I have been buoyed by the generous support of the college and Arboretum community, and I’m looking forward to working with all of you.

The beauty of this campus never ceases to amaze me. From the first time I stepped on campus in the mid-nineties to when I was hired in 2001, it has never stopped being a source of inspiration.

When Arboretum Director Bill Astifan told me that he was retiring this May, I was surprised. In his 19 years at the helm he has guided me as well as the Arboretum’s historic landscape. I don’t know Haverford without Bill showing us the way. During his tenure, he has overseen the planting of many, many different species of oak, our signature tree. We’ve also tried some unusual cultivars, most recently the X Gordlinia, a cross between the beloved Franklinia alatamaha and the southern native, Gordonia lasianthos.

Together Bill and I worked on creating the meadows that grace our landscape today. The meadow above the Duck Pond was created because the mowers kept getting stuck in the mud. The Pinetum meadow was created as a small pilot project. Little did Bill know that within several months I had turned the whole open area in the Pinetum into meadow. Both meadows today are a hub of insect and bird activity.

More recently, Bill and I worked on building the Environmental Studies greenhouse. On Earth Day this April we celebrated the grand opening of what will be Haverfarm’s meeting place for environmental students and future farmers. We’ve been working with faculty members Jon Wilson and Helen White in incorporating the farm and Arboretum into the curriculum. Our common goal is to see the campus as an environmental laboratory.

This year the Arboretum Executive Committee welcomed new members Alan Wood and Doug Ross ’69. Their enthusiasm and drive bring fresh perspective to an already vibrant group. I’m very appreciative of all the work they’ve accomplished over the last year.

As I step into this new role, I feel a sense of excitement and a little trepidation. The magnitude of this new role and its responsibilities can make a person pause. I have been buoyed by the generous support of the college and Arboretum community, and I’m looking forward to working with all of you.

Claudia Kent, Arboretum Director
Arboretum programs throughout the year serve members of the Arboretum Association, Haverford students and the general public.

Late summer 2016 saw the usual preparations to campus for freshman move-in on a picture-perfect August 24. The 357 new ’Fords arriving for orientation were met by pots of bright mums, courtesy of the Arboretum staff, at the freshman dorms of Barclay, Gummere, Tritton and the college apartment complex HCA. The Arboretum staff also welcomed the Class of 2020 with its traditional tree planting ceremony on Leeds Green the following morning. Students grabbed a shovel and helped plant their class tree, an Okame cherry, *Prunus ‘Okame’*, between Magill Library and Leeds Hall. Next up, all freshmen selected a plant for their dorm room, courtesy of the Arboretum staff who greeted the incoming class with a Dining Center lobby display during the first week of classes.

The members’ fall lecture on Sunday, October 9, featured Larry Weaner speaking on “Native Wildflower Meadows: Let’s Get Real.” Meadows, a popular alternative to growing open lawn areas, are misunderstood, according to Weaner, founder of Larry Weaner Landscape Associates. Failures often result from inadequate planning and the use of poorly adapted plants. Plantings modeled on actual meadow communities provide long-term, easily managed landscapes that harbor a myriad of birds and butterflies, and provide color and texture throughout the year, he told the audience, which included members of the Hardy Plant Society/Mid-Atlantic Chapter and the Henry Foundation for Botanical Research.

William Woyes Weaver learned to save seeds like his Quaker grandfather before him, long before the word heirloom was linked to a food source. He earned a doctorate in food science and can rattle off the names and pedigrees of thousands of vegetables: foods that would have long been lost if it were not for his non-profit Roughwood Seed Collection. For the dinner guests, he spun stories of the sweet Tutelo strawberry corn raised by Native Americans and shared with the Quakers, the fish pepper from the African American community, the Arbogast sugar pea no longer grown in France, South African melons, and gluten-free sorghum from Mongolia. Calling food a “cultural artifact,” he is passionate about bringing back the seeds, and therefore the plants, so recipes and traditions are not lost.

A moving American flag unveiling was coupled with a special tree planting on Veterans Day, November 11. Gene Hough of the Saving Hallowed Ground Foundation led the ceremony in the uniform of a World War I American soldier. The Arboretum donated a swamp white oak, *Quercus bicolor*, along College Lane to commemorate the foundation’s efforts to restore monuments to World War I soldiers.

After the March snows melted, April was a busy month as temperatures warmed and plants woke up from winter. Student volunteer Austin Huber ’19 helped the Arboretum welcome spring with a marigold giveaway. Every student arriving for breakfast at the Dining Center April 22 was encouraged to pot up a plant for their dorm room. Then came Earth Day, celebrations spread out over three days when both students and staff helped plant nearly 200 bare-root seedlings of native trees in the wooded areas around campus. Members pitched in on Arbor Day April 28, as a dawn redwood, *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*, found a new home on the west side of Lunt Hall.
Among the trees planted on campus during the past year were specimens new to our collection, as well as trees planted in memory of, or in celebration of, both people and events.

