

The Briar Wire

THE SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE ALUMNAE NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 2 | FEBRUARY 2022

My fellow alumnae and friends,

The snow lies on the ground here at Sweet Briar as we enter another six weeks of winter, but despite the cold weather and sometimes difficult conditions, our athletes are hard at work! They are in our indoor facilities of Sweet Briar's Fitness and Athletic Center, Prothro natatorium and Harriet Howell Rogers Riding Center, already challenging each other and preparing for the spring competitions. As the 12-week session challenges students in the classroom, it is apparent that excitement is building for athletics at a College that has a burgeoning program as seen in recent rankings. There is a reason for that: It all comes down to preparation.

Listening to the students who are preparing for competition, their weeks are now filled with commitments that include weight training, cardio workouts, strengthening and agility training on a daily basis. The pursuit of excellence has always been a hallmark of Sweet Briar's athletics teams going back as far as 100 years and more in field hockey, riding, tennis, and even lacrosse. This year, the field hockey, lacrosse and soccer teams will have new and improved facilities with a state-of-the-art turf field and a newly-oriented grass soccer field side by side. We have an improved softball field and an exciting new coach. While we prepare for these improvements in facilities and other enhancements, our athletes marshal on to distinguish Sweet Briar in the pool, in the ring, on the field and through the landscape of Sweet Briar. You can see many of these competitions listed here in The Briar Wire and also on line at vixenathletics.com. Come to campus or become an avid fan by also attending these competitions in cities near you.

For those of us who are "vintage" athletes, the call to action is clear: "use it or lose it" and "make it happen"! Our campus is an incredible resource

for walking, running or merely ambling along. As we continue to navigate the challenges of the COVID variants, we hope you will join us in supporting our athletes, promoting activity and wellness with family and friends, and coming to campus and bringing out your inner athlete.

The Sweet Briar spirit lives on—join us for all of the competitions (see page 4) because your support for Sweet Briar and our students matters now more than ever.

With gratitude,

Mary Pope M. Hutson '83

Senior Vice President for Alumnae Relations,
Development and Communications

P.S.: If you are interested in supporting the Friends of Athletics go to alumnae.sbc.edu/friends-gifts to make a gift.



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REUNION AND EVENTS

Reunion registration is live!



Visit sbc.edu/reunion to register now!

A schedule of events, a list of who has registered, and photos from previous Reunions are also available at sbc.edu/reunion.

National Engineers Week speaker announced

Sweet Briar announced the 2022 speaker for its annual National Engineers Week Banquet on February 24, 2022. This year, Tara Vatcher, VP for SW Development and Architecture at Stellantis SWx will deliver the keynote to students, faculty, local engineers, and students from neighboring engineering programs. Vatcher, a graduate of Concordia University (BS in Engineering), McGill University (MS in Engineering), and Indiana University (MBA), has also held leadership roles at Bombardier Aerospace, Rolls-Royce, Thomson Consumer Electronics, Cummins Engine Company, and LHP Software.

In coordination with the banquet, Sweet Briar will also offer its annual events to high school girls to experience engineering at Sweet Briar in a hands-on environment.

This event is in person and sells out quickly, so be sure to check out the details at the website listed below soon.

**Details and registration at
sbc.edu/stem/national-engineers-week-banquet.**



Spring speakers at Sweet Briar include U.S. Poet Laureate and author

This spring, Sweet Briar will welcome two published authors to campus to speak on their lives and works.

U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo will discuss *An American Sunrise*, a collection of poetry that intertwines her life with tribal histories. Harjo's visit on March 14, 2022 at 4 p.m. occurs in partnership with area schools, local arts and cultural organizations, local libraries, and the Monacan Cultural Foundation.

Robin Wall Kimmerer, author of *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants*, will join our campus community on March 23, 2022. A botanist, teacher, mother, grandmother and member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Robin writes from a place of deep scientific and spiritual knowledge.

Registration details for both speakers will be available at sbc.edu/events.

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Students, faculty and staff plan Black History Month events

Together with the Black Student Alliance, students, faculty and staff have been planning a suite of events for the month of February to celebrate Black History Month at Sweet Briar. While these events are primarily for our students, we wanted to show the exciting events they have planned!

Feb. 1

Trap Karaoke with BSA, 7 - 8 p.m, Vixen Den
Do you love to sing in the shower? Are you a fan of 90's classics and gospel? Start Black History Month right by singing, dancing, and cheering on your friends as they sing their hearts out during this karaoke night.

Feb. 3

Heal n' Paint, 7 - 8 p.m., Vixen Den
This event will focus on collective stress relief and healing through artistic expression. At the end of the workshop, participants will have the opportunity to share their work through social media to inspire healing through art and connection through community.

Feb. 5

Get Free: Open Mic, 7 - 9 p.m., Wailes Building
Put on by the BSA and the First-Year Student Success Program in collaboration with Randolph College and the University of Lynchburg
Got a word? Join us for an evening of spoken word poetry, including work shopping poems and the exploration of the power of one's voice. Bring your favorite poem, an original poem to share, or come and listen to be inspired.

