

The Briar Wire

THE SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE ALUMNAE NEWSLETTER

My fellow Alumnae and friends,

The holiday season is upon us, when we all feel the rush of year's end and the days are filled with gatherings of friends and family. The season also sparks moments where we reflect on the past year. We often take the time to focus on "gratitude," a word that resonates through the airwaves as a trendy holiday expression rather than a daily practice.

2016 was a continuation of the extraordinary success story of the saved Sweet Briar College, a continuation of overcoming all the odds the pundits stacked against us. But even as we celebrate the success of the past year, we should mark 2016 with great reverence, as we are reminded that the health of our College is only as strong as those who support it.

The days have been long and the work is not complete, but let's be grateful for each other and reflect on what we have done together:

We believed.

We worked smarter.

We sought to innovate.

We reached for new solutions.

We developed new paradigms for engagement.

We trusted each other.

We worked toward a common goal.

We focused on one team.

We invited all opinions and ideas.

We mentored.

We stayed dedicated to Indiana's vision.



Students gathered in the Quad for the tree lighting and carols on December 1.

Each day going forward, may we continue to work together, continue to build on the bonds shared by us all that enabled us to saved our College. Sweet Briar College is needed in the world and her graduates are changing the world for the better—one day at a time.

With gratitude,

Mary Pope M. Hutson '83

Vice President of Alumnae Relations and Development

mpmhutson@sbc.edu

Reunion 2017

Come home for the next all-class Reunion, June 2-4, 2017! All alumnae from all classes (and their families!) are welcome, and we will honor classes ending in 2 and 7.

Need a large-print version of *The Briar Wire*? Call (800) 381-6131.

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We have a position open in our office.
Visit [sbc.edu/human-resources/
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out more.

For more information about
Alumnae Relations and
Development staff, please visit
sbc.edu/alumnae-development/staff/.

(800) 381-6131

PO Box 1057
Sweet Briar, VA 24595

Planned Giving: You can make the difference with a tax-smart Charitable IRA Rollover Gift

An easy way to make a tax-free gift through your IRA, the Charitable IRA Rollover Gift can be made in any month of the year. A donor who is 70 and a half or older and who has an IRA can give up to \$100,000 dollars annually with the equivalent of a 100% income tax charitable contribution deduction.

You can double your tax-smart gift if you and your spouse each make a Charitable IRA Rollover Gift. For example, if Susan and Robert Smith have separate IRA's and both of them are 70 and a half or older, each of them can make a Charitable IRA Rollover Gift of \$100,000 in 2016 for a total gift of \$200,000.

The gift also reduces the amount that a donor must take into taxable income as an IRA minimum distribution. A donor who is required to take a 5% minimum distribution from her or his IRA can instead direct the minimum distribution to Sweet Briar College and reduce his or her taxable income.

This information is provided for educational purposes. It is not intended as legal advice. Please consult your own advisors who alone are aware of your individual situation and thus in the best position to provide an individual analysis and help you accomplish the best result.

For more information, please contact:

Claire Dennison Griffith '80, Director of Major and Planned Gifts
Sweet Briar College
P. O. Box 1057
Sweet Briar, VA 24595
Phone 434-381-6479
Email: CGriffith@sbcd.edu

Sweet Briar's planned giving website makes its debut

We are thrilled to announce that plannedgiving.sbc.edu is now live! This site has interactive resources that can help you decide what type of planned gift to Sweet Briar is right for you. **Visit the new site and become a Williams Associate today!**

#GivingTuesday goal surpassed, honoring current students

On November 29, Sweet Briar set its first goal for a #GivingTuesday: to recognize our 371 current students by collecting gifts from 371 donors. The Sweet Briar community answered the call and exceeded it, with 411 donors stepping up to the plate with donations totaling \$127,771!

From all of us at Sweet Briar — students, faculty, staff, and friends — thank you for your outstanding support. We are grateful to you each and everyday because YOU are making the difference.



If you missed the opportunity to make a gift on #GivingTuesday, it's not too late to make a year-end gift in 2016! Visit sbc.edu/give or sbc.edu/alumnae-development/ways-to-give to learn about other ways to contribute to Sweet Briar. Thank you for your support!



2017 Sweet Briar Days

Alumnae Relations has been hard at work helping regional clubs plan their Sweet Briar Days! These days bring alumnae, students, parents, and prospective students together for a special occasion to celebrate Sweet Briar.

