April 2015

Dear Preferred First Name,

“Athena, please accept my offering…and grant me the motivation to finish this essay.”

“I hope to finish finals on a good note. Pray I don’t procrastinate too much.”

“This year has been one of the most transformative years of my life...When the summer comes, I'll miss Bryn Mawr terribly. But I'll be back again next year, and Athena, I'll need your help.”

Recently, I visited the statue of Athena in Thomas Great Hall, and these messages stood out to me among the hundreds of offerings that adorn her. Generations of Bryn Mawr students have turned to Athena for luck and strength during challenging times, especially now as final exams near. My visit to Athena renewed my understanding that these offerings are not made frivolously. Instead, offerings to Athena speak to our students’ intense passion for learning and achieving, and their desire for a life-changing college experience.

Today, I hope you will join in this spirit of offerings by making a gift to The Bryn Mawr Fund. In return for your gesture of support, you can feel pride in knowing you helped today’s students receive the kind of education that meets their high expectations for excellence. And enclosed, you will find your very own Athena. Use it as a bookmark, hang it from your computer – however you choose to use your Athena, I hope she will move you to reflect upon your Bryn Mawr years and to show your commitment to today’s students by participating in giving.

Bryn Mawr students are savvy. Even before they apply to the College, they’ve researched our programs, faculty, and opportunities for campus leadership, and thought about how a Bryn Mawr education will help them achieve their life goals. As actively engaged as they were as applicants, they are even more so as students. Bryn Mawr students thrive in the College’s culture of intellectual curiosity, and they value the exchange of diverse ideas. They care deeply about succeeding and contributing to the world in meaningful ways.

As Provost, it is my responsibility and absolute pleasure to develop curricula and learning opportunities that inspire students to think creatively and critically, to collaborate, and to grow as individuals. Bryn Mawr is a defining moment in our students’ lives, and we must deliver an education that not only has the power to shape a mind but also a lifetime. Your annual support of The Bryn Mawr Fund helps make this possible. Bryn Mawr’s fiscal year ends on May 31st. The College looks to its loyal alumnae community for ongoing support, so I encourage you to make your gift today.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and your efforts to advance the excellence that is Bryn Mawr,

Mary J. Osirim, Provost

P.S. The third annual Race 'Round the Maypole Class Color Competition will take place from April 24 to May Day, May 3. This year, sister classes will compete in a battle of Evens vs Odds. Stay tuned for more details!