

# COMMUNITY



Bard

# WHERE WE LIVE

Bard College's parklike campus is situated on the east shore of the Hudson River. Students can admire spectacular sunsets over the Catskill Mountains and enjoy the special light that inspired the Hudson River School of painters. They study, work, and relax in buildings that range from Stone Row, which dates to the late 1800s, to cutting-edge architecture by Robert Venturi, Deborah Berke, and Frank Gehry. Facilities clustered at the center of campus include classrooms and libraries; art studios and music practice rooms; the gymnasium and athletic fields; Kline Commons dining halls; and Bertelsmann Campus Center, which has a movie theater, post office, café, bookstore, and meeting spaces.

Students come to Bard from all regions of the United States and 45 countries. Undergraduates also share the campus with the students, faculty, and visiting scholars and artists of several affiliated research centers and graduate schools, including the Bard College Conservatory of Music, Center for Environmental Policy, Levy Economics Institute, Center for Curatorial Studies, Hessel Museum of Art, Hannah Arendt Center for Politics and Humanities, and Center for Civic Engagement, to name just a few. These programs present lectures, concerts, exhibitions, panel discussions, and other events that are open to the community.

The nearby communities of Tivoli, Red Hook, Rhinebeck, Kingston, Hyde Park, Hudson, and Woodstock offer historic sites, such as the Franklin D. Roosevelt estate; music and art; food and shopping; and parks for bicycling, hiking, and kayaking. Many students are involved in civic outreach projects in these and other communities, participating in tutoring and environmental programs for children; teaching English as a Second Language to migrant workers; and helping inmates in local prisons prepare for the GED exam.

New York City is 90 miles away and easily accessed by public transportation. Many classes take advantage of the opportunity to visit museums, studios, theatrical productions, and concert halls; and students also can participate in science classes and lectures at the prestigious Rockefeller University. The cultural traffic between Bard and New York flows both ways: world-class writers, artists, and musicians based in the city frequently come to campus.

# WHAT WE DO

Students at Bard are actively involved in shaping both their education and their community—from their residence halls to participation on committees that address all matters of concern to the College. Our community is respectful of differences, embraces individuality, and promotes honest dialogue. To that end, undergraduates have access to a variety of support services and resources, and to activities that reflect academic, social, artistic, athletic, and casual pursuits.

Many activities enrich life on and off campus, from concerts at SMOG, a student-run music venue, to language tables, where students share meals and practice conversation in Arabic, Chinese, French, Hebrew, Spanish, and other languages. Other activities include shows at the Root Cellar, which has an impressive collection of zines; Sawkill Coffee House; and Thursday Night Live, which consists of concerts and more at Down the Road Café. The Difference and Media Project is a multimedia laboratory to explore “difference” in its many connotations. Student publications and media comment on life at Bard or examine political, social, and artistic topics.

## RESIDENTIAL LIFE

The Bard campus boasts more than 50 student residences featuring Wi-Fi, social rooms, kitchens, and laundry facilities. Most are gender neutral, and roughly one-third of the rooms are single occupancy. Residence halls are staffed by Peer Counselors, who assist students in navigating campus life. Area Coordinators are full-time staff who support residents and PCs through counseling and crisis management.

All first-year students belong to Bard Houses, a faculty-in-residence program. Students are assigned to one of four houses, which are not buildings but communities. Each house—Coulter, MacKenzie, McWilliams, and Yauch—has a house professor living on campus to oversee and help develop house programs. The houses foster a sense of tradition and belonging, create a sense of Bard pride, and bring the faculty further into intellectual and social connection with students. Students from any house, and anyone on campus, is welcome to attend an event hosted by another house.

Students who live on campus, as most do, are required to participate in a meal plan, which offers flexible menus (including vegetarian, vegan, and limited kosher and halal selections) and extended meal times in the campus dining commons and at two cafés.

## SUSTAINABILITY

Bard has an Office of Sustainability, an MBA program in sustainability, and a pledge to make the campus 100 percent carbon neutral by 2035. Roughly 40 percent of overall building square footage on the main campus uses geothermal heating and cooling. The 1.25-acre Bard College Farm grows crops used in the College's dining facilities and sold locally. Other green initiatives include a bike co-op, free-use store, an eco-box drive for techno-waste, and BardEats, which promotes local and sustainable food options on campus.

## STUDENT GOVERNMENT AND COMMITTEES

All Bard students belong to the Bard Student Government, a democratic forum that raises issues and takes or recommends action by the College. Service opportunities include the Student Judiciary Board, which protects the rights of all Bard students; Student Life Committee, which coordinates with Office of Student Affairs staff and others to improve student services and residential life; Educational Policies Committee, which acts as a liaison between students and faculty; and Fiscal Committee, which allocates funds to student organizations. Students are represented at Board of Trustees and Bard College Alumni/ae Association Board of Governors meetings.

## SPIRITUAL LIFE

The College chaplaincy is committed to helping students, staff, and faculty explore and develop their spiritual identities through the perspectives of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism. Clergy offer study and programs, and support student organizations. Weekly worship in different traditions, and services and celebrations for holy days, are held throughout the academic year. The Center for Spiritual Life, located in the residential Resnick Commons, is home to the Buddhist meditation room, Beit Shalom-Salaam House of Peace meeting room, Muslim prayer room, Center for the Study of James the Brother, and a kosher/halal kitchen.

