Dear Parents and Guardians of the Class of 2015 and Transfer Students,

We are delighted that your daughter has chosen Bryn Mawr, and we are looking forward to her arrival in August! Please find attached some information for parents about move-in and Customs Week, and college resources and services that support student health and well-being. We would be grateful if you complete and submit the Student’s Guardian Information form, so that in the future we may contact you in the manner you prefer. The form is available online (below the link to this letter) at http://www.brynmawr.edu/gateways/parents/.

Bryn Mawr is committed in philosophy and practice to treating students as women and as scholars and setting high expectations of them in their academic pursuits and in their conduct both on- and off-campus. Bryn Mawr women were granted self-governance in 1890, long before it was considered possible at most other institutions. Our honor system permeates all aspects of life at the college and is the source of great pride and respect among our students and alumnae. In advising undergraduates, we speak directly with them about issues of concern and encourage them to take responsibility for their education and their actions. Like you, we try to strike the right balance between offering advice and allowing students to make their own decisions. We strive to express confidence in their good judgment, to respect their privacy, and to earn their trust.

You may be wondering how your role will change as your daughter begins her new life at Bryn Mawr. As your daughter leaves home, your continued support and understanding will be crucial. While we hope that your daughter will flourish with her new independence, we also know that her self-confidence will depend on knowing that your help is available if she encounters difficulties. This summer, all of us are focusing our attention on your daughter making a good start at Bryn Mawr. Once the semester begins, parents are the ones most likely to hear about anything that goes wrong. Please don’t panic over a few unhappy phone calls at the beginning of the semester. They usually just signal the normal ups and downs of adjusting to a new environment. If things do not seem to be improving, however, please call the Dean’s Office (610-526-5375) or urge your daughter to speak with her assigned dean if she has not done so already. We want to support her and do what we can to ensure that her first weeks at Bryn Mawr will be good ones.

While the faculty and deans work directly with your daughter, please know that her dean will encourage her to speak with you about problems or concerns that she brings to one of us. In serious situations, we will insist that your daughter contact you or ask her to let us do so. In emergency situations or when we discover that a student’s health or well-being is at serious risk, we will, of course, contact you. For this reason, it is essential that your daughter provide us with
your emergency contact information via Virtual Bryn Mawr and that she update it every semester when prompted to do so.

If you are new to the Bryn Mawr community, I can assure you that your daughter is about to enter a place where she will be challenged, inspired, and celebrated. A major focus of the college and the Dean’s Office in the year ahead is undergraduate student life and I look forward to collaborating with student groups and organizations on initiatives that will further enhance the Bryn Mawr experience. I hope that you and your daughter enjoy these last few weeks together and that the transition to Bryn Mawr goes smoothly for all of you. Please know that my colleagues and I want to do everything we can to help make that possible -- please call on us and encourage your daughter to do the same.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Michele A. Rasmussen
Dean of the Undergraduate College

P.S. Parents’ and Family Weekend is scheduled for November 4-6, 2011. More information will follow and soon appear on the Parents’ page at http://www.brynmawr.edu/gateways/parents/.