

BRYN  
MAWR  
COLLEGE

Four  
Priorities for  
2013-15

# Bryn Mawr College:

## Four Priorities for 2013–15

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Our strategic vision, *The Plan for Bryn Mawr* (developed in 2013) aims to strengthen our core mission and enhance our competitive position. It encompasses an ambitious collection of initiatives and goals, which we have prioritized for a two-year window. These priorities focus on students (both graduate and undergraduate) to deliver high-quality, innovative, engaging experiences, and provide excellent preparation for life after Bryn Mawr. These areas of priority build on our existing strengths and our commitment to excellence, as well as support efforts that will have a strong impact on student recruitment and satisfaction, and help us better meet areas of student demand and need.

### Priority #1: Curricular Innovation

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The College has always been, and will continue to be, committed to raising students' level of excellence; making learning interesting and exciting; providing opportunities for experiential learning; and preparing students for multiple pathways beyond Bryn Mawr. Faculty research and scholarship is the foundation upon which this academic experience is built. The promise of a rigorous and creative curriculum that will engage students now and into the future requires vigilant attention and innovation. This kind of curricular forward movement is crucial to attracting a strong and robust applicant pool. Below are areas of foci that fall under this goal:

- >> Increase the number and variety of 360° course clusters, with particular focus on increasing the number that involve the sciences.
- >> Use technology to enhance student learning and preparation.
- >> Make sure that our curriculum offers opportunities to develop the skills in—and critical reflection on—new media, and provides the curricular and co-curricular experiences for some students to become leaders in technology and its applications.
- >> Explore expanding, and nurture existing, opportunities for graduate study for our AB students, particularly through 4+1 programs and existing and new AB/MA programs that build on our historic academic strengths, our consortial relationships, and our international partnerships.
- >> Support and strengthen new programs that have emerged “recently” such as: International Studies; Tri-Co Linguistics; Tri-Co Environmental Studies; Health Studies; Child and Family Studies; Computational Minor; Middle Eastern Studies; and Latin America, Latino and Iberian People and Cultures. These programs are in high demand by students and are critical areas of study for understanding today’s most pressing issues and opportunities.

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- >> Support faculty scholarship as one important element of curricular innovation.
- >> Continue to support curricular innovation at the departmental and program level (e.g., new approaches to the intro and capstone experience; courses in new areas; pathways through the major, minor, or concentration; innovative pedagogy; and global connections to other universities and scholars).
- >> Meet the demand for quantitative, computational, and statistical preparation. Since these skills have become increasingly important in many fields, student demand for this kind of preparation is growing exponentially on our campus and among our peers.

## Priority #2: Connecting the Liberal Arts to Professional and Personal Growth

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Support the development and growth of the Leadership, Innovation, and Liberal Arts Center (LILAC). Putting students' liberal arts education at the heart of its work, LILAC will help undergraduate and graduate students forge connections between their work at the College and the world beyond Bryn Mawr. Having a comprehensive, successful, and innovative approach to preparation for life after Bryn Mawr is crucial to attracting today's students and their parents. Specific areas of foci include:

- >> Helping students understand the meaning and importance of a liberal arts education and provide them with the tools they need to articulate how their particular Bryn Mawr education (i.e., their curricular plans) provides outstanding preparation for the pathways they choose beyond Bryn Mawr.
- >> Providing more opportunities for students while at Bryn Mawr to apply their education beyond the campus (e.g., praxis courses, experiences through the Civic Engagement Office, internships, research and laboratory projects, study abroad) with a particular emphasis on building the internship program. Design these opportunities as part of a thoughtful plan for helping students achieve their personal, intellectual, and professional goals.
- >> Integrating students' experiences outside of Bryn Mawr into their plan of study while at Bryn Mawr. Through curricular offerings and co-curricular programming, better prepare students for off-campus experiences in advance of their participation, and provide them opportunities when they return to process, understand, and integrate these experiences into their curricular pathways.
- >> Supporting workshop programs—and developing new ones—that expose students to areas of knowledge they would not otherwise encounter in a liberal arts environment, but that may be helpful to them in particular career pathways, such as the Job Market Boot Camp offered in the summer of 2013.

Help students understand the meaning and importance of a liberal arts education

- >> Supporting a state-of-the-art career and professional development program within LILAC that is well integrated into all aspects of students' experiences, that supports them in exploring different kinds of career experiences, and that continues to serve them well as alumnae/i.
- >> Providing LILAC programming and support faculty in developing curricular work to develop students' professional skills, including, but not limited to, oral presentation, professional writing, self-presentation (in person, on paper, and digitally), networking, and interviewing.
- >> Developing a network of alumnae/i that can act as a resource for students through robust programs, experiential opportunities, and other forms of direct interaction.
- >> Ensuring that students understand the importance of technological skills for the professions they are pursuing, and providing students with the opportunity, through in-person and online offerings, to obtain these skills.

Support a state-of-the-art career and professional development program

## Priority #3: Nurturing Globally Successful and Engaged Students

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Prepare undergraduate and graduate students to be successful in a global world. This means preparing domestic students for a world that extends well beyond the United States and preparing international students to take full advantage of a U.S. education and to apply that education in their home countries. Our partnerships and exchanges with institutions around the world demonstrate to students our commitment to women's advancement and to graduating students who have a deep understanding of global women's issues. Over the past two years, we have experimented with several pilot efforts. An important part of the work of academic year 2013-14 will be to form multi-constituency working groups that include faculty, staff, students, and alumnae/i to develop the specific programmatic priorities under this broad goal. Possible areas to explore include:

- >> Building curricular support and development for students' global preparation.
- >> Supporting and nurturing international students and their full integration—academic and social—into the Bryn Mawr community.
- >> Developing “away” experiences for students: study abroad, course connections to global universities, summer study abroad, partnership exchanges and/or opportunities, internships, praxis experiences.

Develop “away” experiences for students

- >> Promoting Bryn Mawr as an institutional voice for women's advancement and use this position to enhance the experience of our students. International partnerships and other forms of global visibility will be established that not only contribute to global women's empowerment, but also create edifying experiences for our students abroad.

## Priority #4: Supporting and Showcasing Science

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Currently we have launched many new initiatives in the sciences: a special science Posse, curricular innovations in preparation for the new medical school requirements, new configurations of intro courses, new capstones, revised graduate program curricula, etc. These innovations are sorely in need of new spaces that better reflect recent advances in scientific research and pedagogy, with the overall goal of advancing knowledge via a liberal arts education. Given this, we will focus on:

- >> Developing a specific design (moving beyond the concept plan) for the renovation of Park Science Building so that the renovation of the space reflects our current and future research and teaching goals.
- >> Continuing to measure and document the success of our new science initiatives to better express how and why we are so successful in preparing women scientists and mathematicians.

Continue to measure and document the success of our new science initiatives

## Conclusion

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While the Plan for Bryn Mawr is a strategic plan focused on the College, it is important to remember that College priorities should always be viewed in the larger Bi-College context. Opportunities for greater collaboration with Haverford should be an important consideration as we pursue these priorities as well as other institutional activities.

Finally, in today's culture of accountability in higher education we have an obligation to provide real proof points of the distinctiveness, innovation, and joy in learning that we provide. In implementing these priorities, we will work to assess our success and to communicate our promise, offerings, and accomplishments to all our audiences, but particularly to prospective students and parents.

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