

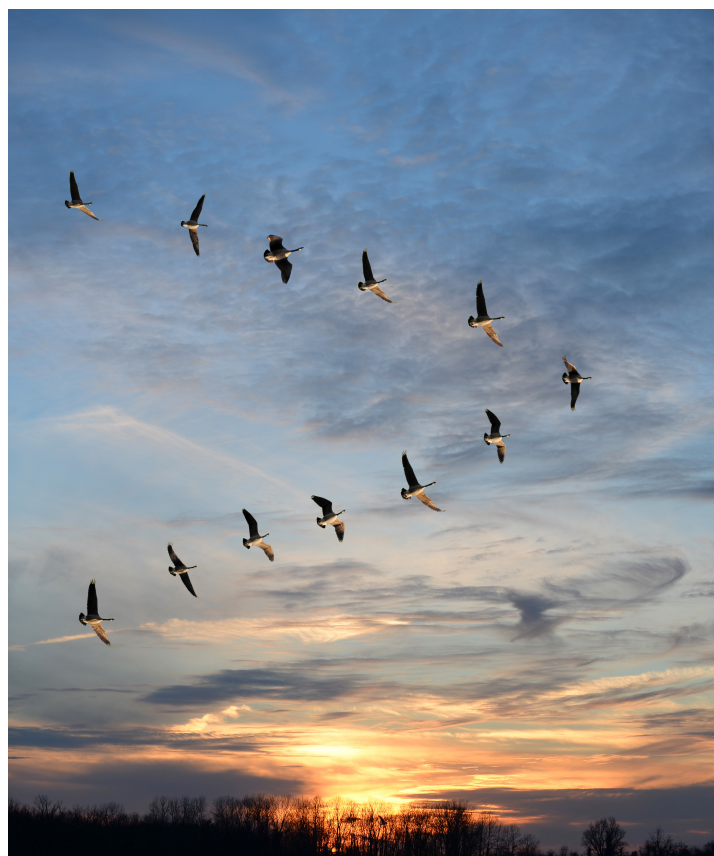
My fellow alumnae and friends,

It is with much joy that I write to you as we begin another academic year at Sweet Briar after a challenging year like no other. Here on campus, we feel reenergized by the 2021 results and the arrival of our largest class of new students in recent years — we are soaring!

One of my favorite stories is “The Story of the Geese.” It explains that the geese fly in a V formation, creating their own unique type of teamwork. As each bird flaps its wings, it creates uplift for the bird immediately following it. If a goose gets sick or is wounded and falls out of formation, two geese follow it down to lend help and protection and another one takes the lead.

I am reminded of how appropriate it is to tell you the story as we focus on the bright future ahead for Sweet Briar. President Meredith Woo is leading the College brilliantly with a strong vision that is compelling, appropriate and timely for this generation of young women and our world. We are all flying behind her enthusiastically spreading the news about this remarkable institution— its notable faculty, its remarkable support staff and its incomparable beauty. Through the last 18 months, we have had some of the team need to leave the formation through the pandemic and we have taken care of those team members while continuing on to do the work at hand.

The Sweet Briar “V formation” also applies to the Alumnae Alliance Council, which is made up of our classes, clubs, admissions ambassadors, young alumnae support group, communications group, and the Sweet Work Weeks volunteers who weeded, cleaned and polished this campus for the 7th summer in a row. The “Story of the Geese” is emblematic of the steadfast commitment to our mission of educating young women, supporting and



encouraging each other while doing it and never wavering.

You, our alumnae and friends, continue to inspire us in the Alumnae Office and across campus to continue to soar through your work and wisdom, support and dedication. Please come back to campus and see what’s happening for yourself! Honk! Honk!

With gratitude,

Mary Pope M. Hutson '83

Senior Vice President for Alumnae Relations,
Development, and Communications

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ALUMNAE AWARDS

Outstanding and Distinguished Alumnae Awards presented at Reunion 2021

This year's Reunion brought many alumnae to campus to celebrate Sweet Briar and enjoy and renew friendships. President Meredith Woo also provided an update at Reunion Convocation, where the Distinguished and Outstanding Alumnae Awards were also announced for five accomplished alumnae. Read more about the recipients for the 2020 and 2021 awards below.

The Outstanding Alumna Award was created to honor alumnae in recognition of their outstanding service to Sweet Briar in a volunteer capacity. While the 2021 Outstanding Alumna Award was actually presented to three alumnae this year, these women make up part of the Sweet Work Weeks "Dream Team!"

