Steel & Garnet



FALL **2018**



It is so exciting to pen my first letter to you in the revered *Steel & Garnet*. With over a century of history, this publication bridges the past with the present and even lays out the blueprints by which we can begin to see our future. As this issue so meaningfully highlights both tradition and change at Girard, it also quietly underscores one enduring thread that binds us all together: our core values.

Respect. Responsibility. Integrity. Self-discipline. Compassion.

DR. HEATHER D. WATHINGTON President

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ABOVE
Dr. Heather D. Wathington cheers
on students at Cavalier Day.



Dr. Heather D. Wathington

PRESIDENT

On a daily basis, I am learning more about each of these words and the power of their meaning at Girard. I see compassion when our students help each other solve math problems in the classroom. I see responsibility when our high school students advocate to resurrect the "buddy program," allowing older students to build mentoring relationships with younger students. I see respect when our alumni support the civic activism of our students.

I have also come to see that each value was chosen intentionally to tie to the days and deeds of our founder and benefactor: these principles reflect on how Stephen Girard purposefully directed his time. In the words of Annie Dillard, "how we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives."

I hope that in each story found in these pages, you catch more than a glimpse of our core values truly lived here at Girard. The future we'll continue to shape together holds these like a compass, guiding our shared path.

Hail Girard,

Heather Q. Wathy

DR. HEATHER D. WATHINGTON *President, Girard College*

Student Profile:

SAHMIR BARR, TERRY NGUYEN, BENJAMIN GRANT, AND TYMIR SAKIL-CRAWFORD, '19

Beats & Brotherhood

Spend enough time with a handful of the men from the Class of 2019 and you'll notice a certain rhythm to how they talk. A cadence, a flow. Like poetry. For Benjamin Grant and Tymir Sakil-Crawford, that's where it all began.

"I started with poetry because it was more proper," Grant smiles, "My old school would allow you to write a poem, with five or six stanzas, instead of a hook with two or three verses."

"I did it to impress people, because I felt like I needed to show people who I was," explains Sakil-Crawford, "but then later on, I figured out that I could express my feelings, and that's when I got more into making and writing music."

Grant and Sakil-Crawford had created music before, but never in a studio. Access to a true recording space, like Girard's on-campus studio, caught Grant's eye as he weighed his options for high school.

"It made it easier to stay away from home — I had something that would make me feel at home, and comfortable," says Grant. "Knowing that there was a music program, and I could connect through music, made me connect to Girard automatically."

Students who had been at Girard longer, like Sahmir Barr, were already growing into the music scene.

Barr recalls creating a song in 6th grade for part of a music contest. "I always knew how to write, but I hate attention, completely," he confesses. "When my time came to say my part, I was nervous. But I wrote someone else's part and it was the best part of the song. Since then, I knew I had it, I just had to overcome my shyness." He adds, with a smile, "And we won the contest."



ABOVESahmir Barr, '19, and Terry Nguyen, '19.



"Knowing that there was a music program, and I could connect through music, made me connect to Girard automatically."

BENJAMIN GRANT

ABOVE
Terry Nguyen, '19, Sahmir Barr, '19, and Benjamin Grant, '19, swapping beats in the studio.

Classmate Terry Nguyen attests to Barr's talent. "Since 2nd grade," Nguyen says, "Sahmir has always been a lyricist. He would free-style all the time. Whenever he has a chance, he's gonna write to something."

No one can quite remember when or how the group (they're not a band, they'll assure you) began working in the studio together. It happened organically, from wanting to use the same equipment. They sing. They write. But they had no experience with professional equipment. They learned by doing — and what one learned, they all soon understood.

"We were clueless. We taught each other everything. We studied different types of microphones and computers, stereos and surround-sound systems," Grant details. Even with help from music teacher Paul Eaton, "it was all from scratch."

Early on, Sakil-Crawford says, "We just clicked. We had the same vision and bonded like a family. Everyone had the same goal, same path, wanted to do great things in the music industry. Once we do get there, we can all be great, and successful, together."

The more they learned, the more time they spent in the studio.

"That inspired me," says Nguyen. "I wanted to get into music, too, because I was around them. I wanted to contribute something." Nguyen's background in technology made him a natural fit both for creating beats and mastering tracks. "I wanted to heighten their level of production," he explains, "They seemed so passionate, but they could be so much better, and I just wanted to help them out."

