

THE GATHERING

FALL 2011

A NEW LOOK FOR THE GATHERING!

This summer, *The Gathering* underwent a facelift. Michele Fairley, a graphic designer and Swarthmore resident whose husband Will is a member of the Class of 1960, took on the challenge which includes a full-color redesign, with input from the Communications Office staff.

The frequency of the newsletter has also changed—three issues a year instead of four—but not the total number of pages per year. *The Gathering* will now have eight pages three times a year.

One last decision was made—to produce the newsletter on a digital press, and with good reason. The cost of printing the newsletter digitally is 55 percent less than when a traditional offset press was used.

INSIDE

- A Musical Life 2
- Faculty Lectures 3
- Campus Recycling 4–5
- Behind the Scenes 4–5
- Klotz Honored 6
- Tompkins Inspires 6
- New Friends 7
- Lunchtime Lectures 8
- Wellness Winner 8



FOR THE STAFF, FACULTY, AND VOLUNTEERS OF SWARTHMORE COLLEGE

Clara Fang Will Coordinate a Unified Approach to Campus Sustainability

By Susan Cousins Breen, assistant director of publications

Clara Changxin Fang, the College's first environmental sustainability coordinator, spent the first nine years of her life in Shanghai, China, where she says the air was smoky with pollution, she never saw the stars in the sky, and the water of the Wangpu River flowed black. Fang, who has a one-year appointment for the current academic year, is facilitating creation of the College's Climate Action Plan.

"Many people on campus are interested or actively invested in making the College more sustainable," says Fang, "I'm here to help create synergy among different groups and provide momentum to enable the College to move to the next

level in sustainability." Her first task is to map out the climate action planning process and to redevelop the sustainability website.

Fang's interest in the environment took root when her family settled in Rockville, Md., in 1992 and she began to understand the environmental degradation they had left behind in China. "I was in awe of the nature here and how I could go outside and see and enjoy things," she says.

The new position is the result of a year's effort by the Sustainability Committee, the Lang Center for Civic and Social Responsibility, student environmental groups,

and other community members to create a more unified and consistent approach to sustainability on campus.

The Climate Action Plan will serve as a guide to reducing Swarthmore's greenhouse gas emissions in alignment with the American Colleges and University Presidents Climate Commitment co-signed by President Rebecca Chopp in May 2010.

In her position with the Lang Center, Fang will work closely with the newly created

Climate Action Planning Committee to complete an updated greenhouse gas inventory that shows the College's energy use and carbon emissions in different sectors from 2005 to the present. "I look forward to working with the campus community to create a plan that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance sustainability education and research, and integrate climate action into

Continues on page 2



HYEEL'LEAH' LEE '14

Clara Changxin Fang talks with students during SwatMove, an event hosted by Earthlust in September. Fang joined participants in collectively completing 350 laps around Parrish Hall and spoke about the climate action plan.

Clara Fang...

Continued from page 1

a long-term framework that is in line with Swarthmore's values," Fang says.

Fang will also work with the Sustainability Committee on other sustainability projects, conduct outreach efforts, and serve as a resource for students and community members interested in the environment.

Before coming to Swarthmore, Fang worked as sustainability coordinator for the City of Albany, N.Y., where she helped to develop the city's greenhouse gas inventory and climate action plan. She has a master of environmental management degree from Yale University, where she also worked for the Center for Environmental Law and Policy and the Office of Sustainability. In addition, she has worked for a renewable energy consulting company that helps businesses and institutions develop renewable energy projects and expand the clean energy market. She has a B.A. from Smith College, where she received the Outstanding Student Leader Award for her leadership in campus sustainability, including campaigning for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, interning with the environmental science and policy program, and founding a student group that campaigned for renewable energy on campus.

The Wallingford resident's interests include poetry, oil painting, and of course, doing things in nature like hiking.

A Musical Life—from Army Band Member to Church Choir Director

By Lauren Weiler, publications intern



ELEFTHERIOS KOSTANS

Mary Marissen's lifelong love of music brought her to the Swarthmore United Methodist Church, where she is director of music. Behind her is the pipe organ, now her favorite among the instruments that she plays.