Ann Gateley '70, Kathy Garcia Pegues '71, and Vikki Schroeder '87 are all women who have devoted countless hours to weeding, pruning, painting, power washing, and myriad other tasks during seven years of Sweet Work Weeks. However, that's about where their similarities end.

Ann Gateley '70

Ann Gateley grew up in Wichita Falls, Texas, and was highly influenced by the Prothro family to attend Sweet Briar. She attended St. Stephens Episcopal High School in Austin, Texas and then earned her degree from Sweet Briar in biology. She then went on to the University of Texas at San Antonio Medical School, where she graduated in 1977.

Dr. Gateley went on to be a sports medicine specialist in Albuquerque, New Mexico as a team doctor for the University of New Mexico Lobos, members of the Mountain West Conference, and as a program director for internal medicine at the School of Medicine. She has more than 44 years of experience in the medical field and also co-authored "It's in the Bag: A Practical Guide to the Team Physician's



Ann Gateley '70

Medical Supplies While on the Road."

Along with Katie McCordle Webb, Ann has been a tireless fund agent leading up to her 50th Reunion, which was extended a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kathy Garcia Pegues '71

Kathy Garcia Pegues received her degree in English in 1971 and an MEd from the University of Virginia in 1974. She was an English teacher and educational consultant and taught language arts in grades 6 through 12 for more than 20 years. Kathy is also listed in "Who's Who in American Education."

Prior to teaching, Kathy was a proofreader for the National Geographic Society. She has served as an emerita trustee and is a former member of Sweet Briar's Board of Directors. She was also president of the Alumnae Association.

During her years at Sweet Briar, Kathy was a Sweet Tone, Chung Mung, and member of the field hockey and lacrosse teams. She has been responsible for recruiting at least 13 students to Sweet Briar over the

ALUMNAE AWARDS



Kathy Garcia Pegues '71

years, including her own daughter, Emily Pegues '00. Kathy and her husband, John, have been on the Sweet Work Weeks leadership team since its start in 2015 and they have truly scoured almost every inch of Sweet Briar's campus.

Over the years, Kathy's favorite project has been working in Daisy's Garden, especially getting it ready for Virginia Garden Week, but this year, she received the most satisfaction from working in the Bloy Memorial Garden, behind Memorial Chapel at the entrance to the new Health Center. There, students will see the more than 300 daffodils she and John planted this spring, as well as in the traffic circle.

Vikki Schroeder '87

Vikki Schroeder '87 earned a dual degree in math and computer science and technical theater studies. She was a member of Paint n Patches, an Honor Guide, was in the Softball Club and SWEBOP, to name just a few.

After Vikki graduated, she went on to work for Target and was a senior supervisor and business analyst, overseeing energy management processes and programs. She was also a senior business analyst for the J&B Group and is currently working as a strategic analyst and



Vikki Schroeder '87

inventory manager for a startup retail clothing business with another Sweet Briar alumna.

Vikki has always been described as a creative problem-solver, and her fresh take and future-forward solutions to issues and challenges in this environment has been invaluable to Sweet Briar. In particular, Vikki helped to coordinate painting 200 rooms in Sweet Briar's residence halls in the summer of 2017. Her organization and leadership helped to get the job done; the volunteers even finished the project early so they could get more accomplished during their time here.

We are truly grateful to Ann, Kathy, and Vikki for their leadership and advice with Sweet Work Weeks. These truly are three outstanding Sweet Briar women!

The Distinguished Alumna Award was created to honor alumnae who have brought distinction to themselves and to Sweet Briar through outstanding accomplishment in a volunteer or professional capacity.

Lucy Martin Gianino '60

The 2020 recipient of the Distinguished Alumna Award is Lucy Martin Gianino '60. Lucy's time at Sweet Briar was marked by excellence. She excelled in drama, as well as in giving her time and energy to Sweet Briar activities, from the News and the Briar Patch to theater and being Junior Class President.

One of her classmates, Elizabeth Meade Howard, said it best: "Lucy Martin Gianino always gives her all... whether on or off stage, whether for family or friends." Lucy pursued an acting career that has seen her on television, film, and the New York Theater. She starred in the soap opera, "The Edge of Night" and was understudy to Lynn Redgrave in "The Constant Wife." She is known for The Producers (2005), Person of Interest (2011), and numerous appearances on Law and Order.

