-Elect Chip Edmonds**

Holly yielded the floor to President-Elect Chip Edmonds at 3:30 p.m. to provide a general update to the Board.

Chip discussed the selection and appointment process as College President and potential updates and realignment of the College's administration and staffing infrastructure, including updates to the senior team and updates to student life/affairs, enrollment, finance, and marketing functions. Special focus on ensuring the College is prioritizing enrollment growth and sustainability.

Chip presented the schedule and plan for inauguration activities during Homecoming Weekend, October 3-5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, with the installation occurring on Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. The theme of the inauguration will be "The Good of This Place."

### **Committee Meetings & Meeting Suspension**

Upon completion of Chip's presentation, Holly invited members of the Board to break into their respective committees until reconvening for dinner at 6:00 p.m. The general meeting was officially suspended at approximately 3:30 p.m.

### **FRIDAY, MAY 30<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Call to Order**

AAEB President Holly Andrews officially reconvened the meeting at approximately 8:52 a.m. and yielded the floor to Amy Reyes. Amy provided updates to the rest of the weekend events due to accommodations for inclement weather, shared highlights from the small ceremony celebrating the announcement of Chip Edmonds as President-Elect, and outlined the anticipated schedule of events for the Inauguration in the fall.

#### **Reflections with President Kent Trachte**

Amy welcomed and yielded the floor to President Kent Trachte to share his reflections on his experience and learnings as President of Lycoming College, his aspirations for the College in going forward under Chip Edmonds' leaderships, and his retirement plans with the Board.

#### **Committee Reports**

Holly invited the committees to present their committee reports at approximately 9:50 a.m.

*Alumni Engagement:* Lizzie Ritter reported on behalf of the committee. The committee reported additional information on the outcomes of the Days of Giving and opportunities to support outreach and ensuring broader visibility to alumni during the event, including live updates and shout outs to maintain consistent engagement. Future alumni engagement events were discussed and will be announced by Alumni Relations throughout the year as final decisions and plans are made.

*Communications and Career Services:* Lara Breon reported on behalf of the committee in Paul's absence. The committee met with Lori Patterson, Director of Career and Professional Development and a current student to provide to gather insight on the career development and preparation experience at Lycoming College. The College has also transitioned to a new tool, Handshake, from Symplicity to improve sharing relevant job and internship opportunities for current students and alumni. The committee continued to discuss ways to support current students and young alumni to support development of various skillsets (including financial literacy, interview preparation, etc.) and creative ways to incorporate alumni more directly into events (alumni author readings, more alumni choir events). Discussions were also had on ways to build stronger communication and engagement with alumni for a "day of service" event.

*Recruitment and Recognition:* Shauna McQuillen reported on behalf of the committee. Shauna presented the committee's recommendation for filling pending vacancies on the Board, highlighting the prioritization of reflecting the full range of the body of alumni and specifically extending invitations to three (3) individuals to join in Fall 2025.

Action Item: Shauna moved that that the recommendation be accepted as presented. John seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Shauna presented for the committee's recommendation of Tara Shaffer to the position of Secretary/Treasurer to replace Erica Vargo following the meeting.

Action Item: Shauna moved that the recommendation be accepted as presented. Erica seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Closing Remarks/Adjournment**

Holly noted that the terms of several AAEB members were expiring. Those in attendance were presented thank-you gifts for serving and given the opportunity to reflect on their time on the Board.

Amy reminded Board members that the fall meeting will take place October 2&3<sup>rd</sup> in conjunction with Homecoming & Inauguration. Holy officially adjourned the meeting at 10:18a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Shaffer  
Secretary/Treasurer