SWARTHMORE COLLEGE

Office of Alumni & Parent Engagement

Dear friends and allies,

How are you?

We had an entirely different newsletter planned for you before the world changed this spring. Before we could fully reckon with the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 virus on communities of color, we witnessed the murder of Black citizens by law enforcement and we waited for justice that didn't come. Please know our hearts and spirits are with you as we weather the uncertainty, grief, and potential loneliness of this moment in time

Black Lives Matter. We've had considerable discussions on our steering committee about what we as leaders in the Swarthmore community can

do to better support Black alumni and Black students. In fact, many of us would not be Swarthmore alums without the sacrifices and leadership of

Black Swarthmore students in the 1960s and SASS and SBAN members who paved the path for future generations of students and alumni of color. There is always more work to be done and we are constantly seeking new, innovative ways to engage and advocate. Please read our statement of solidarity with the BLM movement on our website. We are reaching out to deliver some of the optimism and enthusiasm planned with our original outreach. We're still planning (virtual) gatherings; we still have opportunities to connect within the Alumni of

Color (AOC) community; and we're still excited to share updates from students and campus partners. First, we want to thank all alumni for your support. We launched our newsletter one year ago and received a wave of enthusiasm not just from AOC community members, but from white-identifying friends and allies as

well. We welcome all readers in our effort to build a diverse, inclusive

community and to dismantle white supremacy. Second, you'll read below about many of the projects we're working on and priorities we're supporting. Now, more than ever, we need to sustain an intentional and vocal community. This spring, we made some much needed changes to our website and have identified some introductory ways for alumni to get involved at every level. We are also pleased to

report on our first AOC-organized career panel.

different College and on-campus stakeholders to bring them to life. If you'd like to get involved, please use our "Say Hello" form. We're working to use some of our at-home time to broaden our connections as a network and meet new community members Thank you again for your enthusiasm and support. Stay safe and be well. In solidarity,

We have big ideas planned for the next few years and are in talks with

Angela Meng '12, chair

Anna Mello '08 • Kevin Li '13 • Kimberly Mealy '93 • Kimberly Rosa Perez '18 • Kira Alvarez '05 • Laura Damerville '03 • Louis Lainé '16 Alumni of Color Steering Committee

Please forward this newsletter to others who may be interested, or have them fill out this form.

Alumni of Color Committee Updates

We've done some spring cleaning! Please check out our refreshed website(s). On our homepage, you'll find a little more about our priorities

complete summary of our 2019–20 initiatives, including back issues of the newsletter. And finally, we're launching an "AOC Spotlight" series,

and/or academic research.

<u>LGBTQ+ Alumnx Network</u>.

tuned!

out our website.

Website Refresh

which you'll read more about below. Online Community Opt-In Some of the consequences of COVID-19 are decreased opportunities for socialization and loss of internships/externships/jobs for students. If you have five minutes, please go to the Alumni Online Community and update your profile to include Alumni of Color (if you so identify), and

round out any mentoring you'd be willing to do in areas of expertise,

Other group options include the Swarthmore Black Alumni Network, Latinx (there is no associated alumni volunteer group — yet!), and the

We realize that identity is more nuanced than four checkboxes can

career trajectory, extracurricular interests, identity and affinity networks,

and ways you can support AOC initiatives if you have a few minutes, a few hours, or more. We've also launched a <u>projects</u> page, with a more

is our first step, and it allows us to work with the Alumni & Parent Engagement Office on best serving the people who identify as Alumni of Color. Raising your hand as a member of these networks also allows you — if you choose — to be searchable in the directory as a member of that

community. More improvements are planned for the future, so stay

accommodate, to say nothing of the intersections of those identities. This

Community Spotlight We're excited to launch our community spotlight series! We want to celebrate the stories of alumni from all walks of life with

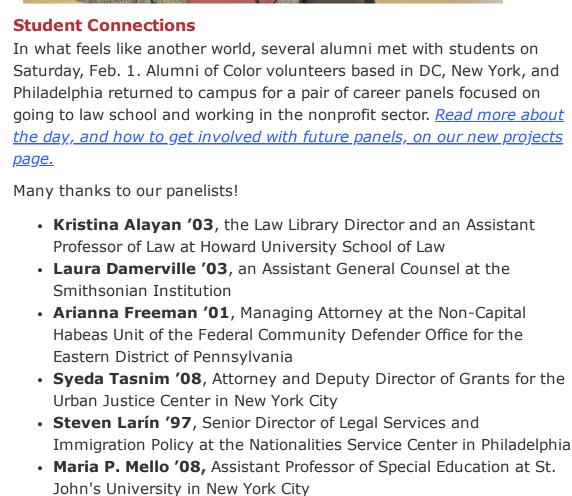
interesting experiences to share with the

community, spanning the personal, political, and professional. These spotlights will be a Q&A format and will feature a mixture of standard questions and questions customized to the alum. This newsletter, we're featuring Twan Claiborne '07. Want to recommend yourself or a friend for this spotlight? Submit your nomination here.

Providence, La. Currently residing in Harlem, New York City, they are an edutainer — an educator and entertainer, working as a Learning Specialist and drag performer. Outside of work, they enjoy seeing the sights of New

York, dancing, drawing, playing recreational sports, and exercising. $\overline{10}$ read our inaugural community spotlight with Twan Claiborne '07, check

Twan Claiborne '07 hails from Seattle, Wash. by way of Lake



SwatWorks Career Services is offering micro-grants to students who complete 40hour or 80-hour remote projects this summer.

Center in Philadelphia

 Is there a book/article/newsletter you're writing that you need edited?

 Need assistance with research that can be completed remotely? Need short-term support in advertising, market research, graphic

• Karen Minyety '08, Director of Care Services at the Mazzoni

- design, or creating a stronger social media presence? Have you collected data that needs to be analyzed and you can't find the time?
- Always dreamed of your organization having a more sophisticated web page?
- We encourage you to think outside the box about creative projects that can be accomplished remotely: painting, designing, crafting, building, 3D printing, writing, etc. To register your project, please submit this brief

Do you need coding or programming support?

<u>form</u>. swarthmore.edu/alumni

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