

Steel & Garnet



WINTER
2021



Letter from our President

In the midst of a school year unlike any other, I have found strength in the smiles of our students, the resilience of our staff, and the generosity of our friends. The Girard College community is full of everyday heroes whose dedication to our mission leaves no doubt that we will emerge from this unusual chapter in our history stronger than ever. In this issue of *Steel & Garnet*, you will see just a few examples of how our staff has unleashed courage in the face of the coronavirus pandemic, as well as plenty of good news that bodes well for the future!

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OUR MISSION

Girard College is a full-scholarship boarding school that fosters intellectual curiosity, social development and emotional growth in academically focused students from underserved communities. We ensure every student the opportunity and the means to achieve excellence and preparation for advanced education through purposeful academic and residential programs.

OUR VALUES

Respect. Responsibility. Integrity. Courage. Compassion.



ABOVE
Bernard W. Smalley, Esq. Named Board President: The Board of Directors of City Trusts, the agency charged with overseeing charitable trusts bequeathed to the City of Philadelphia, including Girard College, recently announced the unanimous election of prominent city attorney Bernard W. Smalley as its President – the first African-American ever to lead the Board in its 151-year history.
Dr. Heather Wathington, President of Girard College, said, "Bernie is both a great leader and a great role model for our children, and his election is an inspiration for Girard College and its students."

Part of Stephen Girard's legacy includes how he acted in times of crisis, specifically his coordination of Philadelphia's response to the Yellow Fever outbreak of 1793. His commitment to ensure proper care for all who needed it informs the College's response to coronavirus today. Our community has faithfully adopted new health procedures to keep all of us safe as well as compassionately supported those whose families have been impacted by COVID.

We have also remained committed to our educational mission, providing excellent academic and residential programs for our students. Knowing that our youngest students benefit most from face-to-face instruction, our hybrid learning model prioritized in-person learning in the elementary school while optimizing our virtual platforms to deliver the same high-quality curriculum to all of our students. While we have pivoted as needed based on health trends in our region, we continue to work toward a day when all of our students can return to campus safely.

I also want to take a moment to acknowledge the legacy of the Honorable Ronald R. Donatucci, who passed in November after more than 30 years in service to the Board of City Trusts. Ron always put the students of Girard College first in his work as Board President, and we heard from many alumni who recalled the ways in which he touched their lives personally. His impact on the College will resonate for years to come.

We are lucky to have the esteemed Bernard W. Smalley, Esq. ready to stand up and take leadership of the Board as its new President. Bernie shares Ron's passion for Girard's students and its mission, and I look forward to working with him as we continue to honor the legacy of all who came before us.

Thank you to everyone who has shown such tremendous support to our community this year. Your loyalty and generosity ensure that our school remains strong and our students can create legacies of their own. Together, we will step courageously ahead into a brighter, healthier, and more equitable future.

Hail Girard!



Heather D. Wathington

DR. HEATHER D. WATHINGTON
President, Girard College

Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of our staff and the support of our community, Girard College has continued to provide an excellent academic and residential program for our students while keeping health and safety a top priority.

Unleashing Courage

CELEBRATING GIRARD'S HEROES

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March 2020, the Girard College administration reacted swiftly to protect all staff and students. Work and school were suddenly remote as the world changed around us.

Thankfully, virtual instruction picked up without missing a beat thanks to the careful planning and dedication of our faculty and staff, and we were able to finish the year strong while celebrating traditions and honoring the graduating class of seniors.

As conditions improved over the summer, planning began for what would be a very different school year. The College's crisis team met weekly to develop multiple options and contingencies to be ready to open school safely in the fall. Ultimately, based on the best available science and health data, the decision was made to

begin the year in a hybrid model, with our youngest students (grades 1-3) returning in person while older students began the year virtually.

In her opening announcement in August (delivered virtually), President Dr. Heather Wathington set the tone for the year by reminding the College's staff of the importance of our mission, prompting them to "unleash courage," in honor of the school's recently adopted core value. By setting positive intentions, demonstrating empathy, and embracing flexibility, we would face this challenge together and become heroes to our students.

While teaching faculty went the extra mile to train on virtual instruction techniques and the residential life team practiced safe interactions for when students would arrive, there were many other staff members who worked behind the scenes to put the College's health and safety plan into action.



ABOVE
Engineers Rich and Marc Olivsatri evaluate the ventilation system in the high school building.

From Facilities, Maintenance, and Security to Nursing, Dining Services, and Laundry, dozens of Girard staff members faced unprecedented challenges with courage and fortitude. Whether it was administering temperature screenings, preparing meals and uniforms, or applying plexiglass to desks, heroes emerged day after day, both leading up to the start of the school year and in the months since.

Several key areas made it possible for us to welcome students and staff back to campus: safety procedures, health services, and campus facilities. With new guidelines and recommendations constantly evolving at the state and city level, the naming of Dr. Keenan Dorsey as Pandemic Coordinator ensured fidelity in the College's adherence to all requirements. Manager of Health Services, Theresa Zengolewicz, RN worked closely with a private testing company and served as a liaison for Girard families to guide them through the steps of testing and health screening. Director of Facilities, Richard Pavoni, oversaw a team of essential workers who would transform the physical layout of the classrooms and dorms. Together, each of these leaders demonstrated incredible courage in doing everything necessary to make the new school year possible.

