Dear Parents and Guardians of Bryn Mawr Students,

I am pleased to introduce myself as the Interim Dean of the College. I have been a member of the Undergraduate Dean’s Office since 1991 and have advised (and graduated!) well over a thousand Mawrters over the years. Since 2009, students have also known me as the Dean of Studies—the person who nags them about registration and worries when they don’t complete their requirements on time—and I am looking forward to spending more of my energies on what happens outside of the classroom this fall. I am enjoying the opportunity to be working with our interim president, Kim Cassidy, whose enthusiasm, positive outlook and sincere appreciation for the Bryn Mawr community are already invigorating the college.

Kim’s enthusiasm comes through loud and clear in her recent announcement (below) that we will be building a new residence hall at Bryn Mawr. The Haffner Student Housing Project will provide for the renovation of a portion of Haffner Hall, the demolition of a portion of Haffner, and an addition that will give the College its first new student housing in nearly 45 years. When the improved hall re-opens in August of 2015, it will greatly enhance our residential flexibility and will incorporate the Black Cultural Center formerly housed in Perry House. Please note that Haffner Dining Hall is not part of the renovation project and will remain open throughout construction.

I can imagine each of you is now wondering how this will affect your own daughter. With the old Haffner Hall off-line and the remaining residence halls used at full capacity, the next couple of years will present both challenges and opportunities. We’ll have fewer single occupancy rooms, more apartments off-campus, and no rooms to spare, which means it’s unlikely that students will be able to revise their living situations mid-semester. Our residential life staff will be on hand to help students make good use of their problem-solving and negotiation skills, and hall advisers and other dorm leadership team members will be available 24/7 to lend their support.

I hope you and your family enjoy the rest of the summer, and I look forward to meeting many of you at Family Weekend (November 1 – 3) and, eventually, Commencement! Here’s to a wonderful year!

Sincerely,

Judy Balthazar
Dean of Studies and Interim Dean of the College