Welcome to The Garnet Connection!

We share the stories and updates that matter to you. Check out past issues in our archive.

Community Happenings

Garnet Club Celebrated for Their Service to Swarthmore
Kenny Jones (EVS), Sharon King Pierce (EVS), Rasheed Willis (EVS), President Valerie Smith, Karen Henry ’87 (Dean's Office), Marcia Brown (Provost's Office), Bill Maguire (Facilities), Michelle Hartel (Dining Services), Roy Word (Dining Services)

The Swarthmore Garnet Club (not to be confused with Athletics' Garnet Club) is composed of staff members who have served the College for 30 or more years. Each year, President Valerie Smith celebrates the new cohort of Garnet Club members with a special breakfast in their honor. This year, they were also joined by those celebrating 25 years at Swarthmore. Congratulations to this fantastic group of staff members—Swarthmore is lucky to have you!

New Signs Help You Know Where to Throw

The Office of Sustainability recently debuted new signage (compost, recycle, and trash)
at existing waste stations around campus and in new waste stations at the Inn at Swarthmore. Developed in partnership with the Communications Office, these signs feature high-quality images of commonly disposed-of items around campus, encouraging composting and making it easier to know where your waste should go. Rapid climate change calls for an urgent response, and proper waste disposal, reuse of containers and utensils, and consumption of fewer individually wrapped foods all help contribute to a healthy ecosystem. Visit the Sustainability website for more on the College's Zero Waste efforts, including a waste disposal guide for how to properly dispose of even more items, and join the Zero Waste team at Essie Mae's on Tuesdays from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. for open Q&A sessions!

Alumni Online Community for Faculty, Staff, and Students

Swarthmore's Alumni Online Community is a helpful resource for students, faculty, and staff looking to connect with a talented and diverse group of alumni. If you're searching for a guest speaker, or know of a student looking for a professional mentor, you can search the Alumni Directory by more than 20 criteria, including major, graduate school, career specialty, and willingness to volunteer. Log in anytime with your Swarthmore credentials to get started.
BEP Will Offer New Spaces for All to Enjoy

Construction on the Biology, Engineering, and Psychology (BEP) building is now well underway, with Phase 1 slated for completion this summer and Phase 2 wrapping up in August 2020. With the goal of fostering new scholarly and creative connections, BEP will offer meaningful academic and community spaces for our students, faculty, and staff. These will include flexible classrooms, and indoor and outdoor common spaces, such as an elegant garden pavilion (pictured) with outdoor seating, bike racks, and the Nason Garden as its focal point. The project's environmentally intelligent construction practices include thoughtful engagement with the surrounding landscape, reflecting the College's commitment to sustainability.

Human Resources Updates

Campus Pet Policy Reminder
As a general policy, the College does not permit pets to be in the public areas of College buildings (research animals and service dogs excepted). However, the College will permit employees to have their pets inside their private office, as long as this does not present any health and safety concern to others in the building. For the College's complete policy on pets in the workplace, please see Chapter 15 of the Employee Handbook.

Download Your Electronic W2 on MySwarthmore

With tax season upon us, please remember that your electronic W2 is available for download via your MySwarthmore account. You can locate it in the Employee menu, in the Tax Forms section. If you did not sign up to receive an electronic W2, your paper form was mailed to you at your most recent home address in late January. Other information that may be needed for your tax return, such as your United Way contribution or PA Unemployment information, can also be found in MySwarthmore, in the Deductions section.

Events Calendar

2019 Holiday Schedule

All Staff Meeting
Lang Music Building
Thurs., April 4
10–11:30 a.m.

12@25
A Symposium on the Liberal Arts
Inn at Swarthmore
Sat., April 13
3–5 p.m.