When thinking back to the beginning of the pandemic, Dr. Dorsey said, "My initial reaction was 'Is this really happening?' I had only ever read about pandemics of this magnitude, and never expected to experience it in my lifetime."

Dr. Dorsey's experience in staff administration and human resources allowed him to work closely with the various departments and unions at Girard to strategize and make decisions on how to best provide a safe academic, social, and work environment for all. From securing personal protective equipment to leading trainings on social distancing and quarantining, Dr. Dorsey ensured that College staff understood the reasoning behind the new health and safety procedures.

Nurse Terri knew that the way to combat the fear and uncertainty that came with the pandemic was with knowledge. "I researched COVID-19 and became familiar with all of the guidance from the governing bodies at the local, state, and national level," she said. "Additionally, I knew we needed an outside partner to help us with testing, mitigation and contact tracing. The support and training our nursing staff received gave me the confidence to know that we are keeping ourselves and our students safe."

Rich Pavoni thought he had seen it all as Director of Facilities, but the action plan to reimagine the school's dorms and classroom spaces was daunting, to say the least. While the College is lucky to have a lot of space to work with on campus, there are myriad issues that come with older buildings, including those that had not been in use recently.

"Preparing dorms for social distancing was a huge undertaking for our staff," said Pavoni. "To modify building spaces, we had

to work at record speed to bring buildings out of suspension and rejuvenate, repair and furnish them for occupancy."

Other challenges for the facilities team was acquiring supplies and equipment to make sure they could maintain a sanitized campus to keep students and staff safe, as well as assessing the ventilation and air quality of all buildings and addressing any issues immediately.

Pavoni said of his team, "I'm so inspired by the essential workers who stepped up with enthusiasm to make sure the school would continue to function. We would not have been able to bring students back without their dedication."

It has taken a village to make the 2020-21 school year happen, and continuous adjustments are still needed as the pandemic spikes and recedes. After welcoming 4th, 5th, and 9th graders to campus in November for one brief week, the rising rates of transmission forced the College to pivot to remote instruction for all students.

But the experience our staff has gained and the sense of community they have created prove that we can do hard things and do them well. The students of Girard College will continue to benefit from the courage and compassion of each and every staff member who have truly become heroes in the face of great adversity.



BELOW
Bill Brown and Vincent Jackson ensure every staff member and visitor completes COVID-19 screening before entering campus.

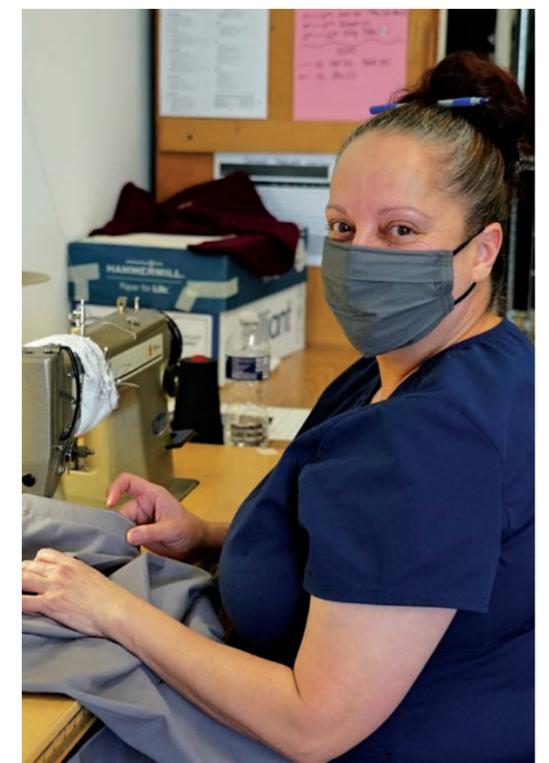


ABOVE
Robert Wimberley keeps indoor areas clean and sanitized for student use.

“The support and training our nursing staff received gave me the confidence to know that we are keeping ourselves and our students safe.”

TERRI ZENGOLEWICZ, RN

RIGHT, TOP TO BOTTOM
Ben Sussman and Nick Lombardo maintain outdoor spaces on campus.
Denise Johnson and Kade Simon deliver student lunches to the classroom.
Diana Rosado makes an alteration to a student's uniform.



