



The Briar Wire

THE SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE ALUMNAE NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2018 | VOLUME 4 | ISSUE 2

Dear fellow Alumnae and Friends of Sweet Briar,

This past weekend, I attended a beautiful memorial service for a distinguished alumna from the class of 1955 who was "an incredible mother, wife, community activist, environmentalist and a doer," as described by her friends and family. She told everyone she went to Sweet Briar and she loved the College deeply. Another dear friend of mine, who was one year older than me, also passed away recently after a long and courageous bout with breast cancer. Although I was unable to attend her memorial service, many of us sent notes with thoughts about her amazing life to her family. She was also another one who loved Sweet Briar until the end.

Wherever I travel throughout the country, one constant is love for Sweet Briar by all who have attended, graduated, visited, worked and lived at Sweet Briar. Even parents have shared the love and devotion to the College that really seems unmatched by any other institutions. Many ask me, "Why is that the case?"

I believe it is the place, the people and the bond that are enduring.

However, we are also like a family that has its high notes and low notes, disagreements and celebrations. As we begin to implement the new vision, this intensity continues to bond us together to be able to navigate any storm on the horizon. Civility through change is also part of our DNA and something that we should afford each other and share with our younger generations of graduates. Yes, there are still many challenges, but I know we can work through them together, always remembering our love for Sweet Briar.



In the coming month, Sarah vonRosenberg and Debra Elkins will be stepping down as the Alumnae Alliance co-chairs after nearly 3 years of tireless work guiding the volunteer activities of our alumnae body. Please join me in thanking them for their dynamic leadership in building the stakeholder strength of the College.

While we witness the beginning of this transition to new leadership in the Alumnae Alliance, we have the opportunity to promote the new vision for Sweet Briar and her students. Let us all take a moment to contemplate under what circumstances we will

continue our deep engagement and help the College thrive. In that spirit, we now have all-class reunions each year and hope that this year you will come back to campus to meet President Meredith Woo, hear her vision for the future and celebrate the progress we have made together. Until then, please take time to volunteer with the Alumnae Alliance (at sbc.edu/alumnae-development/alumnae-alliance) and reach out to fellow classmates.

The next generation of Sweet Briar women love our college as intensely as all of us do and are showing us their devotion by spreading the word about their transformational experiences.

Our love for Sweet Briar will continue to rise like the full moon tide that lifts all boats.

With gratitude,

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

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of Sweet Briar College

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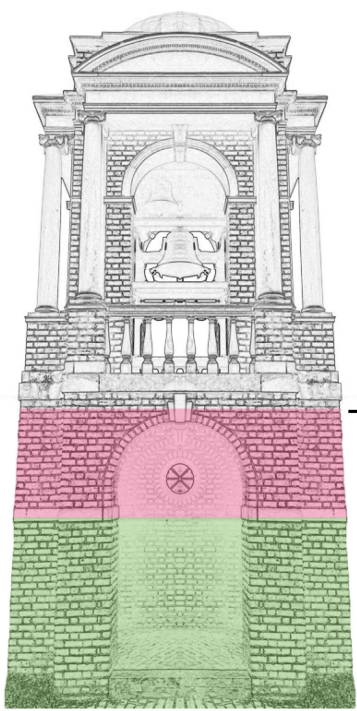
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Director of the Sweet Briar Fund and
Editor of The Briar Wire
Katie Keogh Weidner '88
Eastern Major Gifts Officer
Wanda Vest
Data Entry Manager
(800) 381-6131
PO Box 1057
Sweet Briar, VA 24595

Fundraising Progress
Fiscal Year 2017-2018

(July 1, 2017 — June 30, 2018)