Spring Into Wellness Week
Tues., April 23–Fri., April 26

Spring Gathering
Sharples Lawn
Thurs., May 30
2:30–4:30 p.m.
Awards and Achievements

Patton Vo Named Rising Star, Advancement Communications Recognized at CASE II

Patton Vo, associate director of athletics giving for alumni and parent engagement, was honored with the Rising Star Award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), District II. The Rising Star Award recognizes a rising professional for their achievement, dedication, and leadership potential in the areas of advancement services, alumni relations, philanthropy, and/or communications and marketing. Patton was nominated by Tania Johnson, director of sponsored programs. The invitation to the 2018 Parrish Salon was also recognized at CASE II, receiving a gold Accolades Award in the Publication Design category. Nikki Senecal, director of donor relations; Emily Weisgrau, director of advancement communications; and Amanda Whitbred, associate director of advancement communications, were all involved in the invitation's design.
Faculty Members on 'The Academic Minute' Podcast

The Academic Minute podcast offers scholars the chance to share their work in a nutshell. For their recent "Swarthmore Week," a series of episodes featured the work of five Swarthmore faculty members: Syon Bhanot, assistant professor of economics; Syd Carpenter, professor of studio art; Edwin Mayorga, assistant professor of educational studies and Latin American and Latino studies; Nina Johnson, assistant professor of sociology; and Art McGarity, Henry C. and J. Archer Turner professor of engineering. The Academic Minute is supported by the Association of American Colleges & Universities and presented on WAMC radio in Albany, N.Y.

Milestones

Kathy Agostinelli, patrol corporal, Public Safety, had her artwork exhibited at the Swarthmore Borough Hall earlier this year. Kathy’s genre-bending, oil
and mixed-media art is inspired by spirituality and the natural world. Kathy has studied at PAFA, Fleisher Art Memorial, and Rosemont College, and regularly exhibits in the Delco area.

**John Cline**, associate director of benefits, Human Resources, and wife Tracie welcomed a new addition to their family this fall. Son Zachary Cline was born Oct. 31, 2018, weighing in at 7 pounds 1 ounce and measuring 20.5 inches long.

**Yoshiko Jo**, a longtime Japanese lecturer at the College, is ranked among the top 100 (#89) ultrarunners in the U.S. by *UltraRunning Magazine*, with a time of 20:43:00 in the 100 miles category. She ran the **Berlin Wall Race** in an impressive 19:37:34, but since international races are ineligible for U.S. ranking, her new goal is to complete the distance in under 20 hours in the U.S. next year.

**Laurence Kesterson**, photographer/videographer, Communications, placed first in the social video category of the **2019 Northern Short Course contest**, for his video **GreenYellowRed BluePink: A Poem**. The video captures Swarthmore students musing on how color reflects mood, thought, and place, sometimes in surprising ways.

**Aixa Pomales**, director of support services, ITS, has taken on leadership roles in various professional organizations this spring. She was elected by her peers to join the board of trustees of **NERCOMP** (North East Regional Computing Program), where she is also a member of the program committee.
for their annual conference. She has also been invited to serve on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Advisory Committee for Educause.

**Katie Price**, associate director for co-curricular programming and outreach at the Lang Center, is happy to announce the birth of Atticus Francis Price-Devitus. Atticus joined the family on Feb. 26, 2019.

**Marcella Pringle**, patrol/communications officer, Public Safety, and Darryl Jackson are thrilled to welcome Dylan Jackson to their family. Born Dec. 11, 2018, at 11:06 a.m., Dylan weighed in at 8 pounds and measured 20 inches. The new bundle of joy joins Mom, Dad, and older brother Marcellus.

**Jacqui Maben West**, administrative coordinator, Scott Arboretum, got engaged to Ron Ricchezza. The two met at the Arboretum in 2015, bonding over their love of plants. A TV Audio technician by trade, Ron studied horticulture at the Longwood Gardens Professional Gardener program and volunteers at the Arboretum and the Swarthmore Horticultural Society. A June 1, 2019 wedding is planned for this matchbox couple!

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**New Community Members**

Get to know those who have joined us at Swarthmore since the last issue.
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 healthcare costs.

Lynda Learning Library

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

Staff Advisory Council

The Staff Advisory Council (SAC) is a group of elected and volunteer staff members who help foster listening and communication between staff and the College administration.
Faculty/Staff enjoy 10 percent off every day!

Faculty/Staff meal plans start at $60!