

THE SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE ALUMNAE NEWSLETTER

Volume 8, Issue 7 October 2022

## My fellow alumnae and friends,

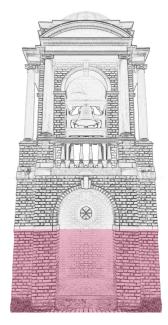
reetings to all of you and I hope you had a glorious summer full of great memories and joy.

As we enter another fall on campus with nearly 500 students, the atmosphere is lively and vibrant. The landscape is changing colors and the sloping entrance to campus welcomes prospective students, athletic teams and all of us who have been on the road. Coming home is how it feels each time we drive up the driveway to be embraced by the old growth forests on either side, leading up to the expanse of the west dell and Mills Chapel before entering the Quad after winding around the library past Sweet Briar House. The campus is truly glorious this time of year and it reminds all of us that special places matter – our land and our historic district set in this place matter as we set ourselves apart as a distinctive institution in the competitive landscape of colleges, clamoring to attract students.

This is where we come into the picture – all of us who understand and appreciate the beauty and depth of the Sweet Briar education and experience—this fall, we are asking all alumnae to pull out your megaphone (or perhaps bells for all the Bum Chums) and tell the story. Convey to each young woman who is approaching college age that this place and this experience are one of a kind. Nestled in this issue of The Briar Wire is a list of admissions events and also news of the fly-in program, which you can use to encourage friends and family to experience this amazing opportunity inspired and underwritten by alumnae. Why wouldn't we want to show off our fabulous campus and tout the professors and sterling education? Once we get these prospective students here, they discover the nation's best kept secret—that need not be a secret.

In a few short weeks, we will have a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new state-of-the-art, water-

### 2022-2023 Sweet Briar Fund Goal: \$5,250,000



Raised as of Sept. 30, 2022: \$741,015 unrestricted \$695,392 restricted 27.4% of goal

based turf field and also the new soccer field named after alumnae who made lead gifts along with many others who have made it possible. The fall will also usher in countless events for students, exhibits, concerts and speakers that are bringing the best experience forward for the next generation of Sweet Briar women.

It is our hope that you will visit campus soon and see all the renovations and innovations Join us in referring a student, promoting the College and giving to the Sweet Briar Fund (sbc.edu/give) so we can continue the legacy—your legacy. Take care of yourselves and see you soon.

With gratitude,

Mary Pope M. Hutson '83

Senior Vice President for Alumnae Relations and Development

# **Board of Directors** of Sweet Briar College

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# Alumnae Relations and Development Staff

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Lea Sparks Bennett '83, Advancement Services Coordinator

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Heather Colson Ewing '90, Admissions Ambassadors Manager

Claire Dennison Griffith '80, Senior Director of Alumnae Relations and Development

Lea Harvey '90, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Corporate and Foundation Relations

Caroline Chappel Hazarian '09, Associate Director of Alumnae Relations

Keeley Sullivan Jurgovan '92, Associate Director of Alumnae Relations

**Lisa Wray Longino '78**, Senior Director of Major Gifts and Stewardship

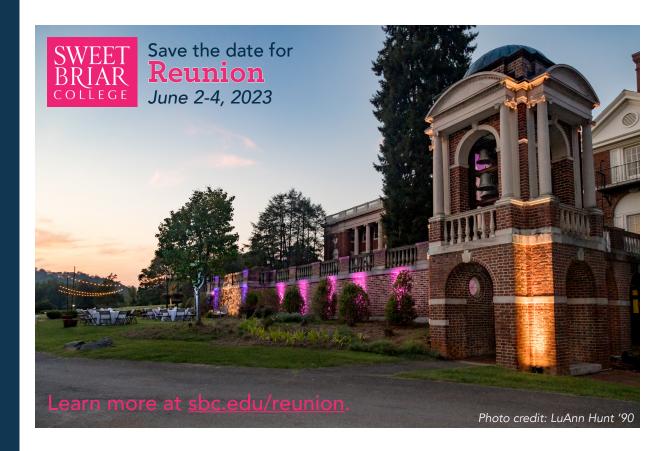
Rachel Pietsch, Assistant Director of Alumnae Relations