There's a sense of this with all of them: an eagerness to help.

"It's always been a genuine bond," confirms Grant. "We saw each other's vision. We were on a mission."

"Music helped me learn them in a different way," shares Barr. "I'm able to understand who they are, as people, through their music. When we collaborate, it brings out a different me."

For these talented musicians, Girard's music studio represents more than comradery: it's an opportunity.

"Most people don't have a studio in high school," says Sakil-Crawford, with pride. "We've been learning for four years now. We have many things to learn, and we've had time to learn them. We've already made the mistakes that others make on day one. When we do get to college, and we start our classes, we're going to be top of our class."

Listening to the tracks the group produces, one might conclude that Sakil-Crawford is likely correct. These aren't high school-level dabblings; they are college-ready recordings. These are recordings that will open doors for them. And those are doors they'll hold for each other.

"If one of us is in," says Grant, "we're all in."

BELOW
Tymir Sakil-Crawford, '19, and
Benjamin Grant, '19, have bonded
through their recording process.





For these talented musicians, Girard's music studio represents more than comradery: it's an opportunity.

Hail Girard!

Girard's Fascinating Legacy







ABOVE
Hand painted porcelain from China.

LEFT
Canton Custom House Certificate. 1805.

footprints in not just the Philadelphia region, but across the seas where he traded for one of the world's most popular beverages: tea.

Tea was the focus of Girard College's ta at the Drinks in the Archives event has

STEPHEN GIRARD'S legacy has left

Tea was the focus of Girard College's table at the Drinks in the Archives event hosted at the Free Library of Philadelphia on October 10, 2018. This event was part of Archives Month Philly, an annual October celebration that seeks to connect the public with archives, the work of archivists, and the rich history of Philadelphia.

Kathy Haas, Director of Historical Resources at Girard College, curated a table on Stephen Girard's involvement with the China trade, bringing reproductions of documents such as an 1805 Chinese customs paper and shipping lists of the many different types of teas that were loaded on Girard's ships. She also showed samples of some of these teas, allowing visitors to inspect and smell teas such as Bohea and Singlo, popular black and green teas each named for their place of origin, and Souchong, which has a unique smoky flavor.

In the late 1700's, the popularity of tea increased as changes in both tariffs and tastes transformed it from a luxury item to a broad-based cultural staple both in America and in Europe. For many years, business in the West Indes was Girard's focus. Yet on December 2, 1802, one of Girard's ships, Rousseau, set sail for Canton, China, returning in 1804 with approximately 1,083,000 U.S. 2018 dollars' worth of tea and silk. Girard saw the

opportunities tea provided and continued to purchase tea and other products of high quality from credible and reputable merchants in Canton.

One of these merchants was Houqua, the leading member of the Cohong, a guild of Chinese merchants who controlled trade with the West. Girard depended on Houqua to supply him with the best teas as he believed that the greater the quality, the better it would endure a glut as opposed to cheaper, low quality teas. He would trade North American ginseng as Chinese merchants believed it held medicinal properties for the spleen.

For Girard, trading ginseng for tea was a grand success, but Haas assures that it wasn't always easy. "The challenge was from the American side and the European side, coming up with something that the Chinese wanted to trade for because they were really setting the terms."

Girard's participation in the China trade, and his legacy in general surprised many at the event who were often familiar with the school but not with Stephen Girard's story. This reinforced the importance of connecting with the public and informing them about Girard's collection.

"Events like this help take our story outside the walls of the school and share it with people; I think it's a really good thing. It also helps get the word out to other institutions about the kinds of material that we have, making sure that other scholars and researchers get to know us and to make sure it gets used and shared."

"Events like this help take our story outside the walls of the school and share it with people"

KATHY HAAS, DIRECTOR OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES AT GIRARD COLLEGE At Our Core

Alumni Reflections on Our Core Values

Carl Riley

'78

REFLECTING on the event at Girard College on September 11th, 2018 "Opening the Gates: The Desegregation of Girard College" made me realize how fortunate and blessed I was to have had the opportunity to attend Girard as one of the first black students to integrate the school in 1968. Seeing all the students at the chapel service during the evening ceremony reminded me of a time when I was in those pews. I never imagined then that today I would have the opportunity to convey some of my life's lessons to our Girard family 50 years later. For this moment, though, I want to focus on the students. Let me share with you some of the lessons I learned while attending the school, and about life in general, surrounding two complementary Core Values: Respect and Responsibility.