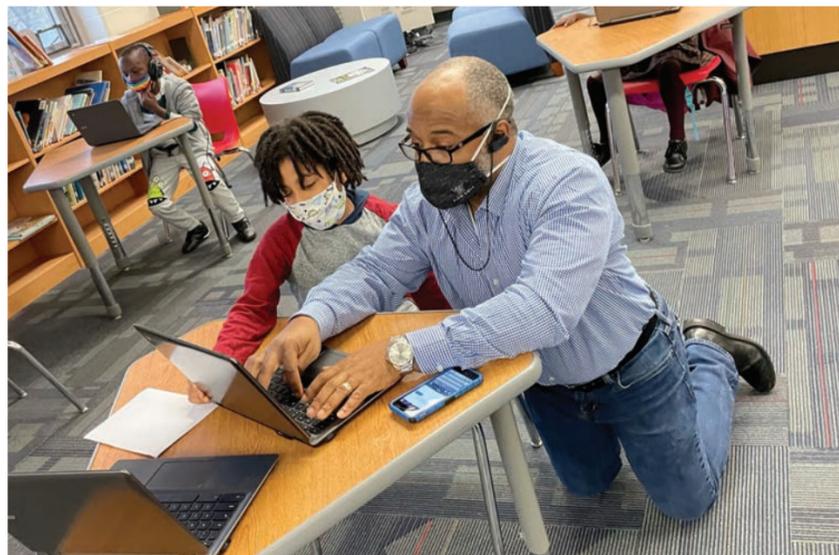
Program Update

A Team Approach to Student Achievement

Girard's mission has always been to provide students with the tools and resources they need to be successful. But in a world of political division, an unprecedented health crisis, and systemic racism, those resources need to extend far beyond books and beds.

The Student Achievement Team at Girard College is a vital component of the school's holistic approach to education. Established prior to the 2020 school year, the Achievement Team consists of a director, Summer Sheridan-Zabre, LCSW, licensed clinical social workers, academic counselors, behavioral specialists, and the college and career counselor.

The structure of the team provides a comprehensive way for teachers, residential advisors, and counselors to share information on each student's progress and well-being so that there is meaningful context for that student's performance. By working from the same data points, it's easier to identify potential barriers to student success and set targeted goals for growth and improvement.



ABOVE
Residential Advisor Neil McNair '90 works with a student on their after school programming.

Sheridan-Zabre comes to Girard with 12 years of social work experience in New York City schools like Harlem Link Charter and Boys Prep Charter, where she helped students and families address issues of poverty, trauma and learning challenges. She knows that academic success must be linked to social and emotional growth, which has become an integral part of Girard's program.

"Eighty percent of our students identify as having a 'history of trauma,'" Sheridan-Zabre says. "Trauma is a broad topic, but especially pervasive. It can affect students across all settings and follow them into adulthood if not supported. That's why it is so important for us to establish relationships with students to help them learn how to process issues that affect their mental health and readiness to learn, whether they are personal in nature or global like the coronavirus pandemic or racial injustice."

Social and emotional learning (SEL) tools like Suite 360 have been instrumental in addressing difficult topics with students in an age-appropriate and constructive way. All Girard students engage with these lessons as part of their after school programming led by the Residential Life team. The curriculum covers everything from kindness and responsibility to weightier topics like COVID-19 and racism. The conversations generated from these lessons allow Girard staff to see where students might need extra support or reinforcement.

The relationship between the Achievement Team and the Residential Life Team has blossomed throughout the year, with Summer and her team providing training for the RAs, led by James Turner, Dean of Residential Life. Luckily, the two have a previous relationship to draw from. Sheridan-Zabre and Turner worked together at Boys Prep in the Bronx, and once he

made the move to Girard, he knew that she would be perfect to lead the newly conceived Achievement Team.

"Summer is a fantastic educator and one of the most empathetic people I know," said Turner. "I knew we had to have her working with Girard students to help them reach their goals."

Launching a new team and getting to know a new community during a school year where so much of our interaction has been virtual has been challenging, but the Achievement Team has quickly established a warm rapport with students and families as well as fellow staff members. Through virtual meet and greets and a monthly Wellness Wednesday workshop, Sheridan-Zabre and her team have jumped in with enthusiasm, paving the way for the type of collaboration and communication that will ensure Girard students have the support they need to excel in all facets of their lives.

BELOW

James Turner, Dean of Residential Life, and Summer Sheridan-Zabre, LCSW, Director of Student Achievement, have previous experience working together to address students' social and emotional needs.



Artistic Collaboration

Girard College Awarded Project Grant

THE PEW CENTER FOR ARTS & HERITAGE



ABOVE
Poet Ross Gay is one of a team of artists who will bring the "Be Holding" project to life at Girard. The artist residency will engage students to explore the beauty of Black flight through the lens of a historic Dr. J shot, culminating in a scored live performance in the Armory.



By pursuing new grant opportunities and strategic partnerships, Girard College aims to become The Campus for The City, one of four pillars in the school's strategic plan.

\$308k+
Project Grant

THE PEW CENTER for Arts & Heritage recently announced Girard College's "Be Holding" project as one of 29 project grants for 2020 in support of Philadelphia's cultural organizations and artists.

"Be Holding" is an original performance that will have its world premiere at Girard College. Using poet Ross Gay's book-length poem "Be Holding"—inspired by Philadelphia basketball champion Julius Erving (a.k.a. "Dr. J")—as its libretto, a musical performance will incorporate a creative process that engages Girard College's first-through-twelfth-grade students. Gay (virtually) served as the College's commencement speaker for the Class of 2020.

The commission will explore themes of Black genius and beauty in the face of racial violence and inequities. The school will host Gay, composer Tyshawn Sorey, director Brooke O'Harra, and musical ensemble Yarn/Wire in a multi-year residency to develop the multidisciplinary performance work.

"We could not be more thrilled to welcome these inspiring artists to our community," said Dr. Heather Wathington, President of

Girard College. "Leveraging the performing arts to contemplate issues of identity, humanity, and racial justice is very much in line with Girard's mission to teach our students to lead lives of social impact."

