

The Briar Wire

THE SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE ALUMNAE NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 8 | DECEMBER 2022

My dear fellow alumnae and friends,

The holidays are here and the familiar activities and traditions bring us back to the importance of family, faith (of all kinds) and gratitude for those in our lives—and especially all the blessings we enjoy. This year, I am particularly reminded of the Sweet Briar community and every one of you who are so supportive of our college and the mission of women's leadership in today's society.

Every year, even when the economy is volatile or during unsure times amidst the pandemic, you have never wavered. It says so much about your commitment to the future and the promise of women's education and leadership during these challenging times. I want to thank you for making Sweet Briar a priority in your engagement, recruitment of new students, ideas for the future of our college, and in your financial support when so many organizations are asking.

Why do we do this? We do this because the hallmark of a Sweet Briar education is leadership. This leadership shines through in our daily work, our families and in our community. The lifelong gift of a Sweet Briar education actually affects hundreds of thousands of people in America and around the world if we are doing what I think we are—shining our light every day and every way that we know how.

This holiday season, shine your light—the Sweet Briar light—each and every day. I know it will inspire others to do the same and make this world a better place. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you and yours.

With gratitude,

Mary Pope M. Hutson '83
Senior Vice President for Alumnae Relations and Development

PS: Keep your eyes out for an invitation to your local Sweet Briar Day event!

Recruit a student with these resources!

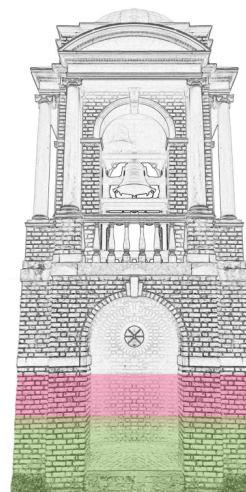
Refer a Student form, used to add prospective students to Sweet Briar's mailing list:
sbc.edu/admissions/refer-a-student

Visit Program website, where prospective students can learn about our travel reimbursement program: sbc.edu/visit

Admissions Events, where students and families can plan for an open house, overnight, or individual visit:
sbc.edu/admissions/admissions-events

Each referral can make a difference to Sweet Briar and your prospective student!

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



As of Nov. 10, 2022:

Unrestricted total of
\$1,321,824 raised in gifts
(\$863,061) and pledges
(\$458,763); 25.1% of total
unrestricted goal

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Associate Director of Alumnae Relations
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Rachel Pietsch, *Assistant Director of Alumnae Relations*
Emily Dodson Sadler '18, *Assistant Director of the Sweet Briar Fund*
Cl  lie D. D. Steckel, *Director of Data Analytics and Development Communications*
Megan Sunwall, *Alumnae Relations and Development Assistant*
Wanda Vest, *Data Entry Manager*

YEAR-END GIVING

Using your IRA to make a smart donation to Sweet Briar

If you are 70.5 years or older, you can give a tax-free gift in the form of a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your traditional IRA account to Sweet Briar this calendar year.

An IRA Charitable Rollover, also known as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), is a way to make a tax-free gift that benefits you and Sweet Briar. Even though the SECURE Act raised the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) age to 72, the QCD age remains at 70.5, so QCDs can be used for charitable giving even before RMDs begin.

The benefits of an IRA charitable rollover include the following:

- Avoiding taxes on transfers up to \$100,000 from your IRA to Sweet Briar College;
- Making a gift that is not subject to the deduction limits on charitable gifts; and
- Using the QCD, the donor can lower taxable income, which may provide more significant income tax savings than making a cash gift and claiming an income tax deduction.

The Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) is the minimum amount you must withdraw from your account each year. You generally have to start withdrawing from your IRA, SEP IRA, SIMPLE IRA, or

retirement plan account when you reach 72 (70.5 if you reached 70.5 before January 1, 2020). The IRA RMD is a requirement for the calendar year 2022. Directing your RMD to Sweet Briar College will benefit you and the College. Your withdrawal will be tax-free to you and will not qualify as a charitable deduction. In addition, your donation to the College will go to work immediately to help continue the important mission of educating young women.

If you are celebrating an anniversary Reunion year (classes ending in 3 and 8), please consider making a special Reunion gift.

Please contact Margaret McClellan Driscoll '92, Director of Planned Giving at mdriscoll@sbc.edu or 757 876-0264. For any questions or additional information, visit our website at sbclegacy.org.

Please consult your IRA plan administrator to make a gift from your IRA to Sweet Briar, and be aware that IRA charitable rollover donations do not qualify for a charitable deduction.

