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Summer 2018 Issue of The Garnet Connection

1 message

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SUMMER 2018

Welcome to The Garnet Connection!

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

Community Happenings

Spring Gathering Celebration



Spring Gathering brought our community of faculty and staff together to celebrate the end of another semester with food, music, fun. [Enjoy some of our best shots from the day!](#)

Staff Participate in 2018 Commencement Ceremony



Joining in this year's commencement ceremony were four staff members (L–R): Marianne Lawler, Dining Services; Christina Webster, ITS; Jacqui West, Scott Arboretum; and Catherine Custer, Financial Aid Office. Staff began participating in commencement at the request of the class of 2016, to honor the bonds formed between staff and students during their time at Swarthmore. Here's to this great new tradition, and congratulations to the class of 2018!

JobX Student Employment Portal is Live

The College is introducing a new centralized student employment portal to bring greater ease, transparency, and equity to student employment at Swarthmore. This portal, JobX, will replace the use of paper forms for student hiring, but more importantly, it will make the process of looking for and applying to campus jobs significantly more accessible and inclusive for all students. Beginning with the Fall semester, all student jobs will be posted on and processed through this new portal. Explore the [JobX and Student Employment site](#) to learn more about this exciting new resource for our community.

In Loving Memory

Remembering Janet Kassab, Dining Services



Our dear colleague and friend, Janet Kassab, passed away on April 6, 2018. Janet joined the Swarthmore community in 1991, and spent 24 years as a part of the Dining Services team before retiring in 2017. She brought tremendous dedication, passion, creativity, and innovation to her culinary work, and was known for the warmth and kindness she showed everyone who crossed her path. She is survived by her daughter Mary, her son William and his wife Vanessa, and her granddaughter Charlotte Rose.

Human Resources Updates

2018–19 Tuition Grant Rates Now Available

Did you know that your children could be eligible for a grant to support their college education? Swarthmore's tuition grant program helps your children meet their academic goals by offering partial tuition grants to the accredited college, university, junior college, or technical school of their choice. Learn more about the program and your family's eligibility, and [see the 2018–19 tuition grant rates on our web page.](#)

Introducing BenefitsFocus

This fall, Human Resources will introduce BenefitsFocus, our new online benefits enrollment tool. BenefitsFocus will make the process of selecting, enrolling in, and updating your benefits a lot easier, and help you find the information you need to choose the benefits that are right for you and your family. We will offer workshops on using BenefitsFocus throughout the fall, so stay tuned.

Compensation Rate Update

As of September 1, 2018, the College's minimum wage for non-exempt, hourly staff will increase from \$12.00 an hour to \$13.00 an hour. The College reviews and updates its compensation on a regular basis, to make sure it remains consistent with peer institutions and federal regulations. This update reflects our commitment to fair wage practices that recognize and value the work of all our colleagues. Those individuals impacted by this change will receive additional information in the coming months.

Events Calendar

2018–2019 Holiday Schedule



**Working Together Towards a
Drug Safe Community
Session**

September 2018



SwatFit Group Exercise

Summer Class Schedule

June 4–Aug 17, 2018

Awards and Achievements

Associate Professor Lynne Steuerle Schofield '99 Named
Associate Provost of Faculty Diversity and Development



Lynne Steuerle Schofield '99, Associate Professor of Statistics, has been named Associate Provost of Faculty Diversity and Development. Lynne is both a Swarthmore alum and a member of our Athletics Hall of Fame. She received her doctorate in Statistics and Public Policy from Carnegie Mellon University, and joined our department of Mathematics and Statistics in 2009. In her near-decade as a faculty member, Lynne has built collaborative relationships with students, faculty, and staff across the College, focused on uplifting underrepresented groups in STEM fields, and demonstrated leadership through service on many committees.

Bindu Kolli Jayne Joins Swarthmore as Title IX Coordinator



Bindu Kolli Jayne joined the College as our Title IX coordinator on July 1, 2018. Bindu comes to Swarthmore from Rowan University, where she most recently served as assistant vice president for equity and diversity and title IX coordinator. At Swarthmore, Bindu will

oversee the College's centralized review, investigation, and resolution of reports of sexual assault and harassment and gender-based inequity. She will also advise students about the courses of action available at the College, build campus partnerships to increase education and awareness about Title IX issues, and help create a safe and inclusive campus for all.