Mary Marissen, technical services specialist at the McCabe Library, has an extensive music background that has taken her from the intense basic training of the U.S. Army to the soft sounds of a church choir. Marissen became curious about music at a very young age—perhaps because she was surrounded with classical recordings, choirs, and the piano at home. "My parents were very interested in music, and they started me on piano lessons when I was 6 years old," Marissen says. At Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich., she majored in

music with a concentration in cello and, in fall 2007, learned to play the organ for the Swarthmore United Methodist Church.

During college, Marissen played the cello in the Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra in Grand Rapids, Mich., and hoped to find work playing the cello following college. While auditioning for graduate programs, she heard that the U.S. Army Band was recruiting. At the time, Marissen was not interested in the Army, but joining the Army band as a cellist and gaining that experience seemed more appealing than paying

for graduate school, so she took the opportunity and became a soldier for three years.

From 1980–1983, Marissen was stationed at Fort Myers, Va., where ceremonial units are based. The Michigan native did not travel much with the Army band, although she did perform at many state functions, including events at the Department of State and state dinners at the White House. Marissen says she is glad that she played in the Army band even though she considers it a mixed experience. In fact, she says that she nearly stopped playing music when she had completed her term of service because the musical experience was not as fulfilling as she had hoped it might be.

Marissen's decision to find a job in the library field was a practical one; she was teaching private piano lessons in the Swarthmore area at the time. Earlier clerical work at Harvard in the acquisitions department as well as work in the English Acquisitions Department set the foundation for her current job at McCabe library. She says that the job, which she began in spring 2002, is perfect for her, and she really enjoys the work. Currently, she is pursuing a master's degree in library and information science at Drexel University.

After settling into life at Swarthmore, Marissen heard of another opportunity that

piqued her musical interest—director of music for the Swarthmore United Methodist Church. Marissen had been involved with the church for 18 years, and when she found that they needed a new director for the choir, she agreed to a six-month trial period and found that she really loved it. With her orchestral experience and observation of conductors, she said, "I trusted my musical instincts, even though I don't have formal conducting training." She learned to play the organ through her involvement as the director and now says that it may be her favorite of the instruments that she plays. Although Sunday mornings once caused her great anxiety (learning to use her feet in order to play the organ was difficult), Marissen says that she soon became more comfortable.

As for her current musical goals, Marissen says that "they are short term and small scale for now." She is too busy juggling her library job, degree work, and direction of the church choir to start any new music projects.

Marissen feels accomplished when she finishes a project towards her degree or plays a difficult piece of music at church, but her proudest moments are as a parent of two children. "When I share a moment with my kids," says Marissen, "it trumps everything."

Fall Faculty Lectures

Thursday, Nov. 17

Understanding the Link Between Human Altruism and Human Aggression: A Behavioral Economics Approach

By David Huffman
Assistant Professor of Economics

Thursday, Dec. 8

Anti-Semitism, the Occult, and Ritual Murder in Late Imperial Russia

By Robert Weinberg
Professor of History

Note: All lectures are held in the Scheuer Room, Kohlberg Hall from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Chat with Rebecca



KAT CLARK '12



The Scheuer Room resounded with animated conversations on Sept. 19 when more than 60 staff members, representing numerous departments across campus, turned out to "Chat with Rebecca." At the Staff Advisory Council-sponsored event, staff members talked with President Rebecca Chopp about what matters to them as college employees and inquired about the strategic planning process, the Town Center West project, and the search for vice presidents for Human Resources and Development. Sharing their thoughts with President Chopp are (far left) Judy Strauser, associate director of financial aid, and (left) John Scilio, maintenance supervisor.

Single Stream Recycling Comes to Campus

Single-stream recycling is now available in all academic, office, and residence hall buildings on campus, which means that all recyclable materials can be deposited—all mixed together—in the same receptacle, reducing the number of different recycle containers in buildings.

In academic and office buildings, single-stream recycle containers are tall and narrow, blue or gray containers with a lid that may have a long, narrow opening or two round openings. All types of recyclable items can be put in both containers. There are also small blue recycling cans next to office desks, and blue or green plastic bins in the hallways of residence halls for recyclable materials.