This information is provided for educational purposes and is not intended as legal advice. Please consult your financial advisors, who are best suited to provide guidance for your circumstances.



SUSTAINABILITY AT SWEET BRIAR

Willits Fellows program use problem solving skills in sustainability

For the second year, students spent this summer at Sweet Briar learning about sustainable food systems from Professor Lisa Powell through the Willits Fellows program. These students do daily tasks to support Sweet Briar's greenhouse and agricultural enterprises as well as working on individual projects throughout their 10 to 13 weeks on campus.

This year's Willits Fellows were:

Nikki Adams '23, Environmental science major, also earning her Leadership in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems certificate

Taryn Leoncavallo '24, Economics and business double major, also earning her Leadership in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems certificate

Abigail McAllister '24, Engineering major

Lauria McShane '23, Biology major, also earning her Equine Studies certificate

Brooke Melchert '23, environmental science major

Cynthia Plaughter '23, Environmental science and English and creative writing double major

The Willits Fellows this year were even busier than last year's group. They were at the forefront of the growing hydroponics operations in the greenhouse, while still maintaining our soil-based greenhouse growing as well as doing a lot of work each week in Sweet Briar's community garden. There were many camps and other guests on campus this summer, so while students weren't here, Prothro was still serving meals almost all summer. As a result, the Willits Fellows grew, harvested and delivered plenty of produce to Prothro for campus dining.

Students delivered a wide range of produce to Prothro including basil, cucumbers, kale, arugula, Swiss chard, tomatoes, carrots, beets, radishes, and leeks as well as herbs like chives, parsley, sage and rosemary. Twice each week, students prepared produce for the CSA markets (a highlight for many during Reunion)!

Of course, the students' activities were not confined to growing and harvesting produce. The Fellows took a substantial role in caring for the apiary this summer, pulling the frames for much of the 400+ pound honey harvest. They also learned about assessing the projected weight of the grape harvest and other aspects of vineyard monitoring from Pippin Hill's vineyard

manager. Four of the Fellows formed a "Bee Group" along with Dr. Powell and are studying for the first, apprentice-level examinations as part of the Virginia Master Beekeeper certification program as well as designing educational programs focused around bees and other pollinators that can be shared with schools and community groups. For example, in June, the Center for Human and Environmental Sustainability hosted approximately 40 elementary school children and their teachers in the Nelson County Public Schools Excel Academy "Kids Grow Green" camp.

"These students are problem-solvers," said Dr. Powell. "We give them guidance and parameters and they use their creative problem-solving and critical thinking capacities combined with the hands-on skills they developed over the summer to find a solution." The students and Dr. Powell wish to thank Laura Willits Evans '79 and her family for their continued support of this program.



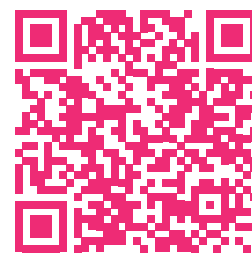
Students prepare produce for the CSA market.

Calling All Alumnae: Watch the recording of the Alumnae Alliance Council's Quarterly Meeting

On October 25, 2022, the Alumnae Alliance Council held its quarterly meeting by Zoom. All alumnae were invited to attend.

In addition to updates from the co-chairs of each working group of the Alumnae Alliance, Mary Pope M. Hutson '83, Senior Vice President for Alumnae Relations and Development, spoke on historic preservation at Sweet Briar. If you missed the meeting, you can watch the recording online at sbc.edu/multimedia/2021-2022-virtual-events. Scan the QR code to the right to go directly to this site.

The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2023. Alumnae, keep an eye on your email for the forthcoming invitation!



*Scan this code
to be directed
to the meeting
recording.*

ALUMNAE MENTORS

Alumnae make a difference to seniors through mentorship program

In March of 2021, Shee Young-Mitchell '22 met with staff in the Alumnae Relations and Development Office to propose an idea. Her dream was for her class to have alumnae mentors during their senior year to help them transition into the real world after graduation. In the 2021-2022 academic year, Caroline Chappell Hazarian '09 piloted our alumnae mentorship program in partnership with Barb Watts, director of Career Services. Shee's idea and the resulting program have proved to be a unique way for alumnae to engage with our current students and have proven to impact both groups.

The program, which continues this year, lasts for six months. Students submit an application after meeting with Career Services if they are going into an industry after graduating or their academic advisor if they plan to go to graduate school. Based on the applications received, Caroline matches students with alumnae in their fields of interest. Each student must have a LinkedIn profile and are also interviewed by Caroline.

Once the seniors are matched with alumnae, alumnae go through our volunteer processes with human resources and they receive training. This program uses "Launch Your Career" by Sean O'Keefe as a workbook.