Pat Martin Receives Education Abroad Leadership Award from NAFSA



Pat Martin, director of the Off Campus Study Office, received this year's Education Abroad Leadership Award from NAFSA: Association of International Educators. The award recognizes an educator with a record of distinguished service to the education abroad profession. While at Swarthmore, Pat has helped students expand their horizons and enhance their learning by connecting them to educational opportunities across the globe. She also edited and contributed to the volume Crisis Management and Education Abroad (2017).

Karen Phillips Honored by American Payroll Association



Karen Phillips, director of payroll, was honored at the 2018 American Payroll Association (APA) Annual Congress. Karen received a Citation of Merit, in recognition of both her long career in the payroll profession and her work on the APA's Strategic Payroll Leadership Task for Committee.

Larry Kesterson's Photography in the Spotlight



Larry Kesterson, Communications, recently received three top awards from the Society of Professional Journalists' Keystone Pro Chapter for his photography in the Swarthmore College Bulletin. Featured above is Hive Mindeded, from the Fall 2017 issue.

Milestones



Amanda Elam, postdoctoral research fellow in the department of Psychology, recently welcomed a new addition to her family. Daughter Jisèle was born on May 19, 2018, and weighed in at 7 lbs 6 oz.



Aixa Pomales, director of support services, ITS, and **Mark Davis**, manager of desktop systems, ITS, were elected to the Programming Committee for next year's NERCOMP, Northeast Regional Computing Program for Colleges and Universities, conference. Mark was also named chair of NERCOMP's Community Relations committee.



Despite two knee replacements, **Jeff Oaster**, classroom and media technologist, ITS, has kept busy with the Delaware Valley Amateur Astronomers. In addition to earning three observing certificates, he organized or assisted with many events, including one for the eclipse that saw about 400 visitors. An avid variable star observer, Jeff has recorded and logged over 250 variables for the American Association of Variable Star

Observers.



Zenobia Hargust, director of Equal Opportunity and Engagement and Deputy Title IX Coordinator, was recently appointed president of the Eastern Pennsylvania and Delaware Chapter of CUPA-HR, the College and University Professional Association for Human Resources.



Mike Harper, operations manager at the Swarthmore Campus & Community Store, and partner Lauren Thomason are happy to announce the birth of daughter Maeve Silvia Harper. Maeve joined the family on June 13, 2018, weighing in at 9.4 lbs.



Isaiah Thomas, assistant director of residential communities, Dean's Office, recently earned his doctorate in higher education administration from Northeastern University. His dissertation was titled *The 24/7 Student Affairs Professional: A Study of how Residence Directors Make Meaning of Wellness*.

He is thankful for Swarthmore's tuition reimbursement program, which helped subsidize the cost of his degree!



Roderick Wolfson, planner/project manager in Facilities Management, recently completed a two year term as president of the Board of Trustees at the Main Line Unitarian Church. Located in Devon, it is the largest Unitarian Universalist congregation in Pennsylvania.

New Community Members

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

Resources

Employee Handbook

We encourage staff members to look over the employee handbook and 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 areas as wide-ranging as financial management, continuing education, elder care, and mental health resources.

Health Advocate

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

Lynda Learning Library

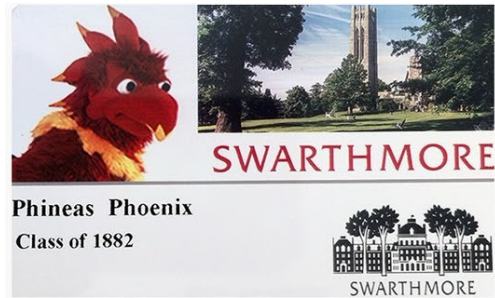
Did you know Swarthmore offers free access to Lynda, an online learning platform with thousands of video-based courses on everything from photography to finance? Find [Lynda on the ITS section of The Dash](#).

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!

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