The project has two components: a multi-year residency where the artists meet at Girard and engage with students and faculty in the development process, which will then culminate with a scored live performance in the school's Armory (gymnasium) featuring Gay's reading enhanced by original video elements and improvisation. The artist residency is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2021, pending ongoing developments with the coronavirus pandemic, with the premiere performance scheduled for spring 2023.

Girard's project grant is for \$257,100 with an additional 20% (\$51,420) provided in unrestricted general operating support. Girard College is a first-time applicant and recipient of a Pew grant.

Corporate Partnership

Girard's Community Garden

WELLS FARGO

WELLS FARGO has a strong history of supporting the students of Girard College, most recently evidenced through a \$5,000 environmental sustainability grant directed to impact the school's Community Garden. The grant will allow for the construction of new beds, planting supplies, and additional tools. By investing in the community garden, Wells Fargo ensures that many more students will benefit from the hands-on education this resource provides.

"I was truly looking forward to volunteering alongside the students, but due to COVID-19 we had to cancel our in-person efforts. We thought the next best thing would be to provide Girard College with a donation so the students could prep the garden when it is safe to do so. We look forward to the moment when we can all be in the garden safely and together," said Susan Johnson, Community Relations Associate consultant and Green Team Chair at Wells Fargo.

"We are so excited that Wells Fargo is making this commitment," said Sylvia Bastani, Vice President of Advancement and Strategic Partnerships at Girard College. "The students love the garden, and we're very grateful that they will be able to continue learning through it."

The Girard College Community Garden was dedicated in 2011 as a way to teach students about environmental sustainability by growing their own food. Consisting of 20 plots managed by student interns and faculty, the garden provides endless opportunities for learning. Produce grown in the garden is utilized by the school's Dining Services team in student meals, and extra food is often sold through a community farmstand. In 2019, the Girard College Community Garden was awarded a Blue Ribbon by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

Recently, students in grades 1-3 have been using the garden for moments of exploration. In September, girls in 2nd grade picked some ripe tomatoes and peppers to take home, and in October, boys in 1st grade enjoyed a scavenger hunt.

Next year, Girard College will be eager to host Wells Fargo for a collaborative project in the Community Garden to thank them for their support. Together, we will continue to educate our communities about the importance of treating our environment with respect through sustainable use and care.

"We look forward to the moment when we can all be in the garden safely and together."

—
**SUSAN JOHNSON,
COMMUNITY RELATIONS
ASSOCIATE CONSULTANT
& GREEN TEAM CHAIR,
WELLS FARGO**



RIGHT
Rhodie B. '31 picks a pepper in the Girard College Community Garden. Students use the garden to learn about biology, horticulture, and environmental sustainability.

At Our Core

Sculpting History: From Stephen Girard to Rosa Parks



Eugene Daub

'60

“I’m glad that the College is more diverse and inclusive than it was when I was a student...With everything I’ve learned in my life and career, I know that education, like art, is for everyone.”

EUGENE DAUB

YOU COULD SAY Eugene Daub’s art career began by winning a 3rd grade contest with a drawing of a dinosaur. From that first gold sticker earned during his time at Girard College, Daub has gone on to become one of America’s most accomplished figurative sculptors, with dozens of major monuments and portraits in museums, collections, and public spaces around the world.

Daub recently applied his talents to an original relief portrait of Stephen Girard, commissioned by the members of the Class of 1960. Daub is considered an honorary member of the class, though he only attended Girard for a few years in elementary school. The award-winning sculptor readily agreed, completing the project without charge aside from the foundry fees.

Because Stephen Girard never sat for a portrait during his lifetime, Daub worked from a combination of existing posthumous sources, such as the Bass Otis oil portrait (1832) and the J. Massey Rhind statue (1897) that is currently located on the grounds of the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

The entire process takes about 12 weeks, but is completed in stages. After initial research and sketching, Daub first renders the piece in clay, developing the architecture of the plaque and getting the proportions right. Once the design is complete, a full silicone mold is made, which is painted with several layers of wax to produce a model, then dipped into a heat-resistant type of cement. After drying, the wax is burned out and bronze is poured into the space the wax occupied.

“Bronze casting has not changed too much in the last 1,500 years,” Daub explained. “The process of what they call ‘lost wax’ means they essentially burn the wax out and pour the hot bronze in.”

The lettering on the plaque is all done by Daub’s hand, carved in reverse and backwards so that they come out raised as part of the relief instead of stamped

on afterward. The effort lends a subtle, personal touch. Daub also used a technique that is commonly found with busts, that of placing in an alcove to provide contrast. Notice the circular niche that Girard’s head sits in; that depth creates shadow and drama that helps frame the subject.

“The reason I gravitated toward three-dimensional artwork,” Daub said, “was because it has life to it. It changes as the light hits it, as the sun moves, or as you walk around it.”

While Daub did study at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, he did not become a sculptor through extensive schooling in the subject. He began his career as an art director for an advertising firm, but even while working with graphics he always had an interest in the human figure. His first job in sculpture was for the Franklin Mint, where he developed skills creating bas-relief medals for small scale collections in porcelain and pewter. The mint offered to subsidize Daub’s training at a private sculpture academy in Philadelphia for a half-day per week. This was the beginning of his first formal study in figurative sculpture.