Feb. 9

Virtual Event: Peace Corps Celebrates Black History Month

Highlighting RPCVs of the African Diaspora who served in each decade of Peace Corps. Hear stories that highlight the challenging, rewarding, and inspirational moments from Peace Corps service.

Celebration of Art, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., Johnson Dining Room

A celebration of black artists of all mediums. Bring something by a favorite artist you would like to share. This can be an excerpt of writing you'd like to read, a song you want to play, or art you want to showcase. There is no limit on what you can bring to discuss!

Courageous Conversations: Lessons in Leadership with BSA and Leaders of Tomorrow, 7 - 8 p.m., Josey Dining Room
Join us for a dynamic panel conversation on leadership, wellness, and purpose. We will explore

the following topics together:

- realities of black academia
- diversity, equity, and inclusion in higher ed
- prioritizing wellness
- the importance of consuming space, discovering purpose, and inspiring confidence

Feb. 14

Virtual Lecture with Former President Phillip C. Stone: Lincoln's Presidency and the Reconstruction Period, 7 p.m.

Join alumnae and friends to hear a lecture by Sweet Briar's 12th president, Phillip C. Stone, renowned expert on the United States presidency of Abraham Lincoln. Details available at alumnae.sbc.edu/sweet-briar-days.

Feb. 15

Love Series: Love Language with BSA and GLOW, 7 - 8 p.m., Prothro

Join us for a powerful conversation about love languages. We will explore what the five love languages are, how to discover your primary love language, and how to navigate the love languages of others.

Feb. 16

Rep Your Flag with BSA, LatinX, and GLOW, 5 - 7 p.m., Prothro Atrium

Join BSA, LatinX, and G.L.O.W to decorate a cookie that reflects you! Design your flag, express your passions, showcase your brilliance.

Feb. 18

Poetry Slam with BSA, Randolph College, and University of Lynchburg, 5 - 7 p.m., Wailes Building

Feb. 15

Love Series: Love Language with BSA and GLOW, 7 - 8 p.m., Prothro

Feb. 21 - 22

Dance Workshops with Valerie Winborne '86

A Sweet Briar alumna, Winborne is the founder and director of V2W Experience Dance Theater Company following a successful career with international dance companies, including Urban Bush Women, ownership of a dance studio in Brooklyn, N.Y., and is now a dance instructor for Portsmouth Public Schools.

Feb. 27

Soulful Sunday with BSA and Delight Ministries

Feb. 1, Feb. 8, Feb. 15, and Feb. 22

Black Out Tuesday

Blackout Tuesday is dedicated to honoring the black lives that have been lost, as well as celebrating black culture, experience, and being. Join us as we dress in all black to honor these lives.

Sweet Briar Forever Month



March Days of Giving

Tuesday, March 1 – Thursday, March 10, 2022

Sweet Briar Fund Goals

March 1: Raise **\$500,000**

March 2–10: Raise an additional **\$500,000** in honor of Indiana Fletcher Williams for her birthday.

Participation Goal

March 1–10: Increase participation in Reunion classes (those classes ending in 2 or 7) to **30 percent**

HELP US RING THE BELLS!

**EVERY GIFT MAKES
A DIFFERENCE!**

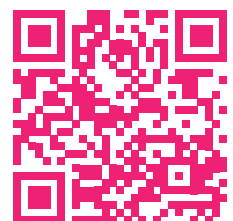
How you can participate:

Make your gift on March 1 or during March 2–10.

Gifts can be made online at sbc.edu/give or you can mail a check to PO Box 1057, Sweet Briar, VA 24595.

Encourage your classmates and friends to join you in making a gift to the Sweet Briar Fund.

Save this page and scan the QR code to the right with the camera on your smartphone or tablet to access our online giving form.



SPRING ATHLETICS SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY

Event	Date	Location
NCEA vs. Georgia	2/4	Sweet Briar, Va.
IHSA vs Mary Washington	2/5	TBD
SWIM - ODAC Championship	2/10 - 2/13	Greensboro, N.C.
LAX vs. Brevard	2/19, 10 a.m.	Brevard, N.C.
IHSA vs. Liberty	2/19	Rustburg, Va.
NCEA vs. SUNY New Paltz	2/25	Sweet Briar, Va.
LAX vs. Eastern Mennonite	2/26, 1 p.m.	Harrisonburg, Va.
TEN vs. Meredith	2/26	Sweet Briar, Va.
TEN vs. Ferrum	2/26	Sweet Briar, Va.
IHSA Region 4 Show	2/27	Sweet Briar, Va.
GOLF vs. Pfeiffer	2/28 - 3/1	Ocean Isle Beach, N.C.