Goal:
\$13 million
before June 30, 2018



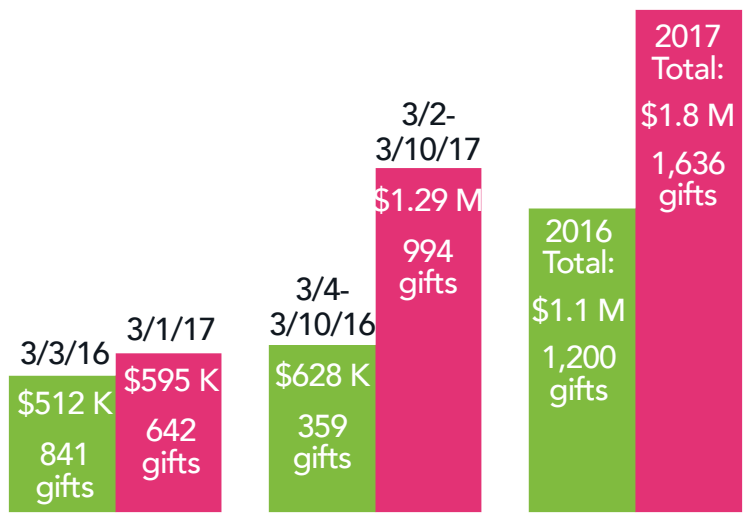
— \$5.5 million received
in gifts and pledges
42.3% of goal

as of 02.05.2018

Celebrate Sweet Briar Forever Month in March!

In March of 2016, Sweet Briar began a new tradition: a series of Days of Giving, in which the College sets a fundraising goal to launch Sweet Briar Forever Month. In 2018, Sweet Briar will kick off its third annual March Days of giving on **Thursday, March 1** with a goal to raise **\$500,000**. From **March 2 through Saturday, March 10** our goal is to raise **another \$500,000**. In March of 2016, the College raised \$1.1 million; in March of 2017, it raised \$1.8 million. Start rallying your classmates and friends to beat this year's goal!

March Days of Giving



visual representation based on amount per year,
not number of gifts

Students show their love for
Sweet Briar

I love Sweet Briar because I love empowering other women to become strong and confident leaders on- and off-campus.

Caroline Thomas '19



I love Sweet Briar because it is a place of peace.

Ajhani Oxendine '21



I love Sweet Briar because it has refined my leadership capabilities and has given me the ability to see the wonderful things I can become. With dedicated faculty, as well as rigorous, hands-on learning experiences, I know that I will be able to make a difference in the lives of others.

Baylee Worth '18



I love Sweet Briar because we are all connected. I can speak to alumnae from the 1930s, the 1960s and the 1990s and we can all share similar stories about Sweet Briar and relate to them, whether it be about the incredible professors or social traditions.

Marina Biel '18



Thanks to the efforts of class officers (class presidents, fund agents, secretaries, social media secretaries, and Reunion teams), the class challenges are well underway! If they haven't already, your classmates will be reaching out to you to share the latest news from Sweet Briar and to encourage you to make a gift to the Sweet Briar Fund. Thank you to all class officers and volunteers who support the College through their efforts!

CLASS CHALLENGES

Have you and your classmates made your gifts yet?

Make a gift online at sbc.edu/give or call (800) 381-6131.

Your **Sweet Briar Fund** gift this year supports:

- Sweet Briar's talented students,
- The College's outstanding faculty and academic programs, and
- The stewardship of Sweet Briar's natural and built environment

through unrestricted gifts to the College. In the 2018 fiscal year, the fundraising goal for the **Sweet Briar Fund** is **\$13 million**.