“I don’t think I even knew what bas-relief was when I first started,” Daub joked, “but there was something I connected to and wanted to pursue. For whatever reason, it came easily to me and I fell in love with it.”

That innate passion and skill encouraged Daub to strike out in search of commissions, and one of the first he landed involved convincing his children’s orthodontist to accept a pair of sculptures for his church in exchange for the payment on their braces.

From there, Daub built his career one piece at a time, and enjoyed growing success through the 1980s in Philadelphia, including designing the Philadelphia Liberty Medal, which is now awarded annually by the National Constitution Center.



ABOVE

Eugene Daub is an internationally renowned sculptor whose portraits and figurative monument work are featured in public spaces and permanent collections throughout the United States and Europe. Here, Daub works on a sculpture of civil rights icon Rosa Parks, which resides in the National Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol Building.

A move to California in 1990 launched a new era in his career, where he has continued to exhibit extensively in addition to teaching. His work encompasses a wide range of figures from American history, including Thomas Jefferson, Sacagawea, Lewis and Clark, and Harvey Milk.

“When I create likenesses of these historical figures, I try to stay true to what they would have looked like in their time,” Daub said, “but there is always room for interpretation. My goal is to give them a psychological context.”

In 2008, Daub and partner Rob Firmin submitted a design that was selected from more than 100 entries to create a statue of civil rights icon Rosa Parks that would sit in the National Statuary Hall inside the U.S. Capitol. Unveiled by President Obama in 2013, it was the first full-length statue of an African American person in the U.S. Capitol and also the first statue commissioned by Congress since 1873.

In the years leading up to his work on the Parks statue, Daub had become more attuned to the idea of representation of people of color in both his work and public sculpture as a whole.

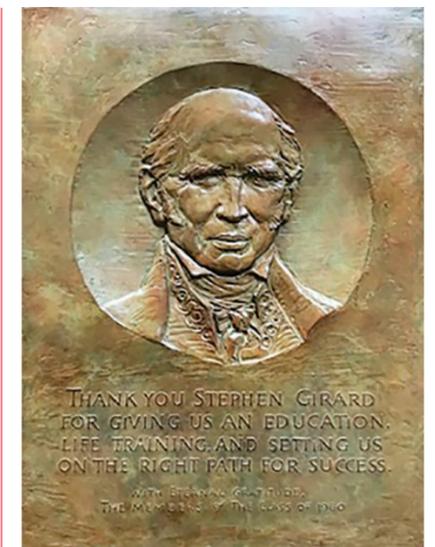
“I fell in love with American history by working on public commissions,” Daub said, “but there’s a lot of it that’s not pretty.”

The more Daub worked on sculptures of people like Frederick Douglass or Charles Hamilton Houston, who was the first special counsel of the NAACP, the more he realized the power of public art to help balance the narrative of our country’s history.

That broader perspective gave Daub even more reason to undertake the Stephen Girard relief portrait. He recognized that Girard’s legacy continues to evolve over time and means different things to different people.

“I’m glad that the College is more diverse and inclusive than it was when I was a student,” Daub said. “With everything I’ve learned in my life and career, I know that education, like art, is for everyone.”

A final location for the Stephen Girard relief portrait is still being decided, but a likely destination is Founder’s Hall. With planned revitalizations of the first floor as well as the historical collections on the horizon, the sculpture is sure to be displayed prominently for all to enjoy.



ABOVE

Daub’s relief portrait of Stephen Girard will soon find a permanent home on the Girard College campus.

A History of Epidemics and Girard College

The year 2020 will forever be defined in the history books by the global coronavirus pandemic, which has forced significant changes to our work, school, and everyday lives. While it was a new experience for many of us, a look into the archives shows that the Girard community has been here before.

Stephen Girard was no stranger to disease and public health. In August 1793, a deadly outbreak of yellow fever began to sweep through Philadelphia after arriving on ships from the Caribbean. Within three months it killed ten percent of the city's population.

As the disease spread, forty percent of Philadelphia's population fled to the countryside, but Stephen Girard stayed and ultimately joined the volunteer Committee for the Relief of the Sick. On Sept. 15 he volunteered to run the fever hospital at Bush Hill, an estate located at 17th and Spring Garden Streets. It had already been commandeered as a hospital, but conditions were awful; one period account wrote that the sick "were left almost entirely destitute of every assistance. The sick, the dying, and the dead were indiscriminately mingled together."

Girard took administrative control (a cooper named Peter Helm managed the exterior), and turned Bush Hill around, ensuring that it was adequately staffed and that patients were properly evaluated, clothed, fed, housed and treated. Doctors Jean Devèze (lately arrived from Haiti and familiar with yellow fever) and Benjamin Duffield attended patients, treating them with the "French method" of rest and restorative measures, rather than "heroic" measures such as purging and bloodletting. The "Citizen and Humanitarian" mural in Founder's Hall depicts Girard at Bush Hill, with Helm on the left and a Black man delivering a fever victim on the right. Philadelphia's African-American community played an outsized role in caring for fever sufferers due to an initial (and incorrect) belief that they were immune, in addition to direct appeals from physician Benjamin Rush.