When she's not in front of the camera, she's a busy New York realtor. Lucy also gives back to her community, working with mental health organizations and substance abuse programs in her local area. However, nothing matches her service to Sweet



Lucy Martin Gianino '60

ALUMNAE AWARDS

Briar as class president—she truly gives her class everything she has, whether she's on Zoom with them or writing one of her trademark update emails to her "dear ones!"

In 2015, Lucy once again agreed to be class president, and Elizabeth said, "She's led the charge with youthful humor, vigor, and unfailing affection. She's the mother of three grown children and many grandchildren whom she welcomes in all seasons. She's dyed her hair purple and promises not to retire. Fierce? And then some!!!"

Nan Stuart '75

The 2021 distinguished alumna award goes to a truly entrepreneurial businesswoman, who has also performed humanitarian feats that have taken care of people and animals through disaster response: Nan Stuart '75.

Nan is a founder of Code 3 Associates, a non-profit dedicated to providing professional training for first responders and emergency assistance to pets and livestock affected by natural disasters.

She has been intimately involved in the evolution



Nan Stuart '75

of the Colorado State University's Animal Cancer Center—she has established the first endowed chair in oncology to support the development of surgical teaching models for veterinary students. She has also acted as board member of the Humane Society and helped to create numerous other companies. To say that Nan is a visionary is an understatement.

PLANNED GIVING

August is Make a Will Month

How has your life changed?

Over the past year, we have all learned that life can change quickly — and through it all, support from alumnae and friends like you has enabled the women at Sweet Briar to focus on their education and going on to become leaders. This National Make-a-Will Month, Sweet Briar is here to thank you by helping you get peace of mind through starting the will-making process. If you are in the majority of people who do not have an up-to-date legal will in place, you can use FreeWill, a free, online resource that guides you through the process of creating a legally valid will in 20 minutes or less. This August, take advantage of this partnership with Sweet Briar and take care of all the changes in your life by writing or updating your will today.

Get started by visiting freewill.com/sweetbriarcollege or by using the camera on your smartphone or tablet to scan the QR code to the right.

You may be asking yourself, do I really need a will? Perhaps you're under the age of 40, or you do not have children. The fact is, if you have property and assets, and if you have family members, you need a will. After your passing, your family members will need a roadmap of instructions to be sure they honor your wishes. Your will is that roadmap.

In addition to making following your instructions, a will allows you to:

- Leave a lasting legacy to be remembered
- Help you lessen the burden of taxes on your family
- Potentially provide estate tax savings

For more information about planned giving at Sweet Briar, please contact Margaret McClellan Driscoll '92 at mdriscoll@sbc.edu.

Use the camera on your smartphone or tablet to scan the QR code in the bottom right-hand corner of this page. You will be directed to our free will-building tool, which we've made available to alumnae and friends of Sweet Briar college. If you have questions about this tool or planned giving, please do not hesitate to call our office at 434-381-6131.



NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Norma Bulls Valentine '93

No matter where she goes, Mrs. Valentine is a walking billboard for Sweet Briar College. In the Alumnae Relations and Development Office, we've often said that we should clone her, but in fact, she has a twin sister, Nancy '93! A real estate broker at Destiny International Properties, Norma has more than 15 years of experience in real estate. She began her career in Richmond, then moved to Wellington, FL and finally Aiken, SC. Norma handles residential properties, seasonal rentals, horse properties, and investment opportunities in these highly popular equestrian communities.

Whether she's volunteering as an Admissions Ambassador or leading the Alumnae Alliance Council on a conference call, Norma is always promoting Sweet Briar. She's led the Council as Operations Co-Chair since 2018, working alongside Kathryn Yunk '91 and Sarah Clement '75 until Sarah's term ended earlier this year. Norma is one of Sweet

Briar Riding's biggest fans; she attends all of the events she can to show support for our teams. Norma also coordinated and managed the Alumnae Alliance's virtual auction in 2016 and 2017, which was a truly innovative way to generate engagement and support for Sweet Briar.



The Honorable John Chapman "Chap" Petersen

Sen. Petersen represents central and western Fairfax in the Virginia State Senate and is Chair of the Agriculture Committee, is a member of the Education and Health Finance and Appropriations and Judiciary Rules committees. He began his career serving on the Fairfax city Council (1998-2002) and as a member in the Virginia House of Delegates (2002-2006). Outside of his political career, Chap has been in private practice since 1994 and was selected by his peers as one of thirty "Leaders of the Law" in Virginia. Chap graduated from Williams College and the University of Virginia Law School. He and his wife, Sharon, have four children. His grandmother, Mary Walton McCandlish Livingston from Alexandria, VA, graduated in 1934.



