

Steel & Garnet



FALL/WINTER
2022-23



Letter from our President

As I have been welcomed into the Girard College community, I am reminded again and again of how special this place is, and how blessed I am to join you in our shared mission. I am truly humbled to have been selected as your president, and I am committed to providing every opportunity for our students. Every child deserves the chance to discover their purpose and develop the skills to pursue that purpose. With the resources, talent, and love in this community, we will come together as One Girard to give our children any future they choose.

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CAMPUS FOR THE CITY
New Foundation Shines a Light on our Unique Mission



ABOVE Students gather outside the Chapel prior to the ceremony to invest F. Christopher Goins as the 19th President of Girard College.

It is an incredibly exciting time here at the school, as Girard College is poised to enter our 175th anniversary with a shared vision for success. We will build on our rich history and take inspiration from the best schools in the country to become a culturally affirming campus that delivers an unparalleled academic and residential education. Our students will be confident, prepared, and ready to take on any challenge as the leaders of tomorrow.

I am extremely grateful for the support of The Board of Directors of City Trusts, especially Mr. Bernard Smalley, Ms. Lynette Brown-Sow, and the members of the Girard College Committee. I am energized by the faith they have placed in me to write the next chapter in the book of Girard College.

The people who make this miracle work every day, our faculty and staff, inspire me with their care and dedication to their students and our mission. It is of utmost importance that we recruit, nurture, and retain the most talented teachers and advisors for our students.

Our alumni are eager to support our students and engage all generations of graduates. I congratulate GCAA President, Tim Farward '97, as he leads a new executive team for the Association. Together, we will identify ways for students to benefit from the expertise of their fellow Girardians.

We are blessed to have a volunteer fundraising foundation, The Fund for Girard College, to generate resources and connect the region's leading institutions to our cause. Under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Lorina Marshall-Blake, the Fund will

transform our program by stewarding major gifts like the Henry & Virginia Grabowski STEM Challenge.

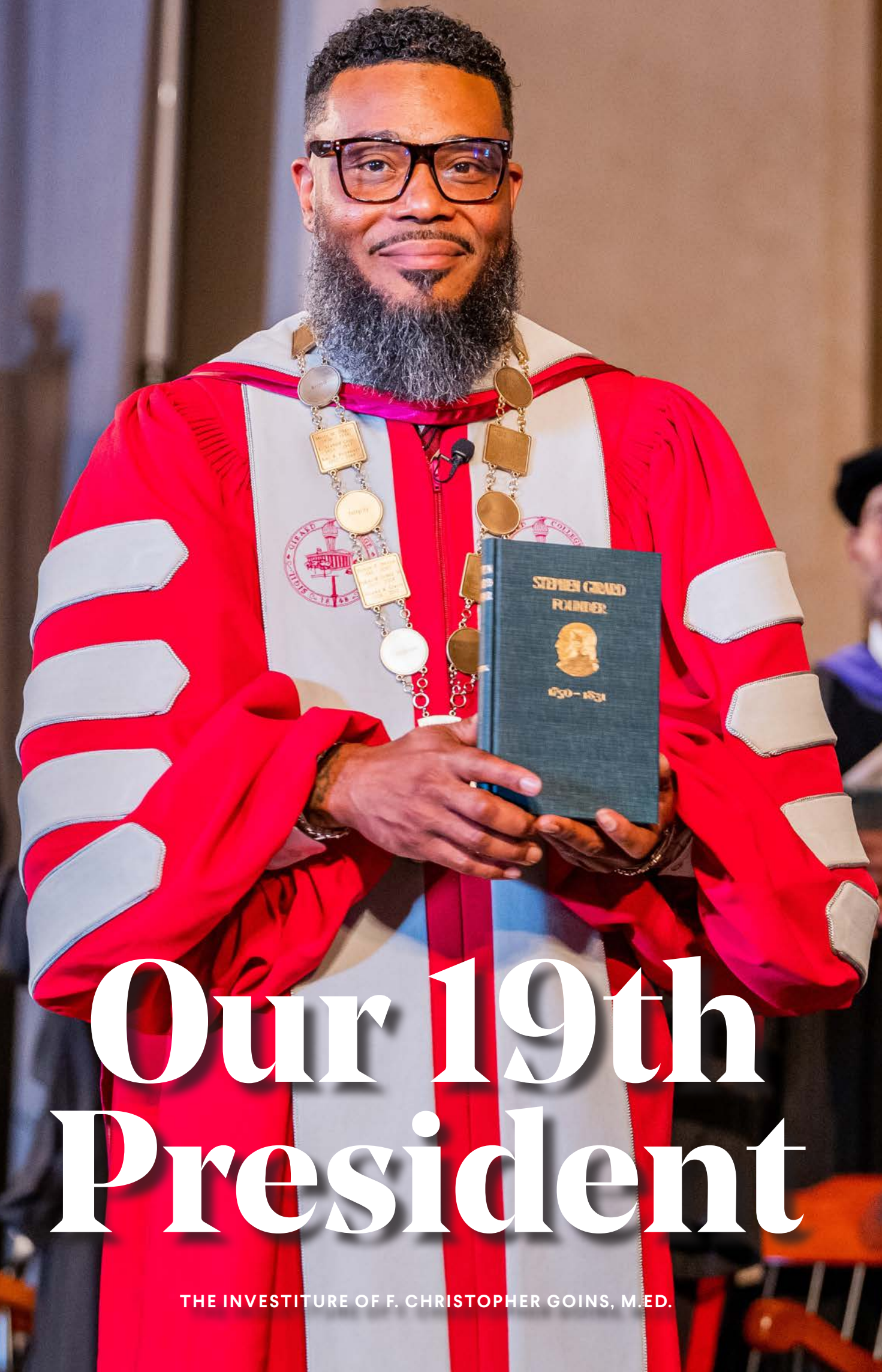
We will continue to nurture community partnerships, delivering on our promise to be a Campus for the City. With Founder's Hall construction well underway, we are revitalizing this treasure in order to promote educational and cultural programs, host professional gatherings, and generate revenue for the school.

