

BARD COLLEGE AT SIMON'S ROCK

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

July 24, 2008

Dear Simon's Rock Returning Students and Families:

Summer greetings from Simon's Rock! The campus is alive with summer activities – students conducting research with faculty, the Berkshire Fringe Festival theater performances and Aston Magna concerts, and the beautiful summer landscape. And we are also busy planning for your return in a few weeks. I am writing to update you about a few new things you will discover upon your return next month, and to help you prepare for the rapidly approaching fall semester.

Student housing has been a major focus this summer. As I write, we are working to complete upgrades to Kendrick House, the first of the tri-dorms to undergo full-scale renovation – and the first major renovation any of these residences have received since their original construction. It is shaping up quite well, with some changes to the floor plan, along with improved lighting, access, ventilation, heating, bathrooms, and common space. We plan to update Crosby and Dolliver over the next two summers, and I think you will be excited by the improvements.

The college has also purchased some new land and buildings, which are contiguous to the ARC/Red Barn and Red Brick House across Alford Road. It is beautiful land that we purchased from the family of Elizabeth Blodgett Hall, the founder of Simon's Rock; there is great satisfaction in acquiring the property and having this tangible symbol of our founder's legacy as part of the college's grounds. One of the houses on this property, which is next to a beautiful swath of conservation easement land, will be used for student housing this fall.

We will need these spaces for housing, because we anticipate another robust and diverse entering class. The college's Board, faculty, and administrative leadership has a longstanding goal for campus enrollment of 450 students. Our strong admission efforts mean that we are rapidly approaching that number, and we anticipate that our residences will be at capacity this fall. We will also be working with a few select local inns to provide supervised housing off campus. Dean of Students and Associate Dean of Student Affairs Bob Graves and Director of Residence Life Tom Coote will be contacting you in the near future to outline in detail plans for fall housing. In addition, we will begin the planning process for a new residence hall, and will work with students as well as campus staff to design an exciting space.

You will also meet some new faculty when you return to campus. Three new faculty on long term contracts are joining us in August. Fatma Gul Unal is an economist who received her doctorate from the University of Massachusetts. She has a particular interest

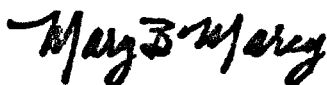
in development economics, inequality, poverty, and gender. Our new anthropologist, Kathryn Boswell, received her PhD from Indiana University and has a background in migration issues, nationalism and transnationalism, and colonial history in West Africa. Brian Wynne will be a new faculty member in mathematics. Brian's doctorate is from Wesleyan University, and he has recently had a visiting faculty appointment at Colgate, where he taught courses in geometry and calculus and pursued his interest in hyperreal numbers. We are eager to have these talented individuals join the community at Simon's Rock.

Along with these new faculty appointments, you will find that Anne O'Dwyer has expanded her responsibilities and is now working as Associate Academic Dean. She will continue to teach, but will also be working closely with Dean Sam Ruhmkorff on academic issues, including significant work with students and their families.

This August will see the inaugural Senior Workshop session, an opportunity for seniors to return a few days before classes, discuss the senior thesis project, and work with faculty as they plan their final year at the college.

Of course, there are many things that have not changed at the college, and that will feel very familiar to you. As always, Writing and Thinking Workshop will take place a week before regular classes begin and will help welcome new students to campus. The faculty have been busy on their own scholarly research and planning their courses. And we are all eager to see you again, hear about your summer experiences, and start a new academic year. Until then, I hope you enjoy the remainder of summer break and look forward to seeing you on campus in the near future!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary B. Marcy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary B. Marcy
Provost & Vice President