Respect means living by the "Golden Rule:" do unto others as you would have them do unto you. This will take you very far in life. Always treat people fairly. Take time for your friends and family. Form that friendship and bond with your classmates. Some of you have been at Girard for many years and have spent more time with your classmates than with your family. Keep that bond when you leave Girard. You will appreciate it later in life. Your deeds live on long after you are gone.

Responsibility means always striving to do your best. You may come up short sometimes; that is ok. Knowing you tried your hardest is what counts. You can always learn from your efforts and come back even stronger the next time. There is not one team that has not lost a game, not one successful company that has not failed at something, not one actor who has never been turned down for a part. Remember, there is a lesson to be learned in everything you do. If you discover what you said or did was wrong, fix it if you can. Don't keep trying to find an excuse even after you know in your heart it was mistake. Do what you promised to do.

Lastly, give back to Girard when you can. Giving back can mean many things: Give money. Give time. Join the GCAA. Participate in school activities. Girard is our foundation; it's only fair we contribute to her continued success.



One of the first four African-American students to integrate into Girard College in 1978, Carl Riley was 8 years old when he entered the school. He later served as Vice President his junior and senior years and went on to attend Cheyney University. He has worked in various companies including IBM and Lockheed Martin and is currently the Technology Manager for Westat, a Medical Research Company.

ABOVE
Carl Riley, '78, brought his family to this year's Founder's Day.



"When women get together," explains Tifphani Johnson, '96, "we make a plan." It took a lot of planning before women walked the campus of Girard College as students. By 1982, the campus was finally seeing racial diversity, but still lacked half of its eventual population: women.

Sharone Gray, age 12, and her mother Joann, prepared a lawsuit that leaned on the 1971 Equal Rights Amendment. Anticipating the suit, Girard's **Board of Directors of City** Trusts petitioned the court for modification to Stephen Girard's will. In September of 1982, Judge Charles Klein ordered Girard officials to begin processing applications for girls between 6 and 12 years old. By 1984, girls were officially on campus and here to stay.

"When I started," Christine Devlin, '93, recalls of her entrance to Girard in the 7th grade in 1987, "they were still trying to figure it out as they went." A graduate of the first class to include females, Devlin didn't mean to make history. "I really didn't know if they took boys or girls, I just said I would like to go." Her arrival on campus revealed that,



ABOVE 5th grade girls, 1985-86.

while the school was prepared in many ways, it was still growing in others. She remembers that girls who asked to play soccer were put on the boys' team, which she found to be a "progressive" solution. But when Devlin expressed an interest in percussion in the school band, she was told that "young ladies don't play the drums."

"Oh," laughs Tifphani Johnson, who graduated 3 years behind Devlin, "One of my classmates was one of the star drummers. You can't tell her what to do. She's gonna do what she's gonna do."

Indeed, the tide toward change came early — a fact that Johnson attributes in part to her own class. "We are, collectively, some of the most stubborn, determined people you will ever want to meet," Johnson says fondly. She knew she had to use this power for good. "My mother sat me down and she told me I could start a riot or a revolution." Johnson and her classmates chose revolution.

"I may have had the first class that was predominantly female," guesses Johnson, "and we were testing boundaries. We tried everything. We initiated things. We figured out the loopholes beforehand, and we'd make it happen. We were trouble."

Christine Devlin, for example, recalls that in her woodshop class, the boys worked hands on, while the girls largely watched demonstrations, at her teacher's instance. "I remember him saying that he would never forgive himself if any of us were injured on the machinery. When we got to shop, I don't think they were really comfortable with us being there — they dealt with us as, 'just observe.'"

Tifphani Johnson experienced a similar atmosphere in her autoshop class, but felt more freedom to push back, with her classmates beside her. "I don't know if they dulled it down for the girls," she confesses, "but I wanna take stuff apart."

By the time Ethel Richards, '01, came along, taking stuff apart was par for the course.

"Girls did wood shop, auto mechanics," she says, "it was like 'you're a girl and you're doing it? You're cool."