Many of us have felt alone at some point over the last two years, whether due to the pandemic, ongoing racial unrest, or economic uncertainty. We have all lost something or someone. My goal for my first year at Girard is to promote healing, unity, and love so that we can move forward, in strength and renewal, as One Girard. Thank you for joining me in this journey.



F. Christopher Goins
F. CHRISTOPHER GOINS, M.ED.
President, Girard College

F. Christopher Goins was formally invested as the 19th President of Girard College on September 30, 2022 in a ceremony presided over by The Board of Directors of City Trusts.



Our 19th President

THE INVESTITURE OF F. CHRISTOPHER GOINS, M.ED.

Hundreds of community members, partners, friends, and family filled the school's Chapel in celebration. Flowers lined the stage and lights dazzled as speakers gave rousing remarks. The Cavalier Choir raised their voices in song on this momentous occasion.

"I am humbled, honored, and excited on this momentous occasion," said Goins, who took office in July following a nationwide search. "To see the love pouring in from the Girard College community, the city of Philadelphia, and my own circle of family and friends, I feel such a sense of unity in support of our students and our mission. Together, we will lead every Girard student to discover their purpose, determine their definition of success, and thrive in the life that they choose to live."

Goins, 44, has devoted his career to expanding opportunities for students, particularly Black and Brown children from under-served communities. He is nationally recognized as an equity-focused educator, consistently empowering minority students to be leaders of the next generation.

Prior to his appointment as the 19th President of Girard College, Goins served as Chief Equity Officer for Thrive Chicago, where he built the My Brother's Keeper Alliance (MBK) for the Obama Foundation. He also served as the Founding Principal of Butler College Prep, a public four-year charter high school that has since been recognized as the highest-performing, non-selective high school in Chicago. Goins began his journey in education teaching at his alma mater, James B. Dudley High School in Greensboro, NC.



ABOVE
Curtis and Ca'Ryn Goines '23 welcome the community to the Investiture Ceremony and join in the singing of "Hail Girard," the school's alma mater.

“We believe that the man and the mission are aligned, and that Chris Goins will be an outstanding President who will lead the next great chapter of Girard’s distinguished history,” said Lynette M. Brown-Sow, Chair of the Girard College Committee for The Board of Directors of City Trusts. “His commitment to academic excellence and purpose-drive education will empower our students to create lasting impact in their communities. We are inspired by his uplifting vision for the College and are honored to formally invest him as President.”

The Investiture ceremony featured remarks from Bernard W. Smalley, Esq., President of The Board of Directors of City Trusts; the Hon. James F. Kenney, Mayor of the City of Philadelphia (recorded); the Hon. Donna Bullock, State Representative, 195th District; Amara Briggs, Treasurer, The Fund for Girard College; Tim Farward '97, President, Girard College Alumni Association; and Larry Lewis, Retired Principal of James B. Dudley High School.

Ceremonial letters and citations from Sen. Sharif Street, Rep. Bullock, Mayor Kenney, and City Council President, Darrell L. Clarke were presented during the program.

The Girard College Cavalier Choir, featuring more than 70 students from elementary, middle and high school, performed the alma mater, “Hail Girard,” “The Star-Spangled Banner,” “We Shall Overcome,” and “Bless Me” under the

direction of Paul M. Eaton. Melissa Eppinger, a literacy instructor from KIPP Public Schools, performed “Lift Every Voice and Sing.”

During the Investiture Ceremony, Board President Smalley and Director Brown-Sow presented Goins with a presidential medallion, featuring the school seal and inscribed with the names of his 18 predecessors interspersed with the school’s core values of Respect, Responsibility, Integrity, Courage, and Compassion. Goins was also presented with a copy of Stephen Girard’s will, which laid out the original vision for the College, and the key to Founder’s Hall to mark his transition to leader and caretaker of the school and its students.

“This is the greatest opportunity and responsibility of my career,” Goins said. “To lead this historic institution into its 175th year, to serve every one of our students to the best of my ability, and to engage an entire community of stakeholders who believe in the Girard mission is truly a blessing. Thank you for your trust and support as we embark on this journey together.”

“We believe that the man and the mission are aligned, and that Chris Goins will be an outstanding President.”

LYNETTE M. BROWN-SOW

BELOW
Members of the stage party watch the Girard College student body enter the Chapel. From left: Bernard W. Smalley, Esq., President, Board of Directors of City Trusts, F. Christopher Goins, Albert S. Dandridge III, Esq., Mrs. Linda Goins.



Historic Feature

The 19th President (Or Is He?)

At the Presidential Investiture ceremony, F. Christopher Goins was announced as the 19th President of Girard College. But arriving at that number wasn’t as easy as you may think. Director of Historical Resources, Katherine Haas, says it depends on when and how you start counting.