At the beginning of the program, the students and alumnae have a launch party, during which they meet each other and share their goals. The students get to see how their classmates are supported and the alumnae get to meet more of the senior class. Caroline then sends each senior-alumnae pair recommended readings on the first Friday of each month.

Students have benefited from and enjoyed the program, especially by getting excited about the next chapter and reducing their fears about their plans after graduation.

If you are an alumna interested in enrolling in the alumnae mentorship program for the 2023-2024 academic year, please contact Caroline at chazarian@sbc.edu or (201) 665-9058.

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

Great new 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.

Show your pink and green pride!

> shopsweet.sbc.edu

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

Philanthropy Week returns for a celebration of gratitude and community

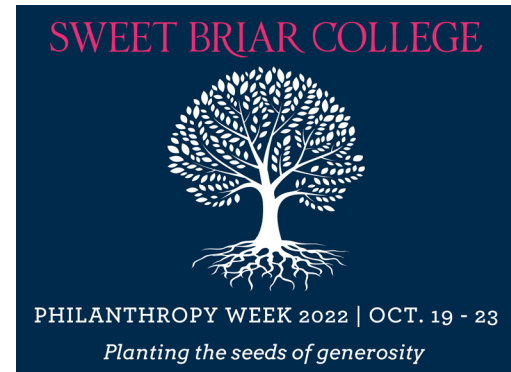
Sweet Briar held Philanthropy Week this past October for the third year since its reinvigoration. As they have done in previous years, a team of student leaders partnered with departments and organizations on campus to demonstrate to their fellow students the power philanthropy can have within a community. From volunteering to writing notes, cleaning up our community garden to holding a campus fun run, these student leaders are making a difference on campus.



Student participating in the Journal for a Cause event to support Amherst Elementary School.



During Philanthropy Week, signs are placed around campus to show the impact of philanthropy on Sweet Briar.



Philanthropy Week Events 2022

October 19

Sign Up to Save Lives

Held in partnership with the Meredith Haga Foundation (created in memory of Meredith Haga Fox '16), approximately 30 students, faculty and staff affirmed that they are organ donors this year.

October 20

Pink Tea Party

Students wrote notes to recently-diagnosed breast cancer patients in partnership with Girls Love Mail.

October 21

Express Your Gratitude

Students wrote thank you postcards to alumnae donors.

October 22

PAWsitve Impacts

Students volunteered at the Amherst County Humane Society.

October 23

Community Garden Work Day and GLOW Color Run

Students helped to clean up Sweet Briar's community garden. GLOW also held the annual color run, where students ran from Guion to the Quad, getting doused with colored powder along the way!



Student participants in the 2022 GLOW Color Run.

RIBBON CUTTING FOR NEW FIELDS

On Saturday, October 29, student athletes gathered with the Turf Committee, alumnae, faculty, staff, and friends to celebrate the ribbon-cutting of the College's new Thayer and Meyer Fields. Named for Bee Newman Thayer '61 and Margot Saur Meyer '60,

these two fields represent a lifelong friendship and an exciting future for Sweet Briar Athletics. Sweet Briar is grateful to all alumnae and friends who supported this groundbreaking project.



From left: Luther Griffith, Mason Bennett Rummel '83, Mary Pope M. Hutson '83, President Meredith Woo, Sally Old Kitchin '76, former president Phillip C. Stone, Katie Hearn '85, Emily Dodson Sadler '18. Seated: Coach Hannah Lott, Bee Newman Thayer '61.



Members of the field hockey, lacrosse, and soccer teams surround the new Vixen bronze sculpture placed next to Thayer Field.

RIBBON CUTTING FOR NEW FIELDS



Students look on in excitement while Bee Newman Thayer '61 delivers her remarks.



Bee leans down to feel the water-based turf and below, gets a feel for the ball on the new surface.



The soccer team captains expressed their gratitude for Meyer Field, which has been reoriented and newly sodded. Captains for field hockey and lacrosse also made remarks of gratitude.



**Make your gift to the Sweet
Briar Fund today at
sbc.edu/give!**

Save the date for
Reunion
June 2-4, 2023

The party will start when you arrive!

Learn more at sbc.edu/reunion.

Photo credit: LuAnn Hunt '90

Registration launches February 1, 2023!

We are honoring alumnae in class years ending in 3 and 8 this year and alumnae of all class years are welcome to attend! No matter your class year, consider calling your Sweet Briar friends to start

discussing your plans to attend this year. Be sure to visit the Reunion website for more information including a sample schedule, photos from previous Reunions, and registration deadlines.