As November frosts killed off the disease-bearing mosquitoes, the yellow fever epidemic abated and Bush Hill closed

as a fever hospital in January 1794. In the aftermath, Philadelphia founded a permanent Board of Health. Subsequent yellow fever epidemics continued to plague the city until 1820, and Girard would again volunteer in running a hospital during a 1797 outbreak.

Girard's concern for health extended to the students of the school he would found. His will specified that "Due regard shall be paid to [the students'] health, and to this end their persons and clothes shall be kept clean, and they shall have suitable and rational exercise and recreation."

The College's first infirmary operated out of Merchant Hall, but by 1856 a purpose-built infirmary was completed. Good food and clean surroundings kept Girard boys relatively healthy, but the limitations of pre-modern medicine led to epidemics including dysentery in 1851, smallpox in 1861, meningitis in 1885, diphtheria in 1897, and ongoing typhoid problems which were alleviated when the school began filtering its water in 1893.

In 1918, Girard College was confronted with a global pandemic that has garnered much comparison to the coronavirus crisis. The 1918 influenza (inaccurately nicknamed "Spanish flu") killed between 50 and 100 million people worldwide. Philadelphia was the hardest hit big city in the United States.

In the fall of 1918, a Philadelphian died of flu every five minutes. Girard College treated 903 cases in a student population of 1,568. Nine students died. Coffins and undertakers were in such short supply that Girard carpentry instructors and maintenance men made caskets for the students, alumni volunteered their cars as hearses, and in one case a Girard gardener went to the cemetery and dug the grave.

In an attempt to stem the tide, Girard College was quarantined, with no students allowed off campus and no visitors allowed on. Classes were cancelled for three weeks (required of all schools by the Board of Health), all group spaces except dining halls were closed, and students were kept outside as much as possible. The annual report lauds the playground teachers for their "resourcefulness and capacity for leadership in the originating of new interests and the directing of recreation." Already short-staffed because of World War I, as employees became ill, Girard assigned students to help in the dormitories and dining halls.

Unlike the modern coronavirus, the flu pandemic was devastating but quick; at Girard it lasted about a month. But the flu would continue to have a large impact on the College, as the school took in many children whose fathers died of the disease.

Of students admitted between 1920 and 1928, around twenty percent had lost their fathers in the pandemic.

Because of Girard College's unique records, we assisted curators from the Mütter Museum at The College of Physicians of Philadelphia on their current exhibit, "Spit Spreads Death: The Influenza Pandemic of 1918-19 in Philadelphia." Girard College is highlighted as a case study in the "Aftermath" section.

Although not nearly so devastating, another campus epidemic which some older alumni may remember was the 1939 scarlet fever outbreak. Quarantine again headed the response: students were restricted to campus, then chapel and all group meetings were cancelled, then classes themselves were suspended and "students were confined to their own dormitory houses except at meal and recreation hours, when they also remained segregated from other groups."

But, unlike 1918, and like today's pandemic, testing and vaccination also played a major role in the College's response. All students were tested for susceptibility to scarlet fever; the approximately 400 susceptible students were quarantined in the Armory and two dorms, where they were immunized and kept separate. In a memoir, John Anderson recalled his Armory experience, which consisted of "getting painful 'booster shots' weekly and playing."

"From a fully packed schedule to the assignment to do nothing but entertain ourselves—what a break! Our teachers

couldn't get to us, and we had to remain indoors...Our huge armory, three floors of it, was turned into one massive playground during all waking hours...We read, roller skated, played basketball, and did everything to pass the time. Perhaps the most popular form of entertainment was the relatively new game of Monopoly, interspersed with marathon chess matches."

The annual report also noted that the same susceptibility test "was administered to the members of the staff; and...certain restrictions on their movements and contacts were imposed." Like the 1918 flu, the 1939 epidemic passed relatively quickly. Classes resumed after about two weeks, but susceptible students in the Armory missed about a month, and some students who had been ill took even longer to recover.

These stories about how the Girard community handled health crises in the past show that sudden outbreaks are not a new phenomenon. Unfortunately, they can still feel new to those going through them. Nevertheless, we need to try to learn from our past, which is why Kathy Haas, our Director of Historical Resources, has been working to document the current response and impact of the coronavirus on our community.

Visit www.foundershall.org for more resources on the history of epidemics at Girard College, including a virtual museum tour, a Stephen Girard Philadelphia tour including Bush Hill, and links to digitized annual reports, or contact Kathy Haas (khaas@girardcollege.edu) to learn more or share your story.



ABOVE, LEFT TO RIGHT
Of students admitted between 1920 and 1928, around twenty percent had lost their fathers in the 1918 flu pandemic. Shown here are the "flu orphans" of the Class of 1933. The school newspaper reports on the outbreak of scarlet fever in 1939.

SCARLET FEVER CASES MULTIPLY

No Cause for Alarm

The few scarlet fever cases which came to the attention of the Infirmary two weeks ago have increased.

In a recent interview with a News reporter, Dr. Bauer stated that there is no cause for alarm over this outbreak. None of the students ill with this sickness is in a dangerous state. All the cases are mild.

We are, however, experiencing the worst epidemic of respiratory diseases since the influenza contagion of 1918. More than three hundred boys have received medical attention from the Infirmary since the beginning of the year. Sixty per cent of them have been older boys.