Also new this year is an expanded list of plastics that can be recycled—number 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 plastics are recyclable but number 3 and 6 plastics are not.

Continues on page 5

The Gathering is published three times a year by the Publications Office

Editor: Susan Cousins Breen
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Behind the Scenes in Sharples

Story and photos by Susan Cousins Breen, assistant director of publications



Executive Chef Benton Peak tosses cherry tomatoes with olive oil and garlic before roasting them. At dinner, the colorful dish will be tossed with tortellini and served at the vegetarian station.



Above: Michael Davis scrubs a section of a charbroil grill. Typically, he spends his time receiving deliveries for dining services.

Right: Chef Eric Hodgson ladles chili barbecue sauce over slices of meatloaf. Next stop, the hot food station where the serving pans await refilling.



Don Thomas, a grill cook, moves at a brisk pace to stay ahead of student demand for hamburgers—some with cheese or bacon—and French fries.



Pat Osowski (left), a food runner, and Alyse Katsapis, a cook, juggle trays of sandwiches as they restock the hoagie station.

Dedicated dining hall employees move at a steady pace, keeping food stations stocked for ravenous students.



Patti Woods, a dining services supervisor, fills in at the front desk in Sharples, swiping dining cards for students anxious to get to lunch.

Continued from page 4

What to Recycle

Paper and cardboard Office paper, newspaper, envelopes, magazines, glossy paper, junk mail, paperback books, poster board, and cardboard can all be recycled. Envelopes with clear windows, metal clasps, and string ties can be recycled. Do not recycle pizza boxes or any paper or wrapper that has been contaminated with food. Cardboard boxes should be broken down and placed next to a recycling can.

Aluminum cans, bimetallic cans, all colors of glass bottles and number 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7 plastic containers All of these materials can be deposited—mixed together—into the same recycle cans into which paper is deposited. It is important that all cans and bottles have been emptied, and food has been rinsed out of plastic containers.

Recycle containers in all buildings are emptied regularly by Environmental Services personnel. If containers in your area are not emptied regularly, please contact the Environmental Services supervisor for your building.

Tons of Recycling in 2010–2011

Thanks to your help, in 2010–2011, Swarthmore College recycled:

- 22.51 tons of commingled aluminum cans, glass bottles, and plastic containers
- 46.29 tons of mixed paper and cardboard

In addition, 19.26 tons of vegetable and fruit waste were composted.

Klotz Honored for Remarkable Strides in Math

By Lauren Weiler, publications intern

In 47 years of teaching at Swarthmore, Professor Emeritus of Mathematics Eugene “Gene” Klotz was known for the remarkable strides he made in bringing the Mathematics Department into the computer age. Recently, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics awarded Klotz the Mathematics Education Trust Lifetime Achievement Award for Distinguished Service to Mathematics Education. The award honors his significant contributions in the field, including excellent leadership, teaching, and service to the College through the years.

Klotz taught the first biomathematics course in the 1970s, and his students knew him as an innovator who always incorporated the newest technology in his approach to math. Outside the classroom, Klotz helped a student conceptualize Geometer’s Sketchpad, now one of the most widely used software programs in school mathematics. In 1986, he launched the multimedia Visual Geometry Project, which was expanded in 1992 and is now known as the Math Forum, the leading online resource for improving math learning, teaching, and communication. Even in retirement, Klotz continues to work with the Math Forum that is based at Drexel University.

Tompkins Inspires Spirituality and Dialogue in Students and Staff

By Maki Somosot '12, publications intern

The Rev. Joyce Tompkins, Interfaith Center coordinator and Protestant religious adviser since 2004, is all about striking balance. Seeing a need on campus for spiritual life to evolve alongside “academic brainpower,” Tompkins strives to build dialogue around issues of spirituality to “lift up that part of human life.”

“Swarthmore is an intense place,” Tompkins says, “so creating a space where people can come together away from that intensity, form warm relationships, and rise to a higher level together is healing for everyone involved.”