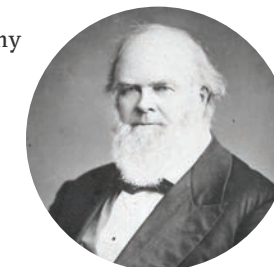
“It comes down to whether you count Alexander Dallas Bache as the first President of Girard College,” she explains, “because he departed before the school actually opened.”

A great-grandson of Benjamin Franklin and prominent scientist in his own right, Bache was elected President of Girard College in 1836, five years after Stephen Girard’s death. With the College still under construction, the Board of Trustees sent Bache to Europe for two years to study schools and orphanages and create a plan for Girard.

Bache published his 666-page report to the Board in 1839, but the College buildings were still nowhere near completed. While waiting, he was recruited to assist with the new Central High School, and in 1840, Bache stepped back from Girard College to devote his time as first President of Central.

A new President was not appointed until 1847, when the College was ready for students. Girard College opened on January 1, 1848, with Judge Joel Jones at the helm. Jones served until 1849, when he was elected Mayor of Philadelphia, and was followed by Dr. William Allen, who successfully ran the school for 12 years, from 1850–62.

But after Allen retired to his country home, his successor, Army officer Richard S. Smith, turned out to be a very poor choice. The Board removed Smith in 1867, claiming that he ran the College like a reform school.



Dr. William Allen served two non-consecutive terms as the 2nd and 4th president.

Dr. Allen stepped back into the role, returning for a second non-consecutive term as Girard College President, which ended only with his death in 1882.

“Father Allen” became a revered figure and the eventual namesake of Allen Hall.

One alumnus remembered him as a “a giant oak to the end—strong and faithful and true.”

That brings us back to the question: Which number president is Chris Goins?

Do you include Bache, who never served when the school was open? And how do you count Allen, who served twice?

When enumerating presidents, the College typically starts with its opening, and therefore counts Jones as its first President, not Bache. By this count, Goins is the 18th unique person to have the title; however, he is considered the 19th president because Allen served two non-consecutive terms as the 2nd and 4th president.

To cover all the bases, though, when designing a new presidential medallion to be presented at Goins’ investiture, the College thought it was best for him to be able to channel *all* of his predecessors, and Bache’s name was included.



ABOVE, TOP TO BOTTOM
Lynette M. Brown-Sow, Chair, Girard College Committee, Board of Directors of City Trusts, introduces President Goins.

Larry Lewis, Retired Principal of James B. Dudley High School, reflects on Chris’s time as a high school student.

The Combined Girard College Cavalier Choir performs a rousing rendition of “We Shall Overcome.”

Program Update

Investing in STEM Education

The Henry & Virginia Grabowski STEM Challenge will stimulate support for the creation of a state-of-the-art STEM Center and accompanying program so that Girard students can see themselves in the careers of the future.

The future of STEM education (science, technology, engineering, and math) at Girard College received a significant boost recently with a \$500,000 challenge issued by 1958 alumnus Henry Grabowski, Ph.D. and his wife, Virginia.

The STEM Challenge will provide Girard students with the teachers, programs, and equipment they deserve to prepare for careers in health science, engineering, computer science, and more.

Over the next 6-12 months, the College will seek to match this generous gift through individual fundraising, government grants, and corporate partnerships. The challenge builds upon \$1 million in RACP funding the College was awarded from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in December 2021.

“I am excited to make this challenge gift to establish a STEM Center at Girard,” said Grabowski. “I benefited from an excellent education in the STEM fields, and I am convinced that STEM education and research will be essential to solving many of our current global issues. I believe it’s important to provide students at Girard the opportunities to gain knowledge and interest in these fields from early grades through high school courses and graduation.”

“I am convinced that STEM education and research will be essential to solving many of our current global issues. It’s important to provide students at Girard knowledge and interest in these fields from early grades.”

HENRY GRABOWSKI, PH.D.



ABOVE
Dr. Henry Grabowski '58 recently visited campus with his classmate Jim McKendrick to speak with current students.

Dr. Grabowski spent most of his professional life studying the role of innovation in global economic advancement, making significant contributions to the field of biopharmaceuticals throughout his impressive career at Duke University, where he served as Chairman of the Economics Department and was the Director of the Duke Program in Pharmaceuticals and Health Economics.

Dr. Grabowski has been a visiting scholar at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and provided expert testimonies for the U.S. Congress in support of incentivizing research for neglected diseases. He earned a bachelor’s degree in engineering physics at Lehigh University and a Doctor of Philosophy studying econometrics at Princeton University.

“We are thrilled that Dr. Grabowski has issued this challenge to our community,” said F. Christopher Goins, President. “The investment he and others are making in our students will propel them to achieve at the highest levels. His leadership empowers us to deliver on our commitment to academic excellence.”

The world of science was very different when Henry graduated as Valedictorian of his class in 1958. The space race was just beginning with the launch of Sputnik, and an entire branch of new careers was on the horizon. Henry, with his love of literature, had the imagination to match his academic ability, and spent much of his high school career writing for *The Girardian* magazine and *The Girard News*. It’s a skill that would serve him throughout his life, as he contributed many scholarly articles to prominent peer-reviewed journals such as the *American Economic Review* and the *Journal of Health Economics*.

Today’s Girardians stand at the precipice of another sea change in scientific advancement, with careers in medical science, robotics, and artificial intelligence experiencing rapid growth. It’s likely that many of the jobs that will be available in these fields have yet to be invented. This challenge is not just for today; it’s for the next 20 years.