The following clubs or areas are holding Sweet Briar Days so far:

Annapolis/Baltimore, MD	Thursday, January 5, 2017	Atlanta, GA	Sunday, January 8, 2017
New York	Friday, January 6, 2017	Richmond, VA	Sunday, January 8, 2017
San Francisco, CA	Friday, January 6, 2017	Triangle Club, NC	Sunday, January 8, 2017
Boston, MA	Saturday, January 7, 2017	Washington, D.C.	Sunday, January 8, 2017
Dallas/Fort Worth, TX	Saturday, January 7, 2017	Charlottesville, VA	Saturday, January 14, 2017
Detroit, MI	Saturday, January 7, 2017	Milwaukee/Chicago	Saturday, January 14, 2017
Hunt Country, VA	Saturday, January 7, 2017	Cleveland Heights, OH	Sunday, January 15, 2017

If you are interested in planning a Sweet Briar Day in your area, please contact Donna Dodd (ddodd@sbc.edu, 434-381-6416) or Priscilla Carroll (pcarroll@sbc.edu, 434-381-6371) in the Alumnae Relations and Development Office. They'll help you with a club list, sending out invitations, and sending you materials for the event.

Admissions has also teamed up with the Alumnae Relations and Development Office to target specific areas to host Sweet Briar Days based on a large number of prospective students who have expressed interest in Sweet Briar College.

Give the gift of
Sweet Briar to your favorite alumna!
Check out the
Book Shop **online** at shopsweet.sbc.edu.
Questions? Call 434-381-6106.

Sweet Briar biology professor and director of environmental science program receives award from Virginia Museum of Natural History

Dr. Linda Fink, Dorys McConnell Duberg Professor of Ecology at Sweet Briar and director of the College's environmental science program, has been awarded The Thomas Jefferson Medal for Outstanding Contributions to Natural Science Education. Dr. Fink will receive the award at a ceremony this coming March. The award is presented annually to "a Virginia educator who has made significant contributions to natural science education." Committed to Sweet Briar College for 25 years, Dr. Fink is known for bringing her passion for and vast knowledge of her subject to her classroom, which frequently occurs on Sweet Briar's landscape itself. Dr. Fink incorporates her work with species that live on the College's 3,250 acres—such as the spotted salamanders that live in Guion pond—into her classes, bringing her excitement about them to her students.

In its release about the award, the Virginia Museum of Natural History said it is recognizing Dr. Fink for her career at Sweet Briar, "where she has dedicated her time inspiring her students with creative and original teaching perspectives that instill curiosity and appreciation for the natural world."

Congratulations, Dr. Fink!



Dr. Linda Fink with her Biology 111 class this past fall at the "Compass," where Sweet Briar students and faculty study monarch butterflies and their migration.

Lincoln Brower receives award from Center for Biological Diversity

On Friday, December 2, the Center for Biological Diversity presented its fourth annual E.O. Wilson Award for Outstanding Science in Biodiversity Conservation to Lincoln Brower, research professor at Sweet Briar, in recognition of his career protecting and studying monarch butterflies.

According to the Center's release, the award is presented annually to a scientist who has made an outstanding contribution to conservation. The award is named after Edward O. Wilson of Harvard University, whose career has focused on promoting biodiversity and preservation. Dr. Brower's award is a sculpture of an ant in recognition of Wilson's study and expertise on ants and also included a cash prize.

"Thanks to Dr. Brower's remarkable body of research, we not only have a deeper understanding of the monarch's magical annual journey across North America, but a much better shot at safeguarding it for future generations," Wilson said.

Two representatives from the Center for Biological Diversity made the trip to Sweet Briar to present Dr. Brower with his award. Tierra Curry, the Center's anthropocene defaunation prevention specialist, was overcome with gratitude for Dr. Brower as a researcher and activist. She told the story of working with him on the petition to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service seeking Endangered Species Act protection for monarch butterflies, and what a bold step it was for Dr. Brower to sign the petition.

During the presentation, Dr. Brower conveyed his gratitude to the Center for Biological Diversity, to his wife, Linda Fink, and to the Sweet Briar community. Congratulations, Dr. Brower!

The Center for Biological Diversity is a national nonprofit conservation organization with more than 1.1 million members and online activists dedicated to the protection of endangered species and wild places.

For more information about the award, please contact Tierra Curry at tcurry@biologicaldiversity.org or (928) 522-3681.



Dr. Lincoln Brower shows his award to those attending the presentation in the FAC Theater at Sweet Briar on December 2, 2016.