

the college news

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A Year in the Life of Bryn Mawr College The Biggest Moments of 2006-07

by kaitlin menza

One of the biggest problems with the college years is that they fly by so quickly. Well, some people may find they drag, but I think those people aren't doing college the right way. For the rest of us, the average year at Bryn Mawr is a giant blur of typing, highlighting, napping, and hopefully some clinking of Lionshead bottles.

We are still trudging through the worst of the academic stupor, which is unfortunate because it leaves no time to look back at all we have accomplished and survived this year. 2006-07 was truly quite a year at Bryn Mawr College: a time for the history books. In case you have already forgotten, the college news presents the biggest, most shocking, most presidential moments of the school year. In no particular order, we have:

1. BMC's first Fall Plenary. Based on a previous resolution by Hannah Upp '07, Bryn Mawr holds its first Fall Plenary. Upp had suggested that two sessions might mean each would have less resolutions. And, thankfully Fall Plenary had a mere five, the majority being basic clean-up. Success!

2. The launch of the Katharine Houghton Hepburn Center. The first weekend of the school year was jam-packed with events heralding the opening of the Center, which hopes to "take on important and timely issues affecting women" (per the KHHC website), specifically Women's Health, Film and Theater, and Civic

Engagement. Highlights included a black-tie gala in Philadelphia that no student could actually afford and two performances by BMC favorite Dar Williams, which was delightfully free.

3. Pretty green signs appear on campus. After Thanksgiving, directory signs and maps were installed throughout campus. Elegant and hunter green, these additions to campus mean that prospective students feel doubly awkward when they ask where Taylor Hall is.

4. Drew Gilpin Faust '68 named new president of Harvard, making students, alums, and the Public Affairs Office giddy with pride. Faust is not just a Mawrtyr, but also a feminist scholar and the *first* female president of Harvard, which is especially delicious following former president Larry Summers's comments about women's inadequacy in certain academic fields. Faust proves to be an excellent addition to Wikipedia's list of famous Bryn Mawr alums.

5. mtvU introduced in Erdman. Students returned from Winter Break to a rather shocking addition to the dining hall: a flat-screen TV blaring MTV nonstop. Well, in truth, the television turned out to be much more of a shock to Dining Services, who learned the lesson not to make huge changes to Erdman and expect people to *not* go apeshit. Hundreds upon hundreds (it seemed) of angry Napkin Notes followed, but the TV remains.

6. Bill Clinton appears on campus. The announcement that the former president, sex symbol, and minor deity would be speaking on campus provokes this kind of reaction in students: "WHAT? IT CAN'T BE! REALLY? WHAT?! YOU'RE KIDDING. SCREW CLASS, LET'S WAIT IN FRONT OF THOMAS FOR THREE HOURS TO CATCH A GLIMPSE!!!" Thankfully, those who waited for hours were awarded with what I can only describe as a religious experience. Clinton appeared with Governor Ed Rendell to rally support for Congressional candidate Lois Murphy, though she was hardly the focus of the event. The focus was Bill Clinton, commanding the microphone, drenched in rain, making every student (regardless of sexual orientation or politics) understand instantly how he managed to get all those women.

7. Nancy J. Vickers announces her retirement. In her ten years as president, Vickers has seen the applicant pool increase by 40%, the endowment double, and the Challenging Women campaign succeed, which has raised



photo by bethany keffala. see inside for more from our feature photographer.

wish

by gilda rodriguez

WISH is my favorite day of the year—bar none (May Day included). I love sitting at the table with rest of the staff all day, connecting with old friends and making new ones, giving this community the opportunity to hope in a more tangible way than is usually available.

I always dreamt that my senior WISH day would be gloriously sunny. The same day in my freshman year set impossible standards: it was warm and beautiful, and it seemed like half the campus came out to cast their wishes. Since then, the weather has not deigned to repeat its kindness—rain forced us inside in the late afternoon both my sophomore and junior years. I had high hopes for my senior WISH, but despite my crossed fingers and sacrifices to Athena, it thundered and poured. Although I am sure the rain and our not-as-accessible location inside the Campus Center hindered many would-be wishers, we still went back to our office at the end of the day with a box filled with about a thousand colored pieces of paper, containing Bryn Mawr's trivial, poignant, deep, funny, random wishes.

My WISH for Bryn Mawr is that we—both those staying and those leaving—don't let setbacks, big and small, get in the way of hoping for a better future and, much more importantly, working towards it. Rain, a tense campus environment, the stress of finals, climate change, and a myriad other things can get us down, but we need to ensure that they don't *keep* us down. Look through our pages to see what others care about: may the uncensored, unedited wishes of our peers inspire and motivate you.

On Friday, I sat at the WISH table for the last time. To those of you who will have more opportunities to do so, I ask that come rain or come shine, you keep on WISHin'.

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The Office of Annual Giving would like to thank the very generous Seniors who made gifts to the Senior Gift Drive this year. Currently, the Class of 2007 stands to break the record for the highest percentage of Senior Giving of all Bryn Mawr classes before them.

We would also like to thank the members of the Senior Gift Committee for their hard work and dedication.

Annual Giving from alumnae is so important to the sustainability of the College and we hope that the Class of 2007 will continue to lead in this endeavor.

Congratulations Class of 2007
You are almost there!

For more information about the Annual Fund or the Senior Gift Drive, please contact Marissa Litman at mlitmae@brynmawr.edu.