It is not surprising, then, that the Swarthmore resident agreed to help Anna Everetts, administrative assistant in Black Studies, form a spirituality group for staff members in March 2010. “When we launched the group, Joyce provided the inspiration and reflection, and I handled the details and announcements,” says Everetts.

As with all her work on campus, Tompkins has fostered an inclusive environment where people from different traditions can be comfortable. “The staff members have been wonderful, with great wisdom and life experience,” she says.

The group of staff members meets monthly over lunch to share spiritual experiences and questions with each other, occasionally engaging in walking meditations and artistic exercises that complement the theme of the day. “The discussions, which are a team-led effort, are based on ordinary lives, the struggles we share, and how



ELEFTHERIOS KOSTANS

“Thanks to the honesty and openness that quickly took root in the Staff Spirituality Group, a bond has formed between members,” says Interfaith Coordinator Joyce Tompkins.

we find the divine for comfort or strength,” says Tompkins.

Unfortunately, Tompkins, whose position is funded by Partners in Ministry, a consortium of Protestant churches, the Friends Meeting, and alumni, is not able to lead the group this semester.

As the interfaith adviser, Tompkins’s larger passion is to bring together members of diverse religious traditions in meaningful and respectful dialogue to foster human understanding that transcends difference. “Pretending that differences don’t matter is false,” Tompkins says, “but learning to step out of our safety zones, reach out to

someone who’s different, and really deeply listen to one another is the beginning of a peaceful, world changing harmony.”

“We do that at Swarthmore in small ways,” says Tompkins, who is grateful that the students she has worked with are already open to new traditions and interested in dialogue. “Swatties are so bright, passionate, and caring about the world. It makes me optimistic about the future,” she says with a smile.

This fall, Tompkins organized two 9/11 commemorative events—a Memorial Service and Reflection at the Meeting House and a Teach-in on Nonviolent Responses to Terrorism. On Oct. 17, she hosted a panel “Let Your Life Speak: Quaker Alumni Activism,” featuring four alumni whose Quaker faith and practice have inspired their activism in the world.

“Swarthmore is a perfect fit for me,” Tompkins says. “I always say I have the best job in the world.”

New Friends Stories by Susan Cousins Breen, photos by Eleftherios Kostans



RUBY BHATTACHARYA '11 joined the campus community as an admissions counselor and coordinator of international recruitment in July. This fall, she will travel to London, Paris, Geneva, Brussels, Istanbul, and Toronto to meet with prospective students. As a Swarthmore undergraduate, Ruby majored in French and political science and was an admissions fellow and tour guide. She enjoys playing tennis, watching movies, traveling, and baking. A southern New Jersey native, Ruby currently resides in Moorestown, N.J., with her cockatiels Buttons and Sprinkles.



ALEXANDRA “ALI” CRAIG began working as associate director of parents programs in the Department of Development in July. She comes to Swarthmore from Albright College, where she was

assistant director of The Fund for Albright; and Johns Hopkins University’s Krieger School of the Arts and Sciences, where she worked in the Major Gifts Office. Ali has a B.S. in chemistry and a B.A. in English from Gettysburg College. Traveling, shopping, reading, working out, and spending time with family and friends are some of her favorite things to do.



KIMBERLY FREMONT joined the campus community as a systems support analyst in Human Resources in July. She worked in advising and student services at Temple University for many years and, more recently, as a functional expert on Temple’s Banner implementation, where she found “a love for information systems.” Kimberly has an M.A. in counseling from George Washington University and a B.S. in psychology from Saint Joseph’s University. She enjoys watching movies, going out to dinner, and spending time with family and friends. Kimberly and her husband Scott live in Havertown.



ANNA GOSLEN began work as a technical services specialist for media and metadata in the McCabe Library in July. She comes to Swarthmore from the University of North Carolina (UNC)—Chapel Hill, where she worked in the UNC libraries, cataloging audio-visual materials while earning a bachelor’s degree in biology and a master’s degree in library science. Anna has a cat named Chloe and enjoys art and design, crafts, reading, and baking.