Dr. Michael I. Elliott

Mr. Elliott is Senior Vice President and Chief Transformation Officer and Community Liaison at Centra Health in Lynchburg. A licensed pharmacist, he also served as Centra's Interim President and CEO from October 2018-May 2019. Michael was Chairman of the board of HumanKind from 2015-2018, is currently an advisory board member for Iron Lives, which provides positive youth development, committed mentoring, and character-centered athletics in the Lynchburg community. He is also Vice Chair on the Board of the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance and their Government Relations Committee. He and his wife, Lashelle, a teacher at Jefferson Forest High School, have three sons.



SWEET BRIAR FUND RESULTS

Sweet Briar College surpasses fiscal year 2021 fundraising and enrollment goals



It has been a championship season for Sweet Briar's NCEA riding and NCAA tennis teams, but that isn't the only success Sweet Briar had this year. The College also recruited its largest incoming class since 2013, and the Sweet Briar community of donors has responded to these successes with tremendous generosity.

Gifts to the Sweet Briar Fund exceeded the College's initial \$5 million goal, with total unrestricted giving to the Sweet Briar Fund reaching \$7,735,696, as alumnae and friends responded to the global COVID-19 pandemic with increased generosity. Giving for the FY 2021 operating budget (restricted and unrestricted) reached \$12,920,395. This total includes restricted gifts and grants to support initiatives such as the Willits Food System Fellows, new and increased scholarships, the rehabilitation of the Randolph Hall parlor and continued work on historic preservation.

Contributions also supported other strategic priorities including the College's agricultural enterprises (the vineyards, greenhouse and apiary), the construction of the health center, renovations to the riding center, Presidential Scholarships, further development of the women's leadership core curriculum, the stabilization of the Outing Cabin and Boathouse, and more. The total fundraising outcome amounts to \$15.8 million.

This was also a championship year for participation, with 25.2% of our alumnae making gifts to the

College—the highest alumnae participation rate since 2016.

"Our alumnae network is vast and deep, and this year reminds us that we can accomplish so much together," said Mary Pope M. Hutson '83, senior vice president for alumnae relations, development and communications. "I am deeply grateful to alumnae and friends whose personal commitment to Sweet Briar is the hallmark of our community."

President Meredith Woo also expressed her gratitude: "This place and its people are truly superlative. Every member of this community rolls up her or his sleeves and gets to work toward our common goal: educating young women who will go on to make history. I am so grateful to all of our alumnae and friends for their support."

Since 2015, Sweet Briar's supporters have contributed \$91.5 million to student scholarships, faculty and academic programs, the stewardship of the College's natural and built environment, and strategic initiatives that make Sweet Briar innovative and attractive to young women across the country and around the world. Sweet Briar College is truly one of a kind.

**FY 2022 Sweet Briar Fund
launches on September 8, 2021!**

CLASS GIVING

Reunion Giving and Participation Awards

The Nancy Dowd Burton '46 Award

1960, 60th Reunion

1966, 55th Reunion

Given to the class celebrating an anniversary Reunion year with the highest total giving to Sweet Briar in the current fiscal year.

The Centennial Award

1960, 60th Reunion

1966, 55th Reunion

Given to the class celebrating an anniversary Reunion year with the highest total giving to Sweet Briar over the last five years since their last anniversary Reunion year.

Visionary Class Award

1960, 1963, 1966, 1972

Given to any class that contributes \$1 million or more to any funds at Sweet Briar within one fiscal year.

The Nancy Godwin Baldwin '57 Award

1971, 50th Reunion

Given to the class celebrating an anniversary Reunion year with the highest percentage of its members attending their Reunion.

Participation Award, 25th through 50th Reunion Classes

1970, 41.0% for their 50th Reunion

1996, 46.0% for their 25th Reunion

Given to the class celebrating an anniversary Reunion year between their 25th and 50th years with the highest participation in giving to Sweet Briar.

Participation Award, 5th through 20th Reunion Classes

2000, 16.7% for their 20th Reunion

2006, 24.1% for their 15th Reunion

Given to the class celebrating an anniversary Reunion year between their 5th and 20th years with the highest participation in giving to Sweet Briar.

SUMMER LEARNING

Checking in with the Willits Food Systems Fellows Program

For the Willits Food Systems Fellows, there's no time at Sweet Briar like the early morning. Waking up in the wee hours in their Green Village apartments, often before the dew has burned off the grass, they make their way to the greenhouse each day to learn about food systems and sustainability at Sweet Briar College.

