



Fall 2019 Issue of The Garnet Connection

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FALL 2019

Welcome to The Garnet Connection!

We share the stories and updates that matter to you. Check out past issues [in our archive](#).

Community Happenings

Gathering in Celebration of Black Excellence



The 2019–20 academic year celebrates Black Excellence at Swarthmore by “honoring our past, imagining our futures.” The year marks the 50th anniversary of the Black Cultural Center (BCC) and Black Studies Program at the College, and the 25th anniversary of the Chester Children’s Chorus. Programming throughout the coming months will not only lift up these landmark achievements, but also honor the complex lived experiences of Black students, faculty, and staff in our community. Our community gathered to kick off the year on Sept. 27 and heard thoughtful remarks from President Valerie Smith; BCC Director Dion Lewis; Anthony Foy, program coordinator for Black Studies; Sharon Pierce of EVS; and student leaders Joe Green ’21, co-president of SOCA, and Taylor Tucker ’20, co-president of SASS.

Public Safety Honors William ‘Billy’ Mullen



Director of Public Safety Mike Hill and President Valerie Smith

On Sept. 30, the Department of Public Safety held its annual open house and field day. This fall’s event was held in honor of William “Billy” Mullen (1841–1905), Swarthmore College’s first night watchman, who in 1881 responded to the “great fire” that gutted Parrish Hall by calmly guiding the building’s occupants to safety. An avid spectator at College events, Mullen was beloved for his selfless sense of community. Amid the games, food, and activities of the annual field day, President Valerie Smith and Director of Public Safety Mike Hill unveiled a newly restored plaque honoring Mullen and his heroism. The plaque was originally erected in 1914 but had been lost to the community for decades. It now hangs in Benjamin West House.

Nominate a Staff Member for the Suzanne P. Welsh Award



Don Thomas, Dining Services; Annette Newman, program coordinator,
Libraries

Every other year, the Suzanne P. Welsh Award is given to a staff member who has made outstanding contributions to the College through their service and commitment to our community. The award was established by Eugene Lang '38, H'81 in 2011 in honor of Welsh, then vice president for finance and treasurer of the College. Nominees are selected by their peers, and nomination forms will be available in mid-December. Don Thomas, Dining Services, received the most recent award in 2018; Libraries Program Coordinator Annette Newman was honored in 2016, and Frank Milewski, director of administrative database application support, ITS, received the first award in 2014.

Human Resources Updates

2020 Open Enrollment

The coming **Benefits Open Enrollment period runs from Monday, Oct. 21 to Friday, Nov. 8**. Open enrollment is an **active** process, which means you are required to confirm your benefits selections and dependent information online through our benefits enrollment tool, BenefitFocus. Information sessions on the College's health care plans will be scheduled throughout open enrollment season. Our benefits consultant, NFP, is available for help with questions related to your benefits at 877-410-2011. Support from our free and confidential employee assistance program, Health Advocate, is available at 866-695-8622.

Staff Compensation Update

The College reviews and updates its compensation practices on a regular basis in order to attract and retain our talented staff and to ensure we remain consistent with peer institutions and federal regulations. Effective Sept. 1, the College's minimum wage for non-exempt, hourly staff increased from \$13 an hour to \$13.50 an hour. Individuals affected by this change received an updated salary letter in MySwarthmore. This update reflects our commitment to fair wage practices that recognize and value the work of all our staff members.

Events Calendar

2019–20 Holiday Schedule



Faculty Staff Development Workshops

Tuesday, Oct. 15–

Thursday, Oct. 17

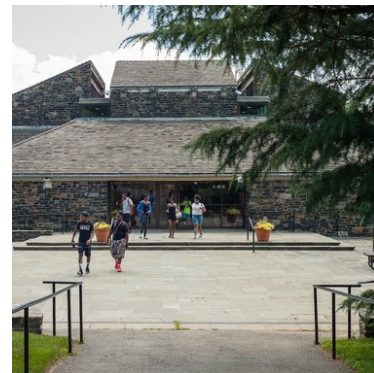


Benefits Wellness Fair

Thursday, Oct. 24

10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Upper Tarble



Dining and Community Commons Town Halls

Wednesday, Oct. 30

7–8:30 p.m.

and Thursday, Oct. 31

Noon–1 p.m.