Planning for a STEM Center at Girard will be informed by faculty and students from all divisions as well as stakeholders and experts from a variety of fields. Curriculum development and faculty recruitment will be as important as equipment inventories and physical site needs. The College has contracted with project management firm Dan Bosin Associates to assess existing science spaces on campus and identify optimal locations for classrooms, makerspaces, and laboratories.

Engaging the professional community will also be a key strategy to demonstrate what is possible for our students as they take their knowledge beyond Girard. The greater Philadelphia area has many individuals in

academic and corporate institutions that are engaged in STEM activities that can provide support and mentoring to our students.

“We know that people of color are under-represented in STEM fields,” said Raymond Roy-Pace, High School Principal. “And it’s important for our students to see themselves in a wide variety of career paths from an early age. We see a lot of interest in health and medicine right now from our students, because that’s been very visible in their lives, but we want to continue to expand their horizons to all types of professions.”

The Henry & Virginia Grabowski STEM Challenge is a testament to the impact that Girard College had on Henry’s life and career and serves as an inspiration for others to give back as he has.

The College is calling on the Girard community for input and support in the development of this vital academic program. If you or someone you know can lend expertise to this project – on curriculum development, equipment recommendations, or student work opportunities – please visit girardcollege.edu/STEM to fill out our survey, stay connected on our progress, and make a contribution toward meeting this challenge.



ABOVE
Henry Grabowski as pictured in his senior yearbook.

Space Camp Sparks Interest in Science

Kalen Davis '22 and Kevin Asante-Tagoe '24 successfully completed their simulated space flight missions following a week at the Advanced Space Academy at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama. Kalen and Kevin trained with NASA astronauts and worked in teams to design and launch rockets, fly jet aircraft simulators, and practice in a 1/6th gravity chair.

“Space Camp was such a unique experience,” said Kalen, who is studying biology at Harrisburg University of Science & Technology. “Learning from real astronauts and working with other students from around the country made my love for science grow even more.”

Sending Girard students to Space Camp was a dream of the late Charles W. Hicks '74, an engineering consultant who passionately encouraged the next generation of students to pursue STEM topics. He worked directly with Kalen and Kevin prior to his passing, and the program lives on thanks to a fund he established. His classmate Jeff Hero '74 has taken up the mantle and coordinates the program on behalf of the Alumni Association in coordination with College administration and science faculty. Two more students are scheduled to attend in summer 2023.



Hands-on Experience

Holly Spring Farm Internship

Nylah Rankine '24 and Jordan Hall '25 spent two weeks interning at Holly Spring Farm in Mills River, North Carolina learning how to grow and sell sustainable, healthy food. During their stay with famers Simone and Paul Shoemaker '59, Nylah and Jordan gained a wealth of knowledge to bring back to the Community Garden program at Girard.

The students helped to harvest fresh produce like tomatoes, eggplant, and peppers and prepared the crops for the weekend farmers' markets. There, they would greet customers, make sales, and keep an account of the profits. They also learned about the full cycle of food

production, including seeding and transplanting. After harvesting the summer veggies, they transplanted fall crops like cabbage, kale, and cauliflower.

"I didn't realize there were so many steps to farming and gardening," said Jordan. "Every day we would be doing something different."

"I learned that it takes careful planning to run a successful business," said Nylah. "You have to be really organized and pay attention to every detail."

Thank you to Simone and Paul for welcoming our students into their home and providing this invaluable experience!



ABOVE
Jordan and Nylah work at a local farm stand as part of their two-week internship in North Carolina.

"I learned that it takes careful planning to run a successful business. You have to be really organized and pay attention to every detail."

**NYLAH RANKINE '24,
ON HER INTERNSHIP AT HOLLY SPRING FARM**

Year-Round Learning

1st Grade Expands Their Horizons

Jonathan Price, Assistant Principal of Elementary and Middle School, knows from experience that students regress during the summer break. Especially for young learners, time away from the classroom can make it difficult for them to stay on track with their core educational skills, a trend exacerbated by the interruptions caused by COVID.

To counter his students' learning loss, Jonathan proposed a partnership with Horizons Philadelphia, a community-centered education program that offers a tuition-free, six-week summer program. Girard College became Horizons' fifth partner school in Philadelphia, joining Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School, Greene Street Friends School, Springside Chestnut Hill Academy, and The Episcopal Academy.

"We knew that providing Girard students with quality academic summer programming would help mitigate the effects of remote learning from the pandemic," Price said. "Horizons supplied a time-tested model and local support in



ABOVE
Girard College teachers and students ran a six-week summer enrichment program for 1st and 2nd grade students to keep them on track with their learning.

addition to our exceptional teaching staff and student volunteers. The 16 students in 1st and 2nd grades who participated in the Horizons program started the school year prepared and ready to excel."

In addition to reading and math instruction and project-based learning,

students also enjoyed swimming in the school's pool and taking weekly field trips to attractions and natural spaces throughout the Philadelphia area. With its first-year success, Girard looks to expand our partnership with Horizons next summer.

Postsecondary Success

College Prep Programs

VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

ALBRIGHT COLLEGE

Last summer, 10 students attended five selective college prep, mentorship, and leadership programs in the Philadelphia area.

IMIR PEOPLES '23
AND CAMERON SCOTT '23

Villanova University: Civitas through Caritas: Cultivating Love, Cultivating Citizens

Rising seniors Imir and Cameron were two of only 16 students from the greater Philadelphia area to be selected for this three-week program rooted in liberal arts and civic conversation. The program offers ongoing support and one-on-one guidance as Imir and Cameron prepare their college essays and navigate the application process.

