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FEATURES

Haverford Joins PhillyCarShare

**By Isabel Clarke**

Features Editor

Besides the three-hundred odd students of the class of 2011, Haverford's campus had one more addition this year—a beautiful red Toyota Prius—part of the PhillyCarShare program. Bryn Mawr has been sporting one of these vehicles since last year and as part of the Committee for Environmental Responsibilities plan to make Haverford a “greener” campus, it was suggested by the CER that a PhillyCarShare vehicle find a home in one of Haverford's parking lots.

It did, and now the Prius is constantly being used by members of the Haverford community, as well as anyone who needs a car and finds themselves near the orchard lot, where the car rests when it is not busy running errands with its drivers.

Beginning in 2002, five Philadelphia natives decided to try and reduce the city's dependence on automobiles by replacing them with low-emission vehicles. Thus, PhillyCarShare was born.

Their mission statement reads, “To maximize the economic, environmental, and social benefits of reduced automobile dependence in the Philadelphia region through community-based car sharing.”

After only one year, membership was at 535 and 270 people had given up their personal vehicles, and the program had reached “financial sustainability,” meaning the revenues covered one hundred percent of the costs. Today, around 20,000 drivers have given up their cars for PhillyCarShare.

In 2004, the City of Philadelphia joined PhillyCarShare, becoming the first government to share cars with residents in an effort to reduce the number of cars on the streets. The project, helping eliminate over 330 personal vehicles, has saved Philadelphia taxpayers six million dollars.

Jason McGraw, Coordinator of Student Activities, is thrilled to have the car on campus, and while he hasn't used it yet says, “If it works with my lifestyle, I might give up having a personal vehicle and just use the PhillyCarShare car.” McGraw is proud that Haverford campus now sports a bright, shiny Prius with the PhillyCarShare logo because it “reemphasizes the campus initiative to become more environmental friendly.”

Amy Farley '09 has been a member of PhillyCarShare since spring semester of last year, using the car parked on Bryn Mawr's campus to get around. "I live three thousand miles away, so getting my car here is difficult," Farley says. "So I used the Bryn Mawr car to do grocery shopping and other errands. Now that there is a car on Haverford's campus, those errands are a lot easier."

Many others have taken advantage of the program on Haverford's campus, as Farley can attest to after finding some detergent and groceries in the back of the car (she posted on the GO/Boards) to find their owner. Farley uses the car often and suggests that maybe the campus should have more than one CarShare vehicle on campus because it is used so much.

PhillyCarShare is free to join—you pay by the hour, or can get a day rate if you use it for a longer period of time, and every time you want the car, you just go on line and schedule an appointment. The only rules are that you have to park the car in the spot you found it and you have to fill the tank if it is less than a quarter full, paying with the gas card provided.

The cars are located all over the Philadelphia area, and are already at other institutions such as UPenn, Drexel, Swarthmore, and Widener. To join the program, visit the PhillyCarShare website. Haverford College has a promotional code which gives students a twenty dollar coupon to use for driving a CarShare vehicle.

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