Fall All Staff Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 12

10:30 a.m.–noon

Lang Concert Hall



**American
Red Cross**

Swarthmore College Blood Drive

Monday, Dec. 2

10 a.m.–3 p.m.

Inn at Swarthmore



Winter Gathering

Tuesday, Dec. 3

10 a.m.–noon

Lang Concert Hall

In Loving Memory

Remembering Professor Emeritus Thompson Bradley



Professor Emeritus of Russian Thompson Bradley

died Sept. 22. Tom was a beloved member of our community, joining Swarthmore in 1962 as an instructor in Russian. He is remembered for his devotion to his students, his passion for Russian language and literature, and his commitment to social justice and advocacy. Tom is survived by his wife, Anne, their three daughters, and two grandchildren. A celebration in honor of Tom's life will be held in Upper Tarble, Clothier Memorial Hall, on Saturday, Dec. 21 at 3 p.m. All are welcome.

Remembering College Gardener Dwight Darkow



Colleague and friend Dwight Darkow died Aug. 9. Dwight joined the Grounds & Horticulture Department in 1998 and had served as an assistant crew leader and volunteer coordinator since 2011. He is remembered for his hard work and passion for trees, as well as for his mentorship to the Grounds crew and many volunteers. Dwight is survived by his parents, Dwain and Dorothea; his wife, Nancy; and his children, Rachel and Dan. A white oak will be planted in Dwight's memory in front of Trotter on Wednesday, Oct. 23 at 2:30 p.m. A reception will immediately follow.

Remembering Professor Emeritus Frederic L. Pryor

Professor Emeritus of Economics Frederic L. Pryor

died Sept. 2. A prodigious scholar, Fred is remembered for his wide-ranging interests as well as for his warmth and humor. He joined the College in 1967, and served as chair



of the Economics Department three times during the 1980s. A true proponent of the liberal arts, Fred published numerous works in his area and frequently collaborated with his colleagues in math and engineering. Fred is survived by his son, Daniel, and his three grandchildren, Kathleen, Thomas, and Zora.

Remembering Professor Emerita Eva Travers



Professor Emerita of Educational Studies Eva

Travers died July 13. The first educational studies professor to receive tenure at the College, Eva is remembered as a committed advocate for the program and as a deeply generous teacher, mentor, and colleague. She joined Swarthmore in 1975 and was soon after named director of the Educational Studies Program. Eva served as associate dean of students from 1989 to 1992, and as acting dean during her final semester in the Dean's Office. She is survived by her husband, Jeff; her children, Emily (Mark)

and Nick; and her grandchildren, Jackson and Gabriella. A celebration in honor of Eva's life will be held on Saturday, Nov. 9 at 1 p.m. at the Cambridge Friends Meeting House, Longfellow Park, Cambridge, Mass.

Awards and Achievements

Librarians Teach Digital Humanities at DReaM Lab



Roberto Vargas (left), research librarian for humanities and interdisciplinary studies; Nabil Kashyap, digital scholarship librarian

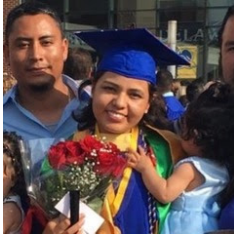
This summer, Roberto Vargas, research librarian for humanities and interdisciplinary studies, and Nabil Kashyap, digital scholarship librarian, co-taught the course Digital Humanities in the Classroom at the University of Pennsylvania, along with Katie Rawson, director of learning innovation at Penn's Van Pelt Library. The course was part of Penn's DReAM (digital resources and methods) Lab digital humanities training institute, and focused on the ways digital resources and methods can “help humanists become more confident and thoughtful users, creators, and critics of digital technology.” The course drew a mix of students, faculty, and staff from areas as varied as academic technology, history, and Latin American studies. Participants learned common tools for digital exhibits, web mapping, data cleanup, and collaboration, working to utilize digital humanities approaches in substantive, critical, and inclusive ways.