By going around the grounds inade-
(Continued on Page Four)

Strategic Plan Update

Anchoring Our Impact

- ✔ **CREATE** a Student Achievement Team to break down barriers to student success (page 6)
- ✔ **BUILD** new partnerships like those at the heart of "Be Holding," an artistic collaboration that garnered a Pew project grant (page 8)
- ✔ **SECURE** major funding for building improvements: Girard College was recently awarded a \$500,000 grant from the State of Pennsylvania's Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RAC-P). These funds, which require a one-to-one match, were made to support the revitalization of Founder's Hall and the new Science Center.



ABOVE
A.J. Ernst, Dean of High School (left), and teacher Jack Greubel welcome Fatima M. '24 back to campus.

Introduced in the Winter 2019 issue of *Steel & Garnet*, the **Girard College Strategic Plan** outlines the school's goals over a five-year period. Organized into four pillars, the plan demonstrates how we are *Navigating the Future and Anchoring Our Impact*.

Even in the midst of dealing with the coronavirus pandemic, our dedicated faculty, staff, and administration continue to stay focused on our Year 2 strategic goals. Each of the goals listed here has seen progress and will continue to guide our efforts throughout the year.

There are so many exciting things in the works at Girard, even as we continue to do everything that is necessary to keep our community safe while meeting our student's educational needs. We look forward to keeping you updated on our progress!

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

- Evaluate and revisit Early Learning curriculum (Grades 1-3)
- Improve academic growth and achievement for 3rd-12th grades using new curricula and innovative instructional practices; Growth rates determined by Accreditation Committee
- Reimagine and build College and Career Success Program for 9th-12th grades

RESIDENTIAL EXCELLENCE

- Create an Achievement Team to serve as a model student support program and to bring focus to mental and behavioral health; Strengthen Social Emotional Learning programming and curricula
- Add and implement sexual education curriculum
- Catalyze progress in designing a Residential Life program that is life skills-focused and student-centered

FINANCIAL VITALITY

- Secure major funding for building improvements
- Obtain additional funding (+\$200,000 over FY 2020) for campus programs and/or improvements
- Complete campus infrastructure development plan

CAMPUS FOR THE CITY

- Convene and build more partnerships that serve our students and the City
- Begin Founder's Hall Revitalization project
- Reimagine performing arts at Girard

Alumni Notes

Girard College Alumni Association Membership

Since its founding in 1900, the Girard College Alumni Association has faithfully served the alumni and students of Girard College. The GCAA depends on your membership dues to continue serving our constituents.

Whether coordinating the senior class trip to Washington, accompanying the 10th graders on Stephen Girard Appreciation Day, providing financial support to the scouting program, administering the undergraduate and graduate scholarship grant programs, coordinating all the events that encompass the celebration of Stephen Girard's birthday on Founder's Day weekend or coming to the aid of a Girardian in need, the GCAA provides invaluable support and guidance to Girard students while they're in school and beyond.

Please remit your membership dues at your earliest convenience. With my time in the office limited, the easiest way to submit dues at this time is via PayPal using the email address mail@girardalumni.org.

Associate Member: \$35.00 / Senior Member: \$50.00
Lifetime Member: \$500.00

I hope we can count on you for your continued support.

Hail Girard!

BILL GALLAGHER, DIRECTOR OF GCAA

Stay in Touch

Sign up for the GCAA e-newsletter!

Keep up on the latest news from the Girard College Alumni Association by signing up for our email newsletter. Updates include student programming, alumni profiles, and memorial notices.

Email us at mail@girardalumni.org to subscribe.

GCAA Chapters

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IN MEMORIAM

Till Our Hearts Be Still

John H. Anderson, '42	Bill Darling, '56
Tom Nawalinski, June '43	Tom Eckert, '56
Robert H. Hunter, '45	Andy Ermilio, '56
George Walter Thomas, '46	Richard Houghton, '56
John Delcercio, '47	William McNulty, '56
Fred Garber, '47	Bob Roach, '56
Bert Levin, '47	Ed Small, '56
Paul Gaughan, '48	Frank Eugene Buck, '57
Mooshe Perregian, '48	Rich Hamilton, '58
Robert Jackman, '49	Todd Ellis, '59
Ramsey Koumjian, Jan '49	Robert Fisher, '59
John Toutkaldjian, June '49	Rocco D'Amico, '60
Richard Harry Gebelein, '50	Charley Ellis, '60
James Deegan, '51	John D. Gearhart, '60
William Jewett, '51	William M. Dougherty, '61
Carlton "Bud" Rintz, '51	Ronald Conway, '68
Edward P. Armstrong, '53	Rich Setzer, '68
Dr. John A. Rocco, '54	Vince Gravelle, '69
Paul Yatchisin, '54	Everett Bishop, '72
D. Leonard Casterline, '55	Ronald Merenda, '74
Dominic "Archie" Garguile, '55	Joseph Roman, '78
Virgil Brown, '56	Timothy Merkel, '82
	Jeffrey Yates, '94
	Shaquira McCottry, '11
	Brandon Ricks, '14
	Dr. Shirley A. Dixon Former Faculty

Why I Give

Anthony Bonanzino '69



ABOVE Anthony Bonanzino '69 (top right) credits his time at Girard, along with the steadfast support of his wife and family, for his success.

