

Phonathon Managers, Sa'De T. Black '22 and Sovigne Gardner '22 spoke to us about their impressions of Bryn Mawr today and the joy they find in connecting with donors through phonathon.

Sa'De T. Black began looking at women's liberal arts colleges when she heard presidential candidate Hilary Clinton attended Wellesley. She settled on Bryn Mawr not only for its walkability but also because Bryn Mawr's pre-med program would not force her into a specific path. It is still her intention to go into the Life Sciences field and she will graduate next year with a degree in Biology.

Sovigne Gardner was looking for a college filled with traditions and where women make up a majority of the community. Coming from life in St. Paul, Minnesota, she also enjoys the experience of all four seasons. Sovigne planned to major in International Studies or Political Science; however, she fell in love with learning about patterns in language and studying sociolinguistics of languages in decline. She will graduate next year with a major in Linguistics and a minor in Chinese.

Both have missed having in-person classes this year. Still, Sa'De appreciates the willingness of professors to meet remotely and finds them more accessible. Sovigne appreciates being in an environment where everyone is working passionately towards their degree. Despite the restrictions COVID has placed on their in-person interactions, they have both found ways to have fun and relieve stress. Sa'De enjoys one-on-one time with friends watching Netflix and Sovigne has joined a Hip-hop dance group and does tablet weaving.

Sovigne and Sa'De are also busy with other extracurricular responsibilities. Sovigne volunteers with VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) and is also a rower. Sa'De works part-time on CARLA (Coalition for Anti-Racist Literacy at Bryn Mawr College), which is designed to hold open conversations about race and antiracism on campus, and is a DEI consultant for the President's Office. She is also a tour guide and tells prospective students that Bryn Mawr's community is open, welcome, and kind.

Phonathon has enabled Sa'De and Sovigne to gain experience managing a team of callers and guiding them as they connect with alumnae/i about Bryn Mawr today and supporting the College. Speaking with alumnae/i has taught Sa'De, Sovigne and the other callers that a Bryn Mawr education opens many doors and gives you the ability to do anything. One of Sovigne's favorite conversations was with an alumna about her tenacity to pursue a path not directly aligned with her degree. One of Sa'De's favorite conversations included a parent who asked her to connect with her daughter. She did and now they are good friends.

Both managers advise their team not to be afraid to connect with and ask for support from those they call. It is a great feeling to speak with someone who cares about helping students and supporting Bryn Mawr.