"The Civitas through Caritas program helped me think about higher education in a different way," Cameron said. "I'm more excited than ever to apply for college, and appreciate the extra support from the Villanova program."

KAIYA JOHNSON '24

Princeton University: W.E.B. Du Bois Scholars Institute

Kaiya enrolled in an online summer course called "We Create Them, We Solve Them: Contemporary Social Issues," taught by Dr. Mark Ellis at the Du Bois Scholars Institute. Over seven 90-minute class periods, Kaiya learned about social issues such as race, class, and gender inequality and the shortcomings of the American health care system.

"Taking a sociology class was incredibly informative," Kaiya said. "I learned a lot about social theories and the struggles we have as a society. The professor was excellent, and I really value the discussions I had with my classmates. I'm very appreciative that Girard pointed me toward this opportunity."

TYLER FRISBY '24

Albright College: HOBY Youth Leadership State Seminar

The Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) state seminars are held at college and universities across the country each spring, with a focus on leadership development. Through group activities, dynamic speaker engagements, and community service projects, students grow in confidence and discover how they can make an impact on their community.

"HOBY was a really powerful experience," said Tyler. "The speakers and activities inspired me to want to do more for my Girard community and my North Philadelphia neighborhood."

RIGHT BOTTOM
Aaliyah Blount '25 participated in an immersive four-week program at Penn's Perelman School of Medicine.

NIYAIRA BLOCKER, CHRISTOPHER GARRISON-NELSON, AZIA LUCAS, JAWAN MCSWIGGAN, EDWARD WROBEH (ALL CLASS OF 2024)

Temple University: Pre-college Workshops

Students spent a two-week session exploring potential college majors through non-credit workshops while developing independence and building community on a college campus.

Azia chose to enroll in the workshops "Intro to Applied Behavior Analysis" and "Risk Management and Actuarial Science."

"I was interested in learning more about how people behave and calculate risk," she said, "and these courses enlightened me on what I can expect when I go to college. I also enjoyed being on my own and with my friends on Temple's campus. I will definitely recommend this program to my Girard classmates."

ALIAYAH BLOUNT '25

University of Pennsylvania Provost's Summer Mentorship Program

At this award-winning summer college preparatory experience, Aliayah participated in an immersive four-week program curated by faculty and staff at Penn's Perelman School of Medicine. Hands-on experiences are supplemented with courses in SAT preparation, financial literacy, and life skills.

"The connections I made this summer at Penn were so valuable," Aaliyah said. "I feel that there's a wider network of people who are invested in my success. And participating in a surgery simulation was a highlight I'll never forget."



At Our Core: Alumni Spotlight

Choosing Her Own Bright Future



Kara Franklin

'08

“I realize now that if I tried to run away from my problems, they would just follow me. Staying at Girard helped me work through them.”

KARA FRANKLIN

AT ONLY EIGHT YEARS OLD, Kara Franklin (née Freeman) made a decision that would change the trajectory of her life. One Sunday afternoon coming back from church, she asked her mother if the large stone buildings behind the wall near her church were government buildings.

“No,” her mother said, “that’s a boarding school, like the one your cousin just started.” (Kara’s cousin had recently enrolled at Milton Hershey School.) Kara was determined to attend what she now knew as Girard College.

Kara, the youngest of three siblings, often felt undervalued as a member of her family. She was close with her brother, Devin, who was just two years older, but found that her oldest brother was wrapped up in teenage pressures that prevented them from having a strong relationship. Her father, who struggled with alcohol and substance abuse, was in and out of her life. Her mother shouldered the burdens of the home, impacting her connection with her children. Kara felt that she was blamed for challenges at home, so she saw Girard as an opportunity to change her and her family’s lives for the better.

An ambitious child, Kara took it upon herself to collect the paperwork and fill in the application for Girard admission. This made it easy on her mother and empowered Kara to achieve her goal.

In September 1999, Kara entered Michael McKeever’s 4th grade class. Kara recalls that, at first, it was exciting to be going to a new school; however, her time at Girard would come to be classified as bittersweet. Life happens, regardless of where one lives or studies, and Kara experienced her share of hardships and growing pains.

Kara quickly realized that her admission to Girard changed her relationship with Devin, especially when he followed her to school the next year, entering 7th grade in 2000.

“Navigating Middle School is tough for boys,”

Kara said. “Especially when you’re entering a school like Girard where friendships have already been formed amongst your classmates. We both got teased a lot, and he didn’t want to be around me much.”

The presence of her father at her 8th grade graduation was a special moment for Kara.

“I was so excited to have him there to watch me graduate and spend time with him,” she recalls. “The more I think about it, I realize that he loved me and gave me what he could.”

Sadly, her father would pass away less than two years later, when Kara was in 10th grade. Before she could fully process that loss, her mother was diagnosed with cancer.

Kara’s mother would bravely hide the extent or impact of her treatments, doing what she could to ensure her children had enjoyable weekends at home. After a hard-fought battle, she passed away. But before she did, Kara’s mother told her that she was grateful that her children would have the benefit of a Girard education to rely on.

It was during this time, when they were both in high school, that Kara and Devin would reconnect, thanks to their shared passion for music. In the early 2000s, handbell choir was a student-run organization of which both were members. Devin led the choir in his senior year and passed that leadership down to Kara upon his graduation.

“That meant so much to me,” Kara said. “For him to trust me with that leadership, it was a big deal.” Kara joined the ranks of Girard College Alumni as a proud member of the Class of 2008.

Looking back at her Girard journey, Kara realizes that she was “learning important social and emotional lessons much earlier than my peers, who often wouldn’t encounter that growth until college.”