On Veterans Day, November 11, Gene Hough arrived in the full kit of an American doughboy to help plant a swamp white oak, *Quercus bicolor*, along College Lane. A former corporal in the Pennsylvania National Guard, he is the son of the late William J.H. Hough Jr., Class of 1950, and represents the Saving Hallowed Ground Foundation and its efforts to restore monuments to World War I soldiers.

Other tree planting occasions were the welcoming of the Class of 2020 with an Okame cherry, *Prunus ‘Okame,’* along the Leeds Green walk to Magill Library on August 25 and the addition of a dawn redwood, *Metasequoia glyptostroboides,* near Lunt Dorm on Arbor Day, April 28.

Several gifts to the Arboretum made possible the planting of new specimens to the tree collection over the past year. Long-time Arboretum supporter Elizabeth “Betty” Cary was remembered with the addition of the new intergeneric hybrid *X Eucommia ulmoides*, planted by the Skate House in memory of Haverford College’s former president John “Jack” Coleman.

As our trees mature, we face the loss of several each year. In December, it was confirmed that our Pennsylvania champion red oak, *Quercus rubra*, along Walton Road at Stokes Hall had extensive interior rot and only a slim band of solid outer wood. At 100 feet high, 25 feet in circumference and with a 106-foot spread, it had become an extreme hazard and had to be cut down. This summer we planted a young red oak nearby for future generations.

*Sequoiadendron giganteum,* planted by the Skate House in memory of Haverford College’s former president John “Jack” Coleman.

There is a happier ending for another lost giant. In January when the newly renovated Sharpless Hall science building re-opened, students found three seminar room tables created from the wood of our fallen giant sequoia, *Sequoiadendron giganteum.* We have milled lumber from the state champion red oak, as well, and hope to incorporate this wood in the soon-to-be built library addition.

Landscape maintenance is always a time-consuming chore on campus. Each season has its duties: snow shoveling, pruning, weeding and leaf raking. In addition to the rejuvenation of shrubs, hedges and groundcovers around several building entrances, we once again were faced with major construction work on campus that required several tree removals, constant cleanup and then new plantings. While Sharpless Hall renovations left minimal damage, the transformation of Ryan Gymnasium into VCAM (Visual Center for Arts and Media) required the tree-spading of several specimens and the removal others. As the project nears completion, we are already creating a new landscape with a rain garden of perennials and a planted pathway echoing the historic Serpentine Walk laid out in 1834 in nearly the same location.

As always, our tasks throughout the year were made easier with the help of volunteers. In the face of VCAM construction next door, Marianne Martino, Agnes Moncy and Gillian Weidorn maintained the Hilles perennial garden, as well as the Smith Magill Garden behind the library. Paula Burns is a great asset in the Denis Asian Garden and Teaf Garden by the Dining Center.

The staff also worked with students. Spending time with these young ‘Fords gave us an important connection to another part of life on campus. In turn, we heard from them that what they learned from us meant a great deal. For example, Allison Hacker ’17 worked with horticulturist Mike Startup and initiated a tree tour and stream study for a Radnor Middle School seventh grade science class as part of her student teaching requirement.

Helping throughout the academic year were: Opal Bednarik ’19, Sonia Copple ’19, Ana Colon-Garcia ’17, Austin Huber ’19, Sharim Jones ’19, Hannah Krohn ’17, Nicky Rhodes, ’19, Brandon Sickel ’18 and Meghan Wingate ’17. Alongside us in the summer of 2016 were Michael DeWolf ’17, Antonio Gil ’19, Noah Jacobson-Carroll ’18, Zachary Oji ’19 and Adam Trask of Penn State ’19. This past summer saw student workers Darian Guenther ’18, Hayden Kesterson ’19, Marilee Oldstone-Moore ’18, and Paloma Paez-Coombe ’19. On the grounds side of operations, students helping out during the year were: Andrew Cornell ’19, Brendan Murray, Vaughan Papenhausen ’18 and Nick Randazzo.

The Environmental Studies Program through the Haverfarm project continues to be an important partnership between the Arboretum and students. This year, Haverfarm fellow Jahzara Heredia ’16 stepped up to inaugurate the greenhouse and classroom facility as well as continue gardens at two campus locations.

**Martha Van Artsdalen, Plant Curator**
As a senior, I’ve spent the majority of my last three years living on Haverford’s campus. I consider it my home, at least for now. I feel like I belong here.

Before working in the Arboretum this past summer, I thought I was very knowledgeable about the goings-on of Haverford. Now, after working with the Arboretum staff full-time for many weeks, I see the campus completely differently. I always had taken the campus for granted and hardly thought about the beauty around me, let alone all the work required to maintain it.

It takes a huge amount of thought, time and effort to make the campus look the way it does. Many of us don’t take the time to appreciate the results. I used to be one of those people, but today when I walk around campus I don’t just see a place I think of as home, but also the work that goes into it. Things that are easily overlooked such as mown grass, weeded beds of flowers and strong healthy trees represent the hours of work that I did this summer and the commitment of the full-time staff to creating the beautiful place where I live.

Marilee Oldstone-Moore ’18
The exuberant aster cultivar ‘Raydon’s Favorite’ takes over planting beds and bike racks alike on campus every fall.

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