In my time as president of Bryn Mawr College, I have often said that the unifying principle of our alumnae, faculty, and students is our commitment to academic excellence. It is the foundation upon which this College stands, and on it we have built a modern, innovative curriculum steeped in our traditional strengths.

Our excellence in and out of the classroom and our dedication to teaching and learning rely not only on our illustrious faculty and strong programmatic commitments, but also on our ability to provide the physical spaces that match and enhance that very excellence. We cannot allow our facilities to be a barrier to academic and co-curricular achievement, indeed, we must instead commit ourselves to fueling achievement via our iconic campus.

Our recent renovation of Park Science is a perfect example of this commitment. The addition of a glass atrium brought needed light and beauty to the building and created new teaching and learning spaces – spaces filled with new technology, as well as whiteboards and blackboards that support collaborative work and seminar style learning, new lab spaces that reflect modern sciences, and open, shared spaces that bring our entire community together.

Our commitment to our students does not end in the classroom, however. I believe that our students are at their best when they are joyful and healthy in their pursuit of academic engagement. To this end, in the next few years, we will build a new student life and wellness center on campus. The new facility will house the health and counseling centers, religious life, the Pensby Center, and LILAC. The building, designed with sustainability in mind, will be a welcoming environment for students with flexible spaces to accommodate a wide array of activities and services.

None of this is possible, nor has it ever been possible, without the philanthropy of our alumnae, parents, and friends. Your support of the *Defy Expectation* Campaign through The Bryn Mawr Fund provides us the vital funding to help our students achieve their ambitions. Please join me in supporting the College today.

Best regards,

Kimberly W. Cassidy
President