There were times when Kara wanted to leave Girard, when she couldn’t connect with her



ABOVE
Kara Franklin, M.S.Ed. serves as the Assistant Principal at Russell Byers Charter School in Philadelphia, and was recently elected as the 2nd Vice President, overseeing membership, for the Girard College Alumni Association. Photo courtesy of Ryan Brandenberg.

family or felt unsure of that decision she made as a child. But with support from her mother and her Girard teachers and houseparents, she persisted, and has always been grateful that she did.

“It was hard at times,” Kara said, “especially being with the same people all the time. But I realize now that if I tried to run away from my problems, they would just follow me. Staying at Girard helped me work through them.”

Following her graduation from Girard, Kara studied at Millersville University and received her teaching degree. While there, her former 6th grade teacher, Kevin Giorno, who was also a Millersville alumnus, became a mentor. So, when he was going on sabbatical in 2015, he knew that Kara would make a fantastic substitute for his class.

As a young teacher and Girard alumna, Kara easily connected with those students, and came back to campus in June 2022 to see them walk across the Chapel stage and receive their Girard College diplomas! After substitute teaching, Kara was hired as the 3rd grade teacher, taking over for retiring teacher Hazel Donnelly, who gifted her with an entire room full of supplies. Her first class of

students are now in high school as members of the Class of 2025.

Kara would go on to explore other teaching opportunities a couple years later but would often think about coming back to Girard. She taught for the School District of Philadelphia at (of all places) Stephen Girard Elementary School in South Philly. She earned her master’s degree in school leadership from the University of Pennsylvania and was named the Assistant Principal for the Lower School at Russell Byers Charter School for the 2022-23 school year.

The connection, the pull, back to Girard is still strong for Kara. In June 2022, Kara was elected as the 2nd Vice President, overseeing membership, for the Girard College Alumni Association (GCAA). When she first started attending GCAA meetings, she remembers thinking that more could be done to create a welcoming environment for new cohorts.

“I want everyone to feel welcome at the Alumni Association,” Kara said. “Inclusivity is the key to our organization remaining strong for generations to come.”

Kara is also committed to developing more collaboration between GCAA and Girard

College, so that everyone can be part of the Girard Family.

“Everyone thinks that alumni want Girard to be what it was when we were students,” she said. “That is the furthest thing from the truth. What we want is for the greatness we had at Girard to be incorporated with new and exciting things, to help progress the school and push it forward.”

Through her new role with the Alumni Association, Kara will help cultivate the magnetic energy of Girard College, with an ever-bustling campus, increased opportunities for student-alumni collaboration, and a memorable experience for all who interact with our community. The same pull that drew Kara in at eight years old can be the driving force for growth, impact, and success for the next generation of Girard scholars.

Alumni Leadership

GCAA Officers

TIM FARWARD '97

President

JEFF HERO '74

1st Vice President

KARA FRANKLIN '08

2nd Vice President

JOHN CHRYST '64

Treasurer

ALEX CRUZ

Executive Director



ABOVE
Tim Farward '97, President of the Girard College Alumni Association, speaks at the Presidential Investiture.

Twenty-five days after graduating from Girard College, Tim Farward '97 joined the military and enrolled at the United States Naval Academy.

Twenty-five years later, after traveling and serving all over the globe, he is a commissioned officer in the Naval Reserves and an insurance broker focusing on energy and power, based in Philadelphia.

At Girard, Tim was the captain of the baseball team for two years and a member of the jazz band, playing tenor and baritone saxophone.

He fondly recalls starting a literary magazine his senior year with classmate Brad Kenny, to huge acclaim.

He leads the GCAA Board for the 2022-23 year and looks forward to a strong period of growth and collaboration.

ON THE IMPACT OF A GIRARD COLLEGE EDUCATION:

What I learned here at Girard, what Girard taught me, helped me to achieve success in my life. I want to ensure that today's students have everything they need to succeed.

ON THE WORK OF THE GIRARD COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION:

The GCAA has a long history of support for Girard alumni and students. Founded in 1900, the association helps alumni keep in touch and stay informed about the current programs and needs of the College. We're proud to offer graduate level scholarships to the tune of over \$1,000,000 over the last ten years.

We've sponsored field trips to New York, Washington D.C., and Girard-related sites throughout the area. We see it as our responsibility to keep the legacy of Stephen Girard active in the minds of our community.

ON WORKING WITH PRESIDENT GOINS:

As our Girard community moves forward with a new president, it's imperative that collaboration and transparency be at the cornerstone of our journey. The GCAA and the College can learn from each other and grow together for the mutual benefit of Girard's students and alumni.

I was a part of the Presidential Selection Committee, and one thing that really stuck out about Chris was that it felt like he belonged. He brings a bold and inspiring vision to Girard and has been welcoming to me and my fellow alumni. I'm excited to work closely with him in support of our students and to continue our school's proud traditions.

Alumni Notes

Award of Merit Presentations

On November 5, 2022, the Girard College Alumni Association honored six recipients of the Award of Merit, presented to alumni and staff whose loyalty, service, and accomplishments merit our esteem and recognition. Congratulations to the honorees!

SHANAY G. ROWE '02

BRANDEE ANDERSON '08

PAUL MCKEEVER, STAFF

KATHY GILLARD, STAFF

ANTHONY FALATICO, STAFF

MITCH LYONS '56

(AWARDED POSTHUMOUSLY IN 2021)



ABOVE
The Girard College Alumni Association honors Award of Merit recipients for their service and loyalty to the school. From left: David Lyons, son of Mitch '56, Brandee Anderson '08, Tim Farward '97, Paul McKeever, Alex Cruz, Shanay Rowe '02, Ed Gallagher '99, and Kathy Gillard.