Class Year	Giving	Participation
1940	\$11,400	7.7%
1941	\$1,050	5.0%
1942	\$300	2.1%
1943	\$14,000	3.6%
1944	\$16,400	21.4%
1945	\$2,050	13.2%
1946	\$29,100	10.7%
1947	\$1,100	6.2%
1948	\$12,936	12.1%
1949	\$159,723	20.0%
1950	\$3,350	10.2%
1951	\$6,525	15.7%
1952	\$22,591	16.5%
1953	\$21,393	18.4%
1954	\$122,500	21.5%
1955	\$30,925	14.7%
1956	\$25,810	15.2%
1957	\$72,019	18.1%
1958	\$48,836	18.4%
1959	\$213,575	15.7%
1960	\$79,283	23.0%

Class Year	Giving	Participation
1961	\$23,250	14.2%
1962	\$116,612	24.8%
1963	\$692,559	24.1%
1964	\$70,116	18.6%
1965	\$30,454	20.7%
1966	\$69,142	14.5%
1967	\$33,196	23.0%
1968	\$38,375	18.3%
1969	\$4,875	4.4%
1970	\$32,272	15.4%
1971	\$30,842	14.7%
1972	\$63,413	12.6%
1973	\$22,330	15.1%
1974	\$38,147	16.7%
1975	\$47,632	12.8%
1976	\$8,397	11.0%
1977	\$13,728	11.3%
1978	\$57,211	16.4%
1979	\$75,083	11.6%
1980	\$29,086	17.0%
1981	\$56,476	9.8%
1982	\$13,507	10.5%
1983	\$113,676	10.6%
1984	\$29,525	9.0%
1985	\$22,271	8.4%
1986	\$16,303	13.5%
1987	\$40,321	8.4%
1988	\$18,045	11.2%
1989	\$5,845	7.0%

Class Year	Giving	Participation
1990	\$14,216	9.7%
1991	\$1,933	8.1%
1992	\$6,434	8.3%
1993	\$12,903	11.5%
1994	\$5,520	7.7%
1995	\$6,195	8.9%
1996	\$30,678	11.5%
1997	\$3,069	9.2%
1998	\$14,414	9.4%
1999	\$7,385	6.8%
2000	\$3,727	6.9%
2001	\$25,735	9.0%
2002	\$3,868	7.9%
2003	\$12,222	9.9%
2004	\$5,464	6.3%
2005	\$3,787	9.6%
2006	\$6,076	7.6%
2007	\$2,669	7.4%
2008	\$2,160	6.1%
2009	\$2,995	8.5%
2010	\$1,079	5.0%
2011	\$3,633	7.9%
2012	\$5,305	6.0%
2013	\$292	3.4%
2014	\$577	5.8%
2015	\$2,335	7.1%
2016	\$1,409	11.8%
2017	\$1,660	5.7%

Data reported as of February 5, 2018.

National Engineers Week Banquet at Sweet Briar to feature Christine Darden of “Hidden Figures”

by Janika Carey

Sweet Briar College is recognizing National Engineers Week with two programs on Thursday, Feb. 22. An afternoon session for high school girls in honor of Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day will be followed by the region's National Engineers Week Banquet.

This year's keynote speaker is Christine Darden, a retired NASA aeronautical engineer, data analyst and mathematician featured in “Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race.” Margo Lee Shetterly's 2016 book became a New York Times Best Seller and was the basis for a film by the same name, which garnered three Oscar nominations.

Darden earned an M.S. in applied mathematics from Virginia State University and began working at NASA in 1967. In 1983, she completed her Ph.D. at George Washington University. During her distinguished 40-year career at NASA, Darden developed the organization's sonic boom research program, led research in NASA's aeronautics programs and published numerous articles on high-lift wing design in supersonic flow, flap design, sonic boom prediction and sonic boom minimization. She was the first African-American woman at NASA's Langley Research Center to be promoted into the Senior Executive Service, the top rank in the federal civil service, and received three Certificates of Outstanding Performance from Langley Research Center (1989, 1991 and 1992).

“We're honored to be able to bring such an inspiring and accomplished scientist to campus,” said Hank Yochum, director of the College's Margaret Jones Wyllie '45 Engineering Program. “Darden was one of only a few female aerospace engineers at NASA Langley and went on to become one of the most prominent sonic boom researchers. She is an incredible leader and role model for our students and for engineers everywhere.”