## CLUBS

Students can choose from more than 200 active student clubs on campus, ranging from African culture to wellness. Any student can start a club. A sampling includes: AfroPulse, Asian Student Organization, Bard Christian Fellowship, Bard Contra Dance Club, Bard Emergency Medical Services, Bard Mountaineers, Bard Rugby Football Club, EcoReps, Jewish Student Organization, Latin American Student Organization, Model UN, Trans Life Collective, and Women of Color United.

## ATHLETICS AND RECREATION

Bard's athletic and recreational programs include intercollegiate competition, intramural and club sports, and other extracurricular pursuits. The Stevenson Athletic Center is the hub of activity for campus sports. Many students also take advantage of Bard's location in the Hudson River Valley to pursue such interests as mountain biking, hiking, running, cross-country and downhill skiing, ice skating, rock climbing, and kayaking.

The College offers intercollegiate programs for men and women in basketball, cross-country, lacrosse, soccer, squash, tennis, track and field, swimming, and volleyball. Men also compete in baseball. The Raptors, Bard's athletic teams, compete in NCAA Division III, Liberty League, and other national and regional organizations. Club sports include equestrian, fencing, rugby, and Ultimate Frisbee, while intramural programs are offered in basketball, soccer, kickball, tennis, volleyball, badminton, and squash. Fitness classes range from aerobics, yoga, and Pilates to aquacise, Spinning, and weight training.

## STUDENT RESOURCES

Help with any academic subject is found at the **Learning Commons**, which provides tutoring and other forms of academic support to all Bard students. In addition to academic-skills workshops, the Commons offers assistance in more than 40 subjects, from First-Year Seminar to master's theses.

**Career Development Office** (CDO) staff members meet with students one-on-one throughout their college life and after graduation, helping students connect their skills, interests, and values to a career path. CDO offers many online resources that provide job and internship postings, career exploration assessments, and interview coaching. CDO helps students connect with alumni/ae and cosponsors BardWorks, a career-oriented, professional-development workshop for juniors and seniors.

**SPARC**, the Student Publicity and Activities Resource Center, helps students schedule and publicize events; the student sound crew, trained by audiovisual professionals, helps implement them.

**Health and counseling services** are available to all enrolled students throughout the academic year. The Counseling Service provides individual, couple, and group consultations, referrals, and campus outreach. The Student Health Service is staffed by four nurse practitioners, a registered nurse, and a part-time doctor.



I knew I wanted a small school, but I didn't know what I was passionate about. What's really helpful at Bard is that you can explore your own path. Learning about things in a way that considers all sides of the story—the interdisciplinary approach—is extremely helpful. Having exposure to a lot of different fields helps you orient yourself better and understand the world a little more.

—Matthew Sprague '18, *Environmental and Urban Studies*



Bard students have more positive energy in the classroom than any other students I've taught. It still amazes me how each new group comes together in a spirit of camaraderie. It's a buoyant and ebullient kind of momentum that leads to heightened concentration and better learning. I'm not sure how it gets started—it has very little to do with me—but once it does, it's irresistible.

—James Romm, James H. Ottaway Jr. Professor of Classics

# WE STAY CONNECTED

Bard alumni/ae are actively engaged in the life of the College. In addition to helping shape Bard's future from positions on the Board of Trustees and the Board of Governors of the Bard College Alumni/ae Association, alumni/ae return to campus to participate in reunions, concerts, career panels, lectures, games against student teams, and other aspects of student life.

Hundreds of alumni/ae have signed up through the Office of Alumni/ae Affairs to be available as mentors in their fields. Bard seniors have access to this list, and the Alumni/ae Office will search it on behalf of other Bard students. Specific programs also have mobilized mentors. These include the Bard Globalization and International Affairs Program and BardWorks.

After graduation, Bard alumni/ae often stay closely connected to their college friends and professors. All Bardians have a bond, and recognize that Bard is a unique school that values not only the individual but also the social, political, and physical world beyond the Annandale campus.

Bard alumni/ae have been an influential force in the arts and in the physical, social, and political sciences—and in the life of the College. A short list includes actors Blythe Danner '65, Chevy Chase '68, Adrian Grenier '98, Gaby Hoffmann '04, and Lola Kirke '12; filmmaker Gia Coppola '09; playwrights Nick Jones '01 and Thomas Bradshaw '02; TV host Adam Conover '04; dancer Arthur Aviles '87; sculptor Rita McBride '82; photographers Tim Davis '01 and Lisa Kereszi '95; groundbreaking artist Carolee Schneemann '59; musician/songwriters Richard M. Sherman '49 and the late Robert B. Sherman '49, Donald Fagen '69 and Walter Becker '71 (founders of Steely Dan), Billy Steinberg '72, the late Adam Yauch '86 (a founder of the Beastie Boys), and Akie Bermiss '05; scientists László Z. Bitó '60 and Fredric S. Maxik '86; environmental writer Elizabeth Royte '81; Pia Carusone '03 and Betsaida Alcantara '05, in politics and government; and journalists William Sherman '68 (who won a Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting), Matt Taibbi '92, and Ronan Farrow '04 (winner of a Pulitzer Prize for public service).



# Bard

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Alumni/ae, new graduates, and their families watch fireworks together after a barbecue at Blithewood, Commencement 2018. Cover: First-year picnic. Photos by Pete Mauney '93 MFA '00