

The Briar Wire

THE SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE ALUMNAE NEWSLETTER MARCH 2018 | VOLUME 4 | ISSUE 3

Dear fellow Alumnae and Friends of Sweet Briar,

Excellence, relevance and affordability is the distinctive message today that a Sweet Briar education promises for young women who seek to lead lives of significance. As we move our College forward with deliberate innovation, I am reminded that we are approaching the end of the third year of rebuilding the College from near closure.

We said in July of 2015 that it would take four to five years to recover from the 40-50 million dollar multi-year impacts of the attempted closure. It is important that we mark that we are over halfway through the recovery.

Several years ago we laid out a path to sustainability that envisioned aggressive enrollment growth and a rapid increase in the endowment through a campaign that has yet to begin. The positive steps forward have been many. We have progressed with a smooth transition from one President to another, a bold vision has been launched and we are navigating the realignment of staff and faculty to meet the needs of our 300 excellent students while scaling the budget to the appropriate size operation.

Now we must be clear headed about the next two and half years of the rebuilding process. It is critical

that all alumnