

BRINGING MORNINGSIDE TO THE TOWN NEAREST YOU



Dan Ryan

“If alumni can’t get back to Morningside, why not bring Morningside to them?”

That question, posed by **Dan Ryan 2000**, alumni representative to the Morningside College Board of Directors, is at the heart and soul of the reason Morningside alumni committees have been springing up across the United States.

Ryan, who also serves as the chair of the Central Iowa Committee, addressed the subject succinctly: “People that go to a place like Morningside feel a real connection to the college, its people, and their classmates. They want to stay connected, but maybe they live too far away or don’t have time to make it back to Sioux City. The events that our area alumni committees plan give them a convenient way to stay in touch.”

His committee has hosted such events as a cookout at an Iowa Cubs baseball game, meetings at restaurants, a picnic at Gary’s Lake in Des Moines, Iowa, and a reception before a Mustang basketball game.

“Having alumni plan the event lends credibility to the college’s alumni efforts,” he said. “Another benefit is that the committee members have a good sense of what types of events will work well in their area.”

Jeremy Bullock 2000 favors family-oriented events. He had served as chair of the Omaha, Neb., area committee until recently, when he moved to Des Moines, where he is a financial consultant for Wells Fargo Financial. Just before his move, he helped to organize an event at a family-style Italian restaurant in Omaha.

“I understand there was quite a turnout,” Bullock said. “Events in which the whole family can participate tend to draw larger crowds. Last fall, my wife, son, and I attended an alumni reception in Des Moines, held before the Mustang women’s basketball game. We ate, talked, and watched the women beat Grand View. Overall, I’d say it was a pretty good night. Through these events, alumni can again feel part of Morningside life.”

Sarah Nolan 2000 now chairs the Omaha committee. She was actively involved in planning an alumni reception held on Union Pacific passenger railcars, as well as a recent dinner event.

“The events are a great networking opportunity for recent college graduates,” she said. “For our dinner event, we also invited parents of current students. It was well received. President Reynders spoke briefly at each. I think everyone enjoyed hearing an update from him.”

For **Bill Allen 1966** and his wife **Mariette (Dethlefsen) Allen**, a former student, keeping alumni informed about college news and events is one of the main benefits of having area alumni committees. As chair of the Kansas City, Mo., area committee, Allen also appreciates the way in which the events help to build relationships among alumni in the community. Events

held in that area have included a choir concert and attending a Kansas City Royals baseball game. In the future, he would like to bring in more music events and to plan small area socials.

Carol Forbes 1970 serves as a co-chair of the Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minn., area committee, along with **Roger Randall 1976**. The most recent Twin Cities alumni event, in April, was held at the James J. Hill House in St. Paul and included a tour of the impressive mansion. Before the event, **Gene Ambrosion**, director of alumni relations at Morningside, brought the alumni organizing the event together for a dinner meeting.

Forbes said, “I thoroughly enjoyed meeting the alumni, who ranged in age from the mid-twenties to the mid-seventies. And I was impressed by all of them. We had a great time planning the event.”

Chuck 1946 and Fern (Dunn) Obye 1944 often get together with alumni in the Phoenix area. The most recent event was held in February at the Rocking R Ranch, and she was able to visit with people from her class whom she hadn’t seen in a long time.

“We really appreciated the bus the college arranged to travel to the event,” Obye said. “We had a good time on the bus and discovered new connections.”

All of the committees would like to invite alumni in their area to contact them. Ryan said it for everyone when he said, “We’ve had great feedback from alumni who have attended our events, and we’re always looking for new people to join the committee or share their ideas.”

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