Parents Fund Meeting Fall 2013 Report

- The fall meeting began with a report on the successes of the past year and the impact that financial contributions have made at Beloit College. Jeff Puckett, Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations, shared that the Beloiter Fund reached its $3,000,000 goal, which would not have been possible without the work of the PFC, which accounted for $400,000, much of that included in the $400,000 raised for the “Renewing the Historic Core” module of the campaign. A tour of significant Historic Core investments included the College Street corridor on the residential side of campus, where the women of Theta Pi Gamma served coffee and tanked members for the work connected to their house being resided. Academic building stops included Morse-Ingersoll Hall (Richardson Auditorium), the World Affairs Center, and concluded outside the Logan Museum of Anthropology.

- Scott Bierman, president of Beloit College, spoke about the DNA of the institution, primarily the launching of the “Beloit Plan” in 1964. Considered revolutionary at the time, then Chairman of the Board of Trustees Malcolm Mouat and then president Miller Upton led the charge to make Beloit the leader in higher education across the country. While economic challenges of the 70s ultimately ended the official period of the Beloit plan, many of its initiatives are still seen across the country in higher education today, and live on at Beloit in ways such as the Liberal Arts in Practice requirement in the new curriculum. These past successes create aspirations for Beloit to take a leadership role in defining the ways a liberal arts education can serve its students well into the future.

- Dan & Mary Ziegeler P16, co-chairs of the Parents Fund Committee, built on the president’s vision for the future and shared their vision of a broader parents group and their hopes to attract more support, financial and otherwise, during their two-year term. Leading the group through a discussion other ways that parents could be involved in the institution resulted in many ideas for the coming year. While making sure not to interrupt the independence and development of their student, parents, for example, may be able to provide internship opportunities, serve as admissions volunteers, or even simply be hosts for students travelling to their area. Some discussion was held as to the possibility of rebranding the group to highlight the broader scope, while retaining our mission of strong financial support to Beloit College.

- Mark Wold, Senior Director of Alumni & Parent Relations and Annual Support, concluded the meeting by leading participants on a tour across campus highlighting the numerous projects discussed earlier.