The magnitude of this did not hit until later, when she realized how long women had been excluded from the experience before her. "It wasn't until I was a senior in high school that I fully appreciated being a woman in that institution. I looked at the timeline and thought, 'this is pretty beat, but amazing at the same time.' Like living history."

It was a history unimaginable to so many, so shortly before: Christine Devlin's great-grandmother, and Tifphani Johnson's grandmother, both marched to desegregate Girard College. Neither likely dreamed that their female descendants could one day attend.

Modern Girard women inherit a legacy of teamwork and blazing trails.

Danasia Rowley, '19, takes that responsibility seriously. "I think it's incredibly important to let younger girls know what their journey will consist of. If I give you these skills, it's going to be a little easier for you than it was for me. It's important to the growth of the community, but also to the strength of your bond."

For Myah Ridley-Gaymon, '19, that bond extends to her current schoolmates, future alumna, and especially those who came before her. "I was very thankful that those girls and their families pushed so hard to get them into the school," says Gaymon. "The reason I am here today is because of them."

With the confidence that comes from decades of support from Girard sisters, today's graduates are ready to look challenge in the eye.

"This is a male dominated field?" muses Anjalee Pai, '19, of her future, "What's that supposed to do, scare me? If men are sitting at a table at a meeting, I flip my hair, walk in with my heels clicking, and have a seat."











Niyaira Blocker, '24, wows audiences with a vocal performance.

"My mother sat me down and she told me I could start a riot or a revolution." Johnson and her classmates chose revolution.



High honors trip, 1984-85.

Kenyetta Powell, '20, is inspired by a monthly Chapel speaker.



A Closer Look

EXPLORING OUR HISTORIC CAMPUS

From the pond that was once on the west end of campus to the pool currently beneath the high school building, swimming has nearly always been a fixture at Girard.

Mark Coney, certified lifeguard and member of class of '21, reflects on one of his favorite pastimes at Girard. "Your body just feels different in water. It's a fun distraction. When I'm in the pool, I'm not thinking about homework, I'm not thinking about anything I have to do, my only task is to have fun."

Before the final bricks were laid or any students walked the halls, plans for swimming education were being considered. Plans for aquatics had been conceived as early as 1834.

Students at Girard made do without an indoor swimming pool for decades before one was installed. Early Girardians spent summers swimming in the pond on campus, even skating atop its surface in the winter. In 1878, the pond was followed by two plank-lined, artificial

reservoirs of different depths to accommodate the range of ages that attended Girard. These reservoirs were also designed to provide ice needed by the school.

These ponds too, however, would become another piece of Girard College's history when they were filled in with dirt from the construction of the high school building. Replacing them, just below the site of diligent instruction in the high school, is a source of fun for many a Girardian and has been since its opening in 1916: two pools, the larger one still open yearround for athletics and recreation. Countless alumni can likely remember the tiles that line the walls and the pillars that flank the pool, or times spent enjoying the water with their friends.

Me'zel Square-Ward, '21 and fellow student lifeguard here on campus, considers his time in the water. "Being in the pool is freedom. I feel like I'm a sea creature. I can do anything. When I'm in the pool, it brings back memories. It makes me reflect."



ABOVEGirard College Swim Team, 1928-29.





ABOVE Pool, today.

LEFTStudents at the pool, 1946.

Event: HOMECOMING

Fall'18 Homecoming

The beautiful thing about homecoming is that it brings members of the Girard family, which stretches across generations, back home.

But homecoming wouldn't be homecoming at Girard if it didn't kick off with the students and alumni battling it out on the soccer field.

Later, after a tightly-contested 5-5 draw was decided in penalty kicks — a 2-0 swing in the students' favor — everyone regrouped for a dinner in Founder's Hall. Alumni reminisced about their times together and gathered to give praise and congratulate the six guests of honor, those recognized for the Award of Merit.

Award of Merit winner and class of '68, Ron DeChristoforo expounds on the connection that those who have passed through Girard's halls feel. "What bonds people together, whether they are alumni or family, is that you share this loop of memories that gets better over time.



ABOVE
Justin Wiley, '20, gives Ronald Marrero, '94, a run for his money.







ABOVEStudents celebrating the homecoming game.