This is the third year in a row the College is hosting the banquet, an annual event that brings together industry professionals, high school and college students, educators and business leaders. The 2018 dinner will take place at 6:30 p.m. in the Fitness and Athletics Center's Upchurch Field House. The event will kick off with hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar at 5:30 p.m., followed by the dinner and program from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$35 general admission, \$25 for college students with I.D., and \$15 for high school students with I.D. Reserved tables for eight in a priority location and with custom signage are also available for \$350.



Christine Darden. Photo courtesy of NASA

There is no charge for Sweet Briar faculty, staff or students. Advanced registration is required and will close at 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 19. Pop-up exhibits, including display tables, are available at no extra cost. To purchase tickets and learn more, visit our website.

Before the evening program gets underway, Sweet Briar will host a free afternoon event for high school girls to celebrate the 17th annual Introduce A Girl To Engineering Day. Activities will begin at 3 p.m. and include hands-on design projects led by Sweet Briar engineering faculty and students, a Q&A session with Darden, a campus tour from 5 to 6 p.m., and free dinner tickets to the National Engineers Week Banquet. Space is limited to 20 students, so participants should register in advance on the event website.

For more information about both events, contact Rebecca Girtten '09 at (434) 381-6447 or rgirtten@sbcc.edu. ■

**YOU CAN HELP RECRUIT THE
NEXT CLASS OF SWEET BRIAR
WOMEN WHO WILL LOVE
SWEET BRIAR LIKE WE DO!**

Sweet Briar is asking alumnae and friends of the College to personally refer prospective students to the Admissions Office through a new referral form that can be found on both the Admissions and Alumnae pages of our website as part of a referral initiative. There is no time commitment or follow-up required, so please keep it in mind as a simple but significant way to help Sweet Briar's growth and renaissance. Visit sbcc.edu/admissions/referral-a-student to make your first referral today!

Save the date for Reunion!
June 1-3, 2018

Grants provide revenue to benefit Sweet Briar students and programs

Increasingly, Sweet Briar is looking to build partnerships with corporations and foundations to create new pathways to sustainability for the College. These partnerships not only increase funding opportunities, but also provide greater accessibility for Sweet Briar students to experience a transformational education.

Most recently, the College announced a grant from the Al Stroobants Foundation, which will fund two merit- or need-based scholarships of \$21,000 each, underwriting full tuition and fees for two incoming first-years from Virginia for the 2018-19 academic year to students from Lynchburg or Bedford, Campbell or Amherst counties in Virginia.

To be eligible, students must apply for admission at sbc.edu/admissions/apply-now by April 1 and include a recommendation from a teacher or counselor specific to this opportunity. A scholarship committee will select the recipients from all eligible applications.

This grant is also complemented by a grant from the Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation, which renewed its scholarship support of Sweet Briar this year.

The Jessie Ball duPont Fund simultaneously has also funded support for the "Find Your Fierce" marketing campaign and other enrollment marketing to help connect prospective students with Sweet Briar.

These grants and partnerships with corporations and foundations will expand the College's efforts to broaden Sweet Briar's accessibility to its excellent prospective students.

For more information, email admissions@sbcc.edu or call 434-381-6142. ■



Reminder: Seeking nominations for the Distinguished and Outstanding Alumnae Awards

In 2018, Sweet Briar will present both the Distinguished Alumna Award and the Outstanding Alumna Award at Reunion Convocation. Award nominations are reviewed and recipients are selected by the Alumnae Alliance Council, the Alumnae Relations and Development Office and the President's Cabinet of the College. These two awards honor Sweet Briar's alumnae for their service to the College.

Nominations for both awards are invited from any member of the Sweet Briar family: alumnae, faculty, staff, students, and the Sweet Briar College Board of Directors.

Make your nomination online at sbcc.edu/alumnae-development/awards or through the Alumnae Relations and Development Office at 800-381-6131. ■