ANTHONY BONANZINO, PH.D. '69 has the distinction of being the inaugural member of the Everyday Heroes Club, the monthly giving program offered through the Girard College Office of Advancement. In the fifty years since graduating from Girard, Bonanzino has carried the legacy of Stephen Girard with him through a successful career and rewarding family life, and felt it was important to make an ongoing commitment to support the current students of his alma mater.

"Girard has such a focused mission," Bonanzino said, "to educate students who have lost a parent or come from limited means. That was me, and I feel it's important to ensure that students today continue to have the same opportunity I did."

Born in West Haven, Connecticut, Bonanzino was in 4th grade when his father died suddenly. Tony quickly found himself in trouble and acting out, but was eventually directed toward Girard College in Philadelphia, which would soon come to feel like home.

"The camaraderie at Girard was unbelievable," Bonanzino said. "I never felt alone."

While at Girard, Tony played soccer, ran track, and wrote for the newspaper and literary magazine. He was a member of the National Honor Society and received the Union League Good Citizenship Award.

Bonanzino went on to have a successful career in business and banking, always keeping the values learned at Girard close at heart. He credits his time at Girard, along with the steadfast support of his wife and family, for his success.

"When I was at Girard, core values were ingrained into us everyday," he said, "and I am proud to know that Girard is still maintaining this tradition."

Bonanzino also chooses to support Girard to honor those who provided "an extraordinary education" to him.

"The teachers and headmasters at Girard taught me to not only think critically, but how to be a good person," he said.

By committing to a monthly investment for the students at Girard, Bonanzino joins a community of everyday heroes who understand the importance of being there for young people at a critical time in their lives. The academic, social and emotional education provided at Girard College prepares students to create positive impact in their communities and leave enduring legacies of their own.



Sylvia V. Bastani, CFRE, CPC

VICE PRESIDENT OF ADVANCEMENT & STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

IN THIS ISSUE of *Steel & Garnet*, we celebrate the many heroes who make contributions in time, treasure, and talent to our Girard College community. Our heroes are Girard's students, faculty, staff, and administrative team, as well as our many donors, friends, and alumni.

Two important and highly competitive grants recently awarded to Girard from The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage and the State of Pennsylvania's Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RAC-P) will support Girard's bright future as The Campus for The City, a center for social impact, special events, and educational and artistic programs and conferences.

One of my great joys is connecting with you. I am deeply grateful for the many encouraging calls and emails that I received during this very difficult time. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me or any of our wonderful Advancement team members—Taylor Cobb, Kathy Haas, and Adam McGrath—with your questions and suggestions. You may also visit our Support page at girardcollege.edu/support.

Thank you for supporting Girard College.

Best wishes,

Sylvia V. Bastani, CFRE, CPC
sbastani@girardcollege.edu

*Correction: Girard College incorrectly reported a gift in our recent Impact Report (Spring 2020). The gift, which was attributed to E*TRADE, was made by Mr. Anthony Forcinelli '61. We apologize for our error.*



ABOVE Paul M. Eaton, who has been a driving force for Girard's music program for more than 20 years, was recently named a semifinalist for the GRAMMY Music Educator Award.

CONGRATULATIONS go out to Paul Eaton, Girard College's dynamic music director for more than 20 years, for making it to the semifinal round of the Music Educator Award presented by the Recording Academy and GRAMMY Museum. Paul made the top 25 out of nearly 2,000 nominations from all over the country!

The Music Educator Award recognizes those who have made a significant and lasting contribution to the field of music education and demonstrate a commitment to maintaining music education in the schools.

All who know Paul can attest to his passion for education and the way he encourages students to empower and express themselves through music. Under Paul's leadership, the Girard College music program has enjoyed creative partnerships with the Curtis Institute of Music, Temple University, the National Liberty Museum, and numerous national and international performing artists.

ADMISSIONS

Families interested in applying to Girard College are invited to sign up for a Virtual Talk and Tour with our Admissions Team. Tours are conducted every other Tuesday via Zoom and provide an opportunity for prospective families to learn more about the eligibility requirements, application process, and incredible opportunities afforded to our students. Visit www.girardcollege.edu/admissions to sign up and learn more.

If you know of an outstanding student that would benefit from the educational and residential programs at Girard College, please send their name and contact information to our Admissions Office at admissions@girardcollege.edu



Become a Hero to our Students

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GIFTS OF LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES

GIVE SECURELY ONLINE AT
www.girardcollege.edu/support

GIVE BY CHECK
 Checks can be made out to *The Girard College Foundation* and mailed to:
 Girard College
 Attn: Clinton A. Walters, Jr.
 1101 Market Street - Suite 2600
 Philadelphia, PA 19107

Please include "Winter 21 S&G" in the memo line.

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ESTATE PLANNING
 Stephen Girard's legacy has made possible an extraordinary education for tens of thousands of young men and women. Your legacy can, too.

Consider making a planned gift to Girard College, just as our founder did.

Begin the conversation with us by calling Sylvia Bastani, Vice President of Advancement and Strategic Partnerships at 215-787-4442 or via email at sbastani@girardcollege.edu



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