Wendy Chmielewski Recognized for Lifetime Achievement

The Peace History Society (PHS), the major academic organization focused on the history of peace movements around the world, announced that Wendy Chmielewski, George Cooley Curator of the Swarthmore College Peace Collection, will receive its lifetime achievement award at its upcoming conference in October. The award recognizes someone who has “contributed outstanding scholarship and exemplary service to the Peace History Society and to peace history.” Wendy has served as the curator of Swarthmore's Peace Collection since 1988, working to preserve the historical record on peace and social justice movements around the world. Among her many scholarly publications is *Jane Addams and the Practice of Democracy*

(2009), co-edited with Carol Nackenoff, Richter Professor of Political Science. Wendy is a PHS board member, and has previously served as president and vice president.

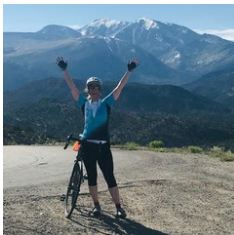
Milestones



Sandra Lopez Cortez, Grounds, graduated from the University of Delaware in May with a major in agriculture and natural resources and minor in horticulture. Sandra took advantage of the College's tuition reimbursement program to cover some of the cost of her education. Her loving family joined her at the ceremony, and she is thankful for all the support they gave her as she worked on accomplishing this goal. They are the reason she graduated!



Jen Moore, administrative assistant, History, was busy this summer, as she and her partner bought a house, visited former Swarthmore Admissions and Communications staff member Stacey Kutish at her gig at the Cincinnati Museum Center, and spoiled their nieces, nephew, and friends with quality time while planning all the trips they'd postponed while saving for their home!



Anne O'Donnell, associate director of individual giving, Advancement, bicycled 200 miles (including 14,000 feet of climbing) over four days in May. The ride in Moab, Utah, was organized by Colorado HeartCycle Bicycle Touring Club. Here she is at the summit of the LaSal Loop (aka "the big nasty"), having just climbed 5,600 feet. The descent was even more fun!



Georgina Texeira, associate director of HRIS and project management, Human Resources, completed the Humana Rock 'n' Roll half-marathon in Philadelphia this September. The scenic course down the Schuylkill River included live performances from local bands.

New Community Members

Get to know everyone who has joined Swarthmore since the last issue.



Paula McDonald joined the Human Resources team this September as associate director for organizational development and workplace relations. Paula comes to Swarthmore from Syracuse University, where she served as associate director for organizational development and training. At Syracuse, she enhanced the university's performance management process through engagement and education, and contributed to key diversity and inclusion initiatives through her work on the chancellor's workgroup and the council on diversity and inclusion. Paula holds a B.A. in business management from Syracuse.



Imaani El-Burki joined the Dean's Office in July as assistant dean and director of the Intercultural Center (IC). Imaani first came to Swarthmore in 2008, as the Black Cultural Center's graduate intern. She rejoins us from Moravian College, where she most recently served as the dean of diversity, equity, and inclusion, leading equity and inclusivity efforts and supporting students by creating opportunities for leadership and engagement. Imaani holds a B.A. in communication from Temple University, and an M.S. in communication and a Ph.D. in communication, culture, and media from Drexel University. Through her leadership at the IC and in her work with the Dean's

division, she will help develop and implement programming that supports students' academic and overall success.

Resources

Employee Handbook

We encourage staff members to familiarize themselves with Swarthmore's policies, procedures, and benefits.

Magellan Mental Health

All College health insurance plans include benefits through Magellan, providing confidential support and resources to help you manage your mental health.

Carebridge Employee Assistance Program

Carebridge provides guidance and confidential referral services in a wide range of areas, including financial management, continuing education, child care, elder care, mental health resources, and more.

Health Advocate

Health Advocate offers experienced support with finding doctors, navigating your treatment options, and managing your health care costs.

LinkedIn Learning

LinkedIn Learning is an online learning platform with thousands of video-based courses on everything from photography to finance. Find it on the ITS section of The Dash.

Staff Advisory Council (SAC)

SAC is a group of elected and volunteer staff members who help foster listening and communication between staff and the College administration.



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