Dear Alumnae/i,

I hope this message finds you and your loved ones healthy and safe. I want to take a moment to thank you for the outpouring of support for the College during these unprecedented circumstances. Your care and concern remind me of why I am honored to lead this special institution. Against the backdrop of coping with the spread of COVID-19, I have been inspired by the ingenuity and determination with which students, faculty, and staff are adapting to new forms of work. In my more than 25 years as a member of this community, I have seen us come together many times, and never more so than in this time of crisis.

Every day, we are making difficult decisions to protect the health and safety of our community. These decisions have come at great cost in both lost time and financial resources, but we are committed to addressing the many needs and shared challenges of our students, faculty, and staff. Already, we have invested in new remote education technologies, redirected staffing to better support the transition to online learning for students and faculty, offered additional sick time to protect the wages of our staff, and provided extra help for students who need more resources at this time, including funding for travel home and technology support for remote learning. To help families, we issued an immediate partial reimbursement of room and board for those who left campus the first three weeks, with additional funds to follow for the remainder of the semester. With students at home or remaining on campus due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, we are not hesitating to make major financial commitments in the interest of academic consistency, community safety, and student equity.

It has been no surprise to me that many alumnae/i have asked how they can help us in this endeavor. You have always been there for one another, and we are grateful your connection extends to the students on campus and at home. To make the biggest impact, the best thing we can do is pool our resources together through The Bryn Mawr Fund to ensure that the College has the financial ability to continue to meet the needs of our community. Now, more than ever, our support is truly making a difference in students’ lives and the College’s ability to adapt to this unique moment in time. One of the roles of The Bryn Mawr Fund has always been to serve as our de facto “emergency fund” and never more so than right now. As a result, this year, I have decided to increase my own giving and invite you to join me. Please know that I understand if your own circumstances do not currently allow for this kind of additional or new support, and I appreciate your many other forms of assistance on our behalf.

I wish you and your family good health, and I thank you for the ways you are responding to this unprecedented situation. Your advocacy and support demonstrate the incredible resiliency and devotion that are the hallmarks of our Bryn Mawr community.

Best regards,

Kimberly W. Cassidy
President