Each morning, the Willits Fellows collect the produce that is ready for the Greenhouse Market (on Mondays and Fridays) and trim the plants, maintain the hydroponic channels, where lettuces are primarily grown, and make sure the plants are thriving in the warm, damp environment with sufficient water.

The day of our visit with students in the greenhouse, there was a brief respite from the heat that plagues campus this time of year. At just a little over 85 degrees outside, the Greenhouse was actually cooler and no more humid than the typical Virginia atmosphere in July. All six students were hard at work, focused on the task at hand. They were quiet as they worked on their own among the leaves and vines of cucumbers, tomatoes, and carrots.

Once the harvesting and maintenance in the Greenhouse are done each day, the Fellows head to the Community Garden, where they turn to the outdoor plants that need weeding, trimming, and harvesting, too. The Community Garden sits behind the Art Barns and former Dairy, down a winding lane behind faculty and staff residences. The campus community has long used the garden for their own family plots of vegetables and flowers, and now, the

capacity of Sweet Briar's sustainability program has also expanded through these plots.

In addition to the Community Garden, the Fellows tend to the bees in the apiary, making sure the bees have what they need. They also have lessons with Dr. Linda Fink on beekeeping, learning about being still when they're inside the bear-proof fence among the steady hum of the bees.

In the evenings, the group cooks dinner together in one of their Green Village apartments. Exhausted after days in the sun, they've enjoyed watching new movies together when they're not working. Each student has her own reason for becoming a Willits Fellow and her own applications for what she's learned.

Ella Leichty '22

Psychology major, choosing between an environmental science or biology minor
Harrisonburg, VA

Ella hopes to apply what she's learned as a Willits Food Systems Fellow when she takes on a career doing field work in biology or environmental science. She's most excited about gaining hands-on experience and using what she's learned in the classroom and its practical applications. "This experience has really helped me build my resume and build my skill set for after I graduate from Sweet Briar," said Ella.

Sweet Briar welcomes
largest entering class since
2013 on August 8 2021 with
217 new students!

Willits Fellows, continued

June Alomari '24

Biology and English and creative writing double major
Northern VA

June shared a little about her plans for applying what she's learned as a Fellow: "I hope to further my education on food systems and the way they work because I have an interest in food science. I think Sweet Briar is very conscious about sustainability, and that's very important as it relates to dining in general. I would love to open up my own restaurant in the future!"

Danielle Saunders '23

Elementary education and environmental science
double major
Nelson County, VA

Because Danielle's educational focus at Sweet Briar is primarily elementary education, her career path has a different angle to it than the other Fellows. She says, "There's no agriculture focus in elementary education right now. Because you don't get that experience in Virginia until you hit middle school, there are a lot of missed opportunities to educate children about agriculture. I'd like to incorporate that into my classroom."

Kate Kotany '23

Environmental science and chemistry double major
Erd, Hungary

While Kate is an environmental science and chemistry double major, she's been really excited for the opportunities with chemistry during her time as a Willits Fellow. "I'm really enjoying the hydroponics, particularly when we have to adjust the pH and EC (electrical conductivity) because it involves chemistry," said Kate. "I also really love seeing how all the plants are growing, especially when we are seeding or

transplanting something, and how we get to see them change. I learned a lot from the hydroponic system, and I think it is a great opportunity for us to have this system, since it's pretty new." In addition to studying as a Willits Fellow, Kate also takes nature and wildlife photographs on Sweet Briar's campus.

Lily Terwilliger '24

Business and environmental science double major
Fayetteville, NC

"I want to go on to law school, so taking this fellowship has provided me with the foundation for environmental law, which I may want to practice. Getting that experience working with other people and my professor has been very formative for me." She also mentioned that the bees have taught her a lot about staying calm, since staying calm around the bees is essential to maintaining the hives.

Bijou Barry '23

Environmental science, philosophy, and economics
major
Gaithersburg, MD

I hope to gain the ability to ask questions, to seek answers, and to have the courage to listen as much as to speak about any type of problem or issue. It's having a greater gratitude for the spaces that we get to consume and navigate. It's having an appreciation for the opportunity to engage in some of the most resilient, incredible, yet mundane tasks, and just revel in them. Allowing spaces that are wild and free in nature to be spaces of liberation, and to have the opportunity and privilege to lift, and to love, and to liberate with anything that I do, particularly with the environment, nature, and sustainability.