

BRYN MAWR &amp; HAVERFORD COLLEGES

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## Haverford Selects a New Dean of the College

**By Andrew Thompson**

Concluding a search process over three months in the making, Haverford has selected Dr. Martha J. Denney as the new Dean of the College. Denney will replace current Dean of the College Greg Kannerstein '63, who will be moving to a new position as Senior Advisor to Institutional Advancement.

Since July 2008, Denney had been serving at Georgetown University as the Associate Dean and Director of the Undergraduate Program at the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service.

President Stephen G. Emerson '74 said she will start at Haverford on July 1.

"She's delighted to come, and she's really looking forward to it," said Emerson.

Adam Lewis '10, one of three student representatives to the Dean Search Committee, explained the 35-page, single-spaced final report the committee put together.

"[The Report] basically outlined the whole process: how many applications we'd screened, how many people we went through in the 12 airport interviews in the hotel, and then the four [candidates] that came to campus, and the responses they had. We also included the general senses from the [online] feedback forms," said Lewis.

Marla Yee '09, another student representative to the Committee, said that at the Committee's final meeting on Friday, March 6, "we went around and asked everyone to rank the candidates one through four, and the report we sent to Emerson included [those rankings]."

Ammanuel Zegeye '09, the third student representative, explained that while they only got to see the student responses to the online feedback forms, they got to see every form at the meeting.

"Every evaluation we received was read aloud at that meeting," Yee added.

Zegeye also said that President Emerson "came to us Friday afternoon, and asked us to justify our choices."

Emerson commented on the other forms of input he and the Committee received.

"Lots of folks came in the door to talk," he said. "We had reference letters, the dean's office staff themselves. As with any search process, you get references from people who call, and also people who don't, to [get a good sense of the person]."

Emerson added, "The overall preference of the Committee was very clear. Martha was on everybody's list, top one or two people."

Students' Council Co-President Harrison Haas '10 concurred.

"There were two candidates that students had really strong, positive feelings for," Harrison Haas said. "Though there were

some students who liked the other candidate better, there were a lot who like Martha Denney, and I think as we get to know her better, that will increase.”

Students’ Council Co-President Will Harrison ’10 described Denney as a “strong presence, but genuine.”

“She also seemed to be very comfortable in general with the idea of student self-government,” added Will Harrison.

Zegeye said being a representative to the Search Committee was a good experience.

“It’s good to meet new people on the back end, the faculty and the administration, and also see how the process works. I had to remember all the time that I wasn’t just representing my own views, I’m representing everyone else as well,” explained Zegeye.

Lewis said, “It was really cool to see how much our opinions were valued, with students serving on the committee as equal members.”

Said Yee, “I was always conscious of my biases and how they would effect the committee, which is why I tried not to pick a favorite until the end.”

Current Dean Kannerstein said that his new job at Haverford will be 50% time as Senior Advisor to the Institutional Advancement Office.

“The part I’m most excited about will be connecting alumni,” he said.

Kannerstein will also teach a course each semester.

“The first semester will be on the history of liberal arts colleges in America, specifically in the case of Haverford. I think I might be doing some journalism stuff as well,” said Kannerstein.

Kannerstein also mentioned his plans to write a book about the college.

“I’m seeking advice from former colleagues, I also think the history course will kickstart that process, the students will be doing a lot of research, and there’s a lot of undiscovered lore about the place.”

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