MARCH

Event	Date	Location
LAX vs. Warren Wilson	3/3, 4 p.m.	Sweet Briar, Va.
NCEA vs. Southern Methodist	3/4	Dallas, Texas
NCEA vs. TCU	3/5	Fort Worth, Texas
LAX vs. Cazenovia	3/7	Sweet Briar, Va.
LAX vs. Bethany College	3/10, noon	Sweet Briar, Va.
GOLF vs. Lynchburg	3/14	Lynchburg, Va.
LAX vs. Hollins	3/14, 4 p.m.	Sweet Briar, Va.
TEN vs. Mary Baldwin	3/15, noon	Sweet Briar, Va.
TEN vs. Washington and Lee	3/15, 4 p.m.	Sweet Briar, Va.
TEN vs. Bridgewater	3/18, 2 p.m.	Sweet Briar, Va.
TEN vs. Bluefield	3/18	Sweet Briar, Va.
GOLF vs. Virginia Wesleyan	3/18 - 3/19	Virginia Beach, Va.
NCEA ECAC Championships	3/18 - 3/19	Sweet Briar, Va.
TEN vs. Johns Hopkins	3/19, 4 p.m.	Baltimore, Md.
TEN vs. Randolph-Macon	3/20, 11 a.m.	Sweet Briar, Va.
TEN vs. Averett	3/20, 2 p.m.	Sweet Briar, Va.
TEN vs. Lynchburg	3/22, noon	Lynchburg, Va.
TEN vs. Southern Virginia	3/22, 5 p.m.	Buena Vista, Va.
TEN vs. Trinity	3/23, noon	Sweet Briar, Va.

MARCH (CONTINUED)

Event	Date	Location
TEN vs. Randolph	3/23, 3 p.m.	Lynchburg, Va.
LAX vs. Randolph	3/23, 5 p.m.	Lynchburg, Va.
TEN vs. Marymouth	3/23, 4 p.m.	Sweet Briar, Va.
TEN vs. Salisbury	3/26, 1 p.m.	Newport News, Va.
TEN vs. Christopher Newport	3/27, 11 a.m.	Sweet Briar, Va.

APRIL

Event	Date	Location
TEN vs. Virginia Wesleyan	4/1, 2 p.m.	Norfolk, Va.
LAX vs. Keystone	4/2, 10 a.m.	Sweet Briar, Va.
GOLF: Historic Triangle Invitational	4/4 - 4/5	Williamsburg, Va.
LAX vs. Bryn Athyn	4/6, 7 p.m.	Bryn Athyn, Pa.
LAX vs. Centenary (N.J.)	3/10, noon	Sweet Briar, Va.
IHSA Zone 4 Show	4/9	Laurinburg, N.C.
TEN vs. Hollins	4/10	Sweet Briar, Va.
TEN vs. Guilford	4/10, 1 p.m.	Greensboro, N.C.
TEN vs. William Peace	4/10	Sweet Briar, Va.
GOLF vs. Southern Virginia	4/11 - 4/12	White Sulphur Springs, W.Va.
NCEA Championships	4/13 - 4/17	TBD
TEN vs. Pfeiffer	4/16, 2 p.m.	Misenheimer, N.C.
LAX vs. Wilson	4/16, 2 p.m.	Chambersburg, Pa.
TEN vs. Johnson & Wales (Charlotte)	4/16, 3:30 p.m.	Misenheimer, N.C.
TEN vs. Shenandoah	4/20, 4 p.m.	Sweet Briar, Va.
GOLF: ODAC Championships	4/23 - 4/26	Glen Allen, Va.
LAX vs. Notre Dame (Md.)	4/23, 2 p.m.	Sweet Briar, Va.
LAX vs. Montreat	4/24, noon	Sweet Briar, Va.
LAX vs. Cedar Crest	4/30	Allentown, Pa.

MAY

Event	Date	Location
IHSA National Championships	5/5 - 5/9	Harrisburg, Pa.



Schedule is subject to change. Please be sure to check sbc.edu/events and vixenathletics.com for the latest updates on visiting policies and event locations.

Make your gift to the Sweet
Briar Fund today at
[sbc.edu/give!](https://sbc.edu/give)



Making an Impact for our Students and the Commonwealth: An Update on Foundation and Government Relations at Sweet Briar

Today at Sweet Briar, we are building a stronger college and becoming increasingly active in generating impact that benefits our students, neighbors, and the Commonwealth overall.

Workforce Development in our Community

Apropos of the history and needs of our region, the College is engaged with the Virginia Senate Agriculture, Conservation, and Natural Resources Committee to identify funding and pathways for the College to offer public programs for women in agriculture in our region. Agriculture is the leading industry in the Commonwealth of Virginia, accounting for more than \$70 billion in economic activity annually and 334,000 jobs. According to the most recent USDA Census of Agriculture (2017), in the seven counties surrounding Sweet Briar, there are nearly 3,000 women who participate in the industry. As such, there is a unique opportunity for the College to become a hub for new public programs that serve

the continuing education and networking needs of the community of women agricultural producers in Central Virginia.

Women are gaining ground as primary agricultural producers nationally (comprising 36 percent today, up from 31 percent in 2012), but remain underrepresented on many local leadership bodies, such as agriculture committees and soil and water district boards. This indicates an opportunity to invest in their leadership and knowledge of the networks and institutions that underpin success in the industry. Having built academic programs in sustainable agriculture and food systems (and developed agricultural assets that include a 26,000-sq ft greenhouse, 18 acres of vineyards, 20-hive apiary, and 14 acres of pollinator habitat) the College is well-positioned to offer educational resources for women – and to collaborate with partner institutions to establish a regional agricultural education and training hub.