Emily Dodson Sadler '18, Assistant Director of the Sweet Briar Fund

Clélie D. D. Steckel, Director of Data Analytics and Development Communications

Megan Sunwall, Alumnae Relations and Development Assistant

Wanda Vest, Data Entry Manager



Save the date for

# **GIWINGTUESDAY**

November 29, 2022

Join this global generosity movement by making a gift to Sweet Briar to support this international day of philanthropy. Visit <a href="mailto:sbc.edu/give">sbc.edu/give</a> to make a gift online and be counted as a Sweet Briar #GivingTuesday supporter!



Students sign thank you postcards during Philanthropy Week 2021.

## MULTICULTURAL HERITAGE MONTHS

In June 2020, President Meredith Woo created a Presidential Working Group on Diversity and Inclusion. President Woo charged them to develop and implement an action plan calling for changes which would make Sweet Briar a place where discrimination is not tolerated. Out of this charge, the Diversity & Inclusion Working Group submitted a report to administration advocating for changes on campus as well as new initiatives. Sweet Briar is committed to building a community where every person can find a home and to taking a hard look at our campus, our community and our nation. The action plan called for the College to develop and implement a speakers series as well as to enhance the leadership core curriculum so it reflects the College's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion.

In response to this charge, the Heritage Celebration Series was created by the new Multicultural Student Services Manager, Meghan Gladle. The Series will coordinate not only guest speakers, but also co-curricular opportunities for students to apply skills and concepts learned in the CORE. Through engaging in programs aimed at creating space for students from underrepresented, marginalized identities, our community will be able to intentionally honor and celebrate both members of our own community as well as the

broader community. Authentic and meaningful learning opportunities will provide an opportunity to foster mutual understanding and dialogue around important topics centered around diversity and inclusion. Additionally, heritage programming will empower students to learn about their own, as well as their peers' intersectional identities, which may differ from their own.

The Heritage Celebration Series will be a campuswide effort aimed at building a more inclusive and welcoming community for underrepresented minority students on campus as well as provide opportunities for diversity and inclusion learning to take place outside of the classroom.

Sweet Briar kicked off the fall semester with Hispanic Heritage Month featuring Delegate Elizabeth Guzman sharing information about her journey from Peru to the VA House of Delegates, a Latin Dance Workshop, DACA student discussion and immigration resources, and more. This fall we will celebrate LGBTQ+ History Month, Native American & Indigenous Heritage Weeks, International Education Week, and Disability Advocacy & Inclusion Week.

Alumnae who would like to be featured in a social media spotlight throughout the series are encouraged to contact Emily Sadler '18 with their photo and a 50 word or less bio at esadler@sbc.edu.

# Heritage Celebration Series 2022-2023

Hispanic Heritage Month September 15 - October 15

LGBTQ+ History Month October 1-31

Native American and Indigenous
Heritage Weeks
November 1-12

International Education Week November 13-19

Disability Advocacy and Inclusion Week
December 5-9

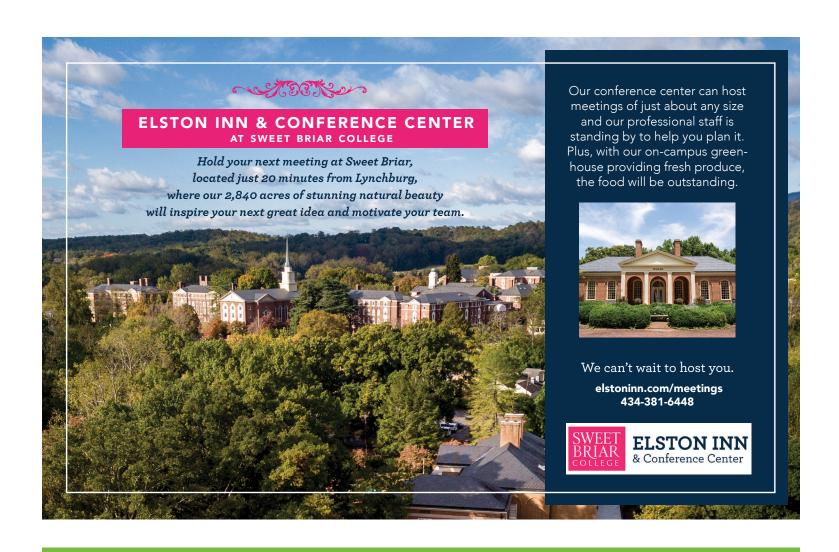
Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Day
January 16