"It's an award...to remember what was given to us and a reminder that we should be giving back"

> RON MARRERO, '94 GCAA PRESIDENT



ABOVEWinner William Gallagher, long-time Girard employee, is congratulated by William Smeader, '56.

If you don't do that, you're telling a story to yourself. It's so much better when you're sharing it with people who were there. Over time, no one can remember what actually happened, but it doesn't matter. It's just telling stories."

This year's winners are a closely-connected bunch. For instance, Thomas Rupp and Jim Yondura both graduated from Girard as members of the class of 1971. And, winners Edward "Eddie" Gallagher and Ron Marrero knew each other while at Girard and were both taught by Bill Gallagher.

Ron Marrero, class of '94 and standing GCAA President, ruminates over the award and fellow winner Bill Gallagher. "It's an award that is given as a way for those of us who have benefited from Stephen Girard to remember what was given to us and a reminder that we should be giving back," Marrero reflects. "I nominated Bill Gallagher and I think Eddie did as well. He is an undying

proponent of the school and its students and the mission of Stephen Girard. He brings alumni back; he shows up for alumni, and alumni show up for him."

Ed Gallagher, class of '99, echoes his friend and classmate's sentiment regarding their former teacher. "If I can be one-tenth of the man Bill Gallagher is, I'd live a good life — he lives and breathes Girard College. He bleeds Garnet and he's made of Steel."

Bill Gallagher has dedicated his career to the betterment of Girard College and the young minds that pass through it. "[The dinner] was beyond words," Gallagher says of the evening. "It's kind of funny because I'm the one that wished that I had some way to give the award to the alumni."



ABOVE
Bernard Oliver, '78, catches up with
Joseph Garbarino, '71 and Director
of the GCAA.

Award of Merit Winners

Thomas Rupp

'71

Tom has always been a self-starter. While attending Girard College, he mastered the manual arts which supported his mission to build a brewery and restaurant second-to-none in Central PA (if not the country!).

Ron Marrero

'94

Ron earned his B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1998 and his J.D. from Temple University School of Law in 2001. He has been heavily involved with Girard since graduating and is currently the president of the GCAA.

Ron DeChristoforo

'68

After earning a BA from Temple University and MFA from Columbia, Ron authored three books and founded West End Media, a company focused on marketing educational tools and training teachers and students to effectively use them.

Jim Yondura

'71

Jim began a career in the medical profession immediately after graduating from Girard and has since opened both an Outpatient Surgery Center and the Advanced Surgical Institute in Sewell, NJ.

Edward Gallagher

'99

Eddie graduated from Temple University and Holy Family University before receiving his Doctoral Degree from the University of Pennsylvania. A dedicated educator, he spent 11 years at Girard as a teacher and Dean of Students, and is currently Vice President of the GCAA.

William Gallagher

Coach & Teacher

With a love for coaching sports, Bill has dedicated his career to Girard in various ways and is currently teaching high school History at the College. His passion for sports continues as the volunteer coach for the baseball team.



ABOVI

Award of Merit Winners, left to right: Thomas Rupp, '71, Edward Gallagher, '99, Ronald DeChristoforo, '68, James Yondura, '71, William Gallagher, Teacher, Ronald Marrero, '94.



Earlier this year, you may have caught the newest installment of the Rocky saga, *Creed II*, on the big screen. But at Girard College, staff and students got a sneak peek as early as May 2018 – months before the film's Thanksgiving release.

Girard's multi-level gymnasium, The Armory, became a portal to Russia as it was transformed into the training headquarters for Adonis Creed's opponent, Viktor Drago (son of Ivan Drago), played by Florian Munteanu.

Fredrick Cliver, one of two Assistant Location Managers for the film, had Girard in mind from the start. "There's actually been a long history of projects that I've shot here," recalls Cliver. Whether he was recreating Washington D.C. or Rome, Cliver turned to Girard's library, chapel, and Founder's Hall for a "storied location with a bit of a gloss to it." The Armory, however, was a first for Cliver. "It kind of sold itself as being irreplicable. The look is very unique."

Astute fans will catch the Armory not once but twice in the film; the lower level serves as Drago's first training facility, while the main level is transformed to the high-end gym where Drago trains as he improves.