IN MEMORIAM

Till Our Hearts Be Still

Theodore Marchese '40

Charles Kirschbaum '41

Wesley E. Dunning '42

Edward Lipp '42

Thomas J. DiFilippo '44

John J. Cantwell '45

John J. Burns

Ernest J. Franklin, Jr.

Joseph M. McKeever '47

Robert A. Furphy '48

William P. Mergo '48

Joseph B. Serbin '48

Vito Famiglietti '49

James M. Palmer '49

Earl K. Guiles '50

Bernard Narolewski '50

Howard R. "Ron" Whitebred, Jan. '50

Jack S. Frey '51

Robert A. Naulty '51

George Anderson '53

James Rubino '53

Martell F. Scheidler '54

Albert R. Castagliuolo '55

Norman D. Tilton '55

Anthony L. Bralczyk '56

Bill Eliasson '59

Gomer "Bob" Robert Williams '59

James Swantek '60

Fiore Passaro '62

William Swartz '62

Howard Paul Chaundy '63

Stanley W. Werley '64

Elmer W. Ingram '66

John J. Yaksima '67

Charles Mavoli '69

John "Jack" Waker '72

Phillip H. Brown '84

Christopher C. McCray '84

Robert W. Schultz
Elementary Teacher
(1981 - 2006)

Robert W. Schultz
Elementary Teacher
(1981 - 2006)

Margaret Simmons
High School
Residential Advisor
(1995 - 2009)

Kristopher Minners Memorial Fund



Each year, a 6th grade student who demonstrates compassion and kindness will receive an award in honor of the former student (2007-15) and Residential Advisor who lost his life to gun violence.

"My family and I have been so touched by the outreach from everyone in the Girard community," said Rebecca Minners, Kris' mother. "To know that Kris made such an impact in his short time here, and that students will remember his passion and heart for years to come, is a comfort and blessing."

Help us reach our fund goals. Visit girardcollege.edu/minnersfund to make a gift and lasting tribute.

Campus for the City

New Foundation Shines a Light on our Unique Mission

The Fund for Girard College is the school's official foundation for developing resources and creating partnerships that enhance our mission to provide a transformative residential education.

Girard College has recently announced the creation of The Fund for Girard College, a volunteer leadership foundation comprised of corporate and nonprofit leaders from throughout the region.

Sylvia Bastani, the College's Chief Advancement Officer and the Fund's Executive Director, explained that the Fund for Girard College's mission is to raise funds, establish relationships, and promote the College's Campus for the City initiative.

"The Fund's work is to seek meaningful relationships that create unique learning opportunities for our students and share our institution's educational and historic resources with the wider community," Bastani said.

F. Christopher Goins, Girard College President, serves on the Fund's Board of Directors and is impressed with the knowledge and experience this team brings to bear.

"I'm excited to be working with these exceptionally gifted individuals who are committed to improving the lives of Girard's students," Goins said. "Together, we will ensure that every Girard student has the support they need to succeed and thrive in their chosen path."

Rev. Dr. Lorina-Marshall Blake, President of the Independence Blue Cross Foundation, will serve as the Fund's first Board President.



ABOVE Members of The Fund for Girard College discuss ways to develop resources for the school at a recent board meeting. From left: Sylvia Bastani, William Sasso, Lynette M. Brown-Sow, and Rev. Dr. Lorina Marshall-Blake.

"I'm thrilled and honored to serve as the Fund for Girard College's first Board President," said Marshall-Blake. "Girard College's mission to provide underserved children in our community with quality academics and residential programs has always been close to my heart. I'm looking forward to working closely with all our wonderful Board members and the Girard College team to expand needed resources for our children."

A Campus for the City Task Force will focus on community connections, showcasing the impact of Girard College as an educational institution and community resource. A Development Committee will work closely with

President Goins to support his vision for the school, including generating support for the proposed STEM Center and launching Girard CARES, a career readiness program. A Finance Committee will lead the Fund's Board of Directors in fulfilling their financial duties with transparency and accuracy.

With The Fund for Girard College, the school has a dedicated, skilled fundraising board that cares deeply about our mission. With their support and leadership, we will greatly enhance the lives of our students. Visit www.fundforgirardcollege.org to learn more and stay connected.

The Fund for Girard College Board of Directors

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President, Independence Blue Cross Foundation

Vice President of Community Affairs, Independence Blue Cross

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Partner, Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP

Executive Director

SYLVIA V. BASTANI, CFRE, CPC

Chief Advancement Officer, Girard College



ABOVE The presidents of Gesu School, St. Joseph's Preparatory School, and Girard College examine guns turned in at a buyback event co-sponsored by the neighbor schools. From left: Bryan Carter, Bilal Qayyum, John Marinacci, Chris Goins.

North Philadelphia Schools Collaborate to Combat Gun Violence

Three historic schools in North Philadelphia have formed a new partnership to develop programming and enact change amidst the ongoing gun violence epidemic that is gripping Philadelphia and the nation. As a first step in this partnership, the schools hosted two gun buyback events this fall, at St. Joseph's Preparatory School and Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church. A total of 123 guns were collected between the two events.

"With these buyback events and our schools' growing partnership, we are demonstrating to our students and our neighbors that we care about them and stand with them in calling for an end to gun violence," said Bryan Carter (Gesu School), John Marinacci (St. Joseph's Prep) and F. Christopher Goins (Girard College) in a joint statement.