Black History Month February 1-28

Women's History Month March 1-31

Asian, Pacific Islander & Desi American Heritage Month April 1-30

Prayer, Meditation and Reflection Day
May 5



# Shop in the store or from the comfort of your own home.

Great holiday gifts for the VIXEN in your life!



No matter where you are, The Book Shop is your source for all kinds of Sweet Briar swag, including sweatshirts, T-shirts, caps, mugs, decals and more.

> shopsweet.sbc.edu

Show your pink and green pride!



#### **Upcoming Admissions Events**

Counselor Open House Wednesday, November 9 - Friday, November 11

> Admissions Open House Saturday, November 12

**Senior Scholars Event** Saturday, January 21

Winter Open House Saturday, February 4

Senior Scholars Event Saturday, February 25

Accepted Students Day Saturday, March 18

Counselor Open House Wednesday, March 22 - Friday, March 24

> Accepted Students Day Saturday, April 1

Spring Admissions Open House Saturday, April 22

Find out more about these events or register at <a href="mailto:sbc.edu/admissions/admissions-events">sbc.edu/admissions/admissions-events</a>.

# Spread the word about Sweet Briar's Visit Reimbursement Program

We sometimes call this our "fly-in" program, even though students don't have to fly here to take advantage of it. We want to make sure that anyone who wants to visit our bucolic campus in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains can do so, regardless of where they are located.

With this program, we will pay the travel expenses for one prospective student and one family member to visit Sweet Briar College for an in-person, personalized tour, regardless of what mode of travel they use to get here. It's just one of the ways that we're committed to making sure that women who seek the kind of education we provide, in the environment that we offer, are able to see for themselves what makes Sweet

Briar College so special. Tear this page from The Briar Wire and have

an interested student schedule her visit using the QR code to the right.



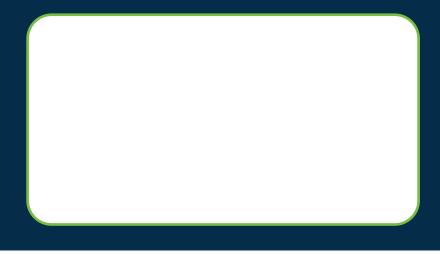


Alumnae Relations and Development P.O. Box 1057 Sweet Briar, VA 24595

Make your gift to the Sweet

Briar Fund today at

sbc.edu/give!



# Calling All Alumnae: Join the Quarterly Meeting of the Alumnae Alliance Council

October 25, 2022 by Zoom

with

Overviews from the
Alumnae Alliance Council
Working Groups on their work
and featuring a

### Briefing on Historic Preservation Initiatives at Sweet Briar

by

### Mary Pope M. Hutson '83

Senior Vice President for Alumnae Relations and Development

Register below by scanning the QR code below or call 434-381-6131 to request the link via email.



# Nominations open for Outstanding and Distinguished Alumna Awards

Nominations for the 2023 recipients of the Outstanding and Distinguished Alumnae Awards are now open. To submit your nomination or view past recipients of these awards, please visit alumnae.sbc.edu/awards or call 434-381-6131. Nominations for both awards are reviewed and recipients are selected by the Alumnae Alliance Council and the President's Council of the College. Nominations are invited from any member of the Sweet Briar family: alumnae, faculty, staff, students and the Sweet Briar College Board of Directors. These awards will be presented at this year's Reunion, June 2-4, 2023.

#### Distinguished Alumna Award

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

#### **Outstanding Alumna Award**

This award may be given to graduate alumnae who have been out of college for at least 15 years in recognition of their outstanding service to Sweet Briar in a volunteer capacity.