"These two [locations] weren't inherently linked to each other. But we saw the upper gym, and how wonderful that was going to end up working out, and just seeing downstairs, our creative team thought

this is something we can wrap into it," says Cliver. As they guessed, the creatives were pleased. "The sheer size of the armory, the scope and spatial area, the ceilings and the architecture — that's a big, big part of it. Especially when it comes to the art department. They see a place like this and it gives them a lot to work with."

Even on a tight schedule, production staff slowed their post-filming tear-downs to allow students and staff a once-in-a-lifetime tour of the set.

For Cliver, filming at Girard was never just about the perfect location. "Certain places you go to film," he explains, "it's very much a business. You want to go film at a restaurant, it's a business deal. Whatever you're spending on filming, whatever costs are associated with it, that goes to a corporation. So it's absolutely refreshing that we're at a place that can actually use the money. And you know that it's being used. You can see it, through the students, through the programs. Every single dollar is being used for something good."



ABOVEGirard students explore the transformed Armory.

Alumni Notes

To my fellow Girardians:

Many alumni attended the formal introduction of Dr. Heather D. Wathington to the Girard College family. As president of the association, I welcomed her into the Girard family and expressed hope that she will lead Girard towards a bright future.

Next, there was a celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Desegregation that took place on September 11, 2018. A panel discussion included Owen Gowans '79, William Dade, Theodore Hicks '77, Dennis Lalli '68, and Carl Riley '78 and discussed $desegregation\ from\ several\ contexts: legality, history, and$ personal accounts. The program will continue with events during the remainder of the school year.

Homecoming weekend was a success. A small alumni side pressed the varsity team to a 5-5 draw but lost on penalty kicks, 2-o. The Award of Merit dinner was well attended and those who received the award were all deserving of the honor. I was humbled to introduce Mr. Bill Gallagher, someone who had dedicated his life to serving the sons and daughters of Stephen Girard, as a recipient, who then spoke almost exclusively of his gratitude for the GCAA. I hope to see you all at our Founder's Day celebration in May, as well as the upcoming year-long events celebrating the 170th Anniversary of Girard College's opening.





ABOVE

Alumnus Dar Sheth, '10, now teaches at Girard College.

Taahir Bloodworth. '19. greets a veteran at the 50th anniversary of Girard's desegregation.

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Fall 2018

News & Notes

SAVE THE DATE December 20th Winter Concert

May 9th **Spring Concert**

May 18th Founder's Day

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ADMISSIONS

Although Girard College has rolling admissions, we encourage families to apply in the fall or winter for the following school year.

FIRST DECISIONS:

We will notify students of their accepted status by March 10th.

We ask for their responses by April 10th.

EARLY DECISIONS:

There may be instances of "early decisions" starting before Winter Break (midlate December) for students who have completed the application process.

As I walk along the Main Road and gaze upon Founder's Hall each morning, I am overwhelmed with an extreme sense of gratitude for the impact of this beloved institution.

For 170 years, Girard College has changed lives that change the world. There is no other institution that produces such purpose-driven graduates, all of whom aspire to live by the words of our founder -"My deeds must be my life."

At a recent Alumni Association Meeting, senior Elise Phipps recalled her summer experiences only possible through the generosity of our graduates.

Elise's time at Barnard College in New York City, sponsored by alumni, connected her with other students from around the world. Weeks later, she was on a plane for an internship hosted by alumnus Dr. Paul Shoemaker on his farm in North Carolina. The connection between students and graduates is truly unparalleled; our community is family, our campus is home.

Stephen Girard's vision was one of immensity. New leadership and a comprehensive strategic plan signals a new era for Girard — one that honors our past by ensuring our future. While we prepare for change, our students are leading change now. Evident during the recent student-led voter registration drive, Girard honors that vision through their actions.

Our students embrace the challenge set forth by Stephen Girard. We hope that our alumni, friends and family, and donors will join them in meeting that challenge. Please give as though our students are watching; they are.

Sincerely,

Associate Director of Development and Alumni Relations

There are two easy ways to give to **Girard College!**

GIVE SECURELY ONLINE

Navigate to GirardCollege.edu. Follow the instructions under the "Support Us" heading.

GIVE BY CHECK

Mail checks made out to The Girard College Foundation to:

Girard College 2101 S College Ave., Box 307 Philadelphia PA 19121

Please include "Winter 18 S&G" in the memo line.



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