

JUNE 2020 REPORT

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**President,
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Board of Trustees**

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REFLECTIONS

The local and national events of recent days and weeks serve as a stark reminder and reflection of the systemic racism and injustices that our country must overcome. While the commitment of UWAA staff and volunteer leadership and the incorporation of racial equity innovation in our programs, services and communications is well established, the UWAA must and will increase our impact in this important area.

The message below was shared with our UWAA community via social media channels this week and will be followed with dedicated communications to the broader alumni community outlining the actions we will take in the future. Additionally, the UWAA [Stronger Together](#) webpage has been updated to include a dedicated [Racial Equity filter](#), with resources designed to advancing our collective awareness and knowledge of this important topic.

To our UWAA community:

Our country is in pain, and we are heartbroken to see the pervasiveness of institutional and structural racism each day in our communities and workplaces. We stand with the Black community, and all impacted communities of color.

As the organization that works with and for the half-million graduates of the University of Washington, we condemn the systemic racism that brought us to this point. We acknowledge the role that higher education has both in contributing to this reality and in leading the way to a more just society.

The UWAA's impact in areas of equity and inclusion is simply insufficient. We must and will do a better job of creating a culture of equity and inclusion.

We will share further details in the weeks ahead on the actions we will take. We invite and encourage all UW alumni (particularly white allies) to acknowledge your respective privilege and use your voice.

WELCOMING AND CELEBRATING OUR NEWEST ALUMNI

The time-honored tradition of [Guardians of the Gonfalon](#) has gone virtual this year as a part of the UW's digital Commencement festivities. Student gonfalonieres from each school and college have been paired with volunteer alumni guardians to continue this tradition. The alumni and students will meet virtually prior to Commencement to share their stories and words of wisdom and each is highlighted on this dedicated [webpage](#).

We recently shared the UWAA Class of 2020 [Gift Membership Program](#), designed to recognize the accomplishments of the class during an extraordinary time. We are pleased to share that more than 6,000 new graduates have taken advantage of this offer and will join more than 55,000 existing UWAA members in support of the UW and higher education.

Finally, the UWAA has developed an online [Kudoboard](#) – a virtual greeting card – where alumni and community members have left words of encouragement and congratulations for our graduating students. You can offer your personal celebratory messages [here](#).