"Children should feel safe at home, at school, and in their communities. Too many have experienced the trauma of gun violence, and it must stop. Working together, our schools will continue to develop programs for our students and engage with local legislators, religious leaders, and the people of North Philadelphia to enact meaningful change on this issue."

The buyback events were organized by longtime antiviolence activist Bilal Qayyum, the founder of the non-profit Father's Day Rally Committee, supported by St. Christopher's Hospital for Children and Old St. Joseph's Parish, and facilitated in coordination with City Council of Philadelphia, the PA Office of Attorney General, and the Philadelphia Police Department.

Some critics claim that gun buyback events are not effective in reducing crime. In 2021, during 16 gun buyback events in Philadelphia, 558 handguns and 188 long guns were turned in, none linked to a crime. In each of the past two years, there have been more than 2,200 shooting victims in the city of Philadelphia, approximately 500 fatal.

Still, activists like Qayyum believe that buyback events save lives.

"Gun buybacks are one tool in the kit that we can use to promote gun safety and prevent unnecessary loss of life in our communities," Qayyum said. "The types of weapons collected in this effort - including AK, AR, and .22 caliber rifles - have been used against law enforcement in recent incidents. Any unsecured weapon can accidentally hurt a child or be stolen and used in a crime. It is our responsibility to do everything we can to prevent that from happening."

"These were successful events for our communities," said Carter, "but there is much work to be done. We will continue to educate our students in line with our values and create opportunities for them to become leaders on this issue."

Campus for the City

“Be Holding” Set to Premiere Spring 2023

A group of Girard high school students worked side-by-side with a team of professional artists during the latest residency for “Be Holding,” a large scale multi-disciplinary performance premiering in the Armory in Spring 2023.

By running video cues, performing original movements on stage, and documenting rehearsals, the students helped the project take a massive step forward. Following a special preview performance, senior Jaelyn Handy said, “I’ve never been so inspired in my life. This work is incredible.”

“Be Holding” is an original operatic performance produced by Girard College and co-created by poet Ross Gay, composer Tyshawn Sorey, NYC-based percussion ensemble Yarn/Wire, and director/artist Brooke O’Harra.

Gay’s book-length poem of the same name (winner of the 2021 PEN/Jean Stein Book Award) takes inspiration from legendary Philadelphia 76ers basketball champion, Julius “Dr. J” Erving, and explores themes of Black joy, justice, and love in the face of racial violence.

“Be Holding” is supported by The Pew Center for Arts and Heritage and is a signature project of the College’s Campus for the City strategic initiative, which seeks to activate resources that engage the

wider community and lead conversations on issues of equity and social justice.

Visit www.beholding.org to learn more about this fantastic project and sign up for email updates.



ABOVE
Poet Yolanda Wisher performs during a preview of “Be Holding.” Sophomores Adeshina Tejan and Somari Butler helped develop the original movements.



SYLVIA V. BASTANI, CFRE, CPC
Chief Advancement Officer

AS WE TURN THE PAGE to another year, I want to extend my gratitude to everyone who made our recent successes described in this issue possible.

Girard College has had so many blessings this past year. Our Founder’s Hall revitalization project is in full swing. The Henry & Virginia Grabowski STEM Challenge will ignite our fundraising to create a world-class STEM center. Our wonderful Board members of our new foundation, the Fund for Girard College, are hard at work on their outreach to new funders and partners.

Most importantly, our students are flourishing with being back in school with the loving support of a terrific team of faculty and staff. To see every day how our students are excelling in their academic careers and developing lifelong learning skills is very rewarding.

We appreciate all our donors for believing in the value of a Girard College education. As we enter our 175th year of providing a great residential education that has educated 22,000 men and women, we are excited for the year ahead.

Thank you for your continued support of our students and may your new year be filled with health and happiness.

Best wishes,

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



ABOVE
Members of the high school Student Council organized the second annual Toys and Good Drive and hosted a distribution event for neighbors in need.

COMMUNITY SERVICE is a core component of a Girard College education, and the high school Student Council consistently leads the way. After a successful food drive prior to Thanksgiving, students organized the second annual Toys and Goods drive in December.

Working with the Family Engagement Association and school administration, students set up collection points throughout campus for items like coloring books, dolls, and stuffed animals and canned goods, personal hygiene products, and warm clothing.

“It’s important for us to engage with the community and support our neighbors,” said Surayah Smallwood ’24, Vice President. “This is something we’re passionate about doing.”

The drive then culminated with a two-hour distribution event at the school’s main entrance, where neighbors in need from throughout the North Philadelphia area could pick up a toy or other goods to share with their families.

Kudos to the students for living out our community’s core values!

ADMISSIONS

As members of the Girard College community, you are in an excellent position to share the positive impact of our educational program with others — who we are, what we do, and how we change the lives of families for the better, one student at a time.

Please help us provide more students with the opportunity to achieve excellence by connecting with our Admissions team to review current openings and the College’s eligibility criteria.

Tin Luu
Director of Admissions
admissions@girardcollege.edu
215-787-2621



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Philadelphia, PA 19121

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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, Chief Advancement Officer, at 267-787-4442 or via email at sbastani@girardcollege.edu

With your support, we will continue to provide every student the opportunity and the means to achieve excellence.

By investing in our students’ academic, social, and emotional growth, you ensure that they develop the skills and habits to become lifelong learners and make a lasting impact in their communities.



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