

BRYN MAWR

COLLEGE

July 19, 2023

Dear Bryn Mawr students,

Choosing to join a new community must be intentional and given a lot of thought. It is in that spirit that I have joined you as the new dean of the undergraduate college and I could not be more excited to be your Dean! I have always admired Bryn Mawr for its work to educate students, to encourage and build intellectual curiosity, challenge the status quo, take risks, and ask important questions that promote self-discovery and growth. We are here to support and advance an environment that ultimately helps you grow and create a better version of yourselves that will positively impact the world.

I learned many years ago how important an education such as the one offered at Bryn Mawr is to the life and legacy of future generations. As a “newer immigrant,” first-generation college student from a family that financially struggled, my liberal arts education has been life changing. I had opportunities I could never have imagined and grew from both new and unexpected experiences. Such a journey was supported by many faculty and staff members. Their commitment to my experience was a major influence on the person and leader I am today. Their example has brought me to embrace this amazing opportunity to be your dean. I look forward to partnering, co-creating, and learning from you. I am confident that with collaboration, open communication, and our ability to listen to and compromise with one another, we will together enhance your Bryn Mawr experience and make it one that you will continue to benefit from well beyond your time as undergraduates on campus.

I wanted to both share my excitement as a new member of the community and provide you with a few important updates as you prepare to return to campus.

Transitions

Bryn Mawr has many incredible staff members that I know have positively impacted your experience. There have been a few recent retirements from the division, including Judy Balthazar, Vanessa Christman, Chuck Heyduk and Joann O’Doherty. We have also recently had four announced departures from our division: Lisa Armstrong (Career and Civic Engagement), Leslie Castrejon (Impact Center), Michelle Mancini (Dean’s Office), and Keisha Smith (Counseling Services) have decided to explore other pursuits outside the College. We have begun searches as these positions are paramount to our success. We thank all our departing colleagues for their many contributions and wish them well.

New Staff

As we work to ensure students are well supported, we have recently filled several vacant positions and have also hired for newly created positions. At present, our new staff members include: Sara Donals, Assistant Director of Case Management (new position); Katina Francis, Campus Safety Officer; Dana Gold, Assistant Director of Employer Relations; Rose Miller, Campus Safety Student Liaison (new position); Barbara Moran, Assistant Director of Access Services; and Helen Roane, Residence Life Coordinator.

Undergraduate Dean’s Office

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We are also in the process of hiring a Dean of Student Life and a Dean of Student Success, both positions whose search processes include student participation.

Exciting Changes within the Division

Your experience as students is one of the most important motivators for our work. Any changes implemented are meant to support your growth, success, and connections to the College. I look forward to hosting several open sessions in September to further discuss the benefits of these changes, to listen to your concerns and answer questions. Further information about these sessions will be shared once the semester begins. In the meantime, below are a few of the significant changes we are making to achieve these goals.

- **Class Dean Model:** Beginning this academic year, we are implementing a new class dean model. This model enables students to build stronger relationships with numerous advising deans during their time at Bryn Mawr. This new model will also enable staff members to become experts for their respective classes and collaborate with other offices to expand support and services. Moving forward, Mary Beth Horvath will be Associate Dean of the First Year Experience, Rachel Heiser will be Interim Assistant Dean for the Sophomore Experience and Tonja Nixon will be the Assistant Dean for the Upper-Class Experiences (Juniors and Seniors). During the upcoming year, we will launch the search to hire a new Sophomore Class dean. To answer questions about this new model, check out this [link](#).
- **Campus Safety:** This department is now part of our division, and we recently added a position, Campus Safety Student Liaison, to better interact with students.
- **Additional Resources:** Access Services has hired another staff member to support the needs of our diverse student body.
- **Offices Relocation:** To increase interactions and proactive engagement with students, we wanted more of our staff to be in closer proximity to you. This summer, the following offices are moving from Guild to Campus Center: Residential Life and Student Engagement (Campus Center, 2nd Floor), Academic Support (Campus Center, main level), new Case Manager and Campus Safety Liaison can be found on the Lower Level of Guild.
- **Interacting with the Dean of the Undergraduate College:** I hope to spend time meeting with many of you and will begin offering office hours in the fall.

You are the heart of this campus, and I am confident that your experiences, wisdom, and collaborative spirit will continue to shape a community of compassionate scholars and leaders. I look forward to your return. Enjoy the rest of your summer.

With gratitude,
Dean Karlene