LESLIE HEMPLING has joined the Dean’s Office as coordinator of learning resources and student disability services. Most recently, she was coordinator of referral services and a staff social worker for the University of Pennsylvania Counseling and Psychological Services Department. Leslie has an M.S.S. from Bryn Mawr

College and a B.A. from Oberlin College. She completed her clinical training and a postgraduate fellowship with Swarthmore’s Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) and was a contracted therapist with CAPS from 2008 to 2011. Outdoor activities—including hiking, running, and playing tennis—and spending time with family and close friends are a few of Leslie’s favorite things to do in her free time.



CORRINE SCHOEB began working in the Information Technology Services Department doing Web content development for the Communications Department in April. Prior to joining the College, she developed and designed websites for individuals, small companies, and nonprofits, obtaining most of her technical experience while working at JP Morgan’s Newark, Del., office. Previously, she also worked as a labor law investigator for the State of Delaware and with autistic children. A graduate of Goddard College in Plainfield, Vt., Corrine’s interest is piqued by reading, films, rollerblading, and learning about alternative energy systems, green buildings, and dwellings.



Emotional Freedom Technique

Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2011

12–1 p.m.

Scheuer Room, Kohlberg Hall

Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT) is a simple yet powerful tool to help free you from your destructive thoughts and emotions. EFT is a process of tapping on specific acupuncture points while tuning into an emotion you want to release. Come learn the basics of these tapping sequences before the holidays! Presented by Yvonne Fisher, a massage therapist and owner of Insight Body Therapies.

Common Causes of Non-Refreshing Sleep

Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2011

12–1 p.m.

Scheuer Room, Kohlberg Hall

During this talk, the audience will learn about common sleep disorders that cause poor sleep such as obstructive sleep apnea, insomnia, restless leg syndrome, and periodic limb movements of sleep. Presenter Dr. Kelly Brown, is a neurologist and sleep medicine physician at Taylor Hospital.

Note: Lunchtime Wellness lectures include a light lunch. Please register by the Friday before the lecture using the Campus Events Calendar.



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Wellness Winner

Dierdre Konar Finds Fun, Wellness, and Camaraderie in Living Healthy

By Dierdre Konar, associate director of Capital Giving

My love affair with wellness began at a young age. I attended field hockey camp at Swarthmore while in elementary school; tested out my skills in tennis, soccer, and basketball camps in middle school; and was a four-sport athlete—field hockey, lacrosse, swimming, and skiing—during high school. Although I never excelled at these sports, I enjoyed the camaraderie of the games.

During college, I focused on ski racing and considered myself successful if I came in 30th of 60 female racers. I much preferred hitting the slopes with my friends and finding patches of untouched powder between the trees than winding down the hill through gates. In college, I also practiced yoga regularly, trying hatha, vinyasa, ashtanga, yin, and kundalini.

I still enjoy skiing and yoga, walk with my father on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, and run or walk the 4.6-mile loop at Ridley Creek State Park two or three times a week with friends or colleagues. Because my schedule changes from week to week, I tend to frequent a variety of classes at the Rocky Run YMCA.

My favorites are zumba, body pump, and yoga. So where does all of this exercise lead me? To no-guilt happy hours, fancy dinners, and Sharples mac-and-cheese bars! My family enjoys entertaining over large meals, and my husband Ross and I cook together regularly; it is one of our favorite activities. We typically cook very healthy and well-balanced meals—which means that I have fabulous leftovers for lunch—and often have friends and family over for dinner.



ANNETTE NEWMAN

“If exercise isn’t fun, then I’m not interested!” says Dierdre Konar, associate director in Capital Giving and winner of the summer Wellness Incentive Program drawing, who happily associates exercise with socializing.

Over the years, I have found that eating well, exercising, and taking vitamin and mineral supplements have profound effects on how I feel mentally and physically. For example, if I do not get enough calcium and magnesium in my diet on a regular basis, I have trouble sleeping. Figuring this out was a defining moment in my life because sleep deprivation was becoming an issue.

I have no interest in running a race or lifting the most weight at body pump class, and I have come to terms with the fact that my mother is stronger than me; however, I will always dance like no one’s watching, enjoy the loop at Ridley Creek and the hiking trails in our area, and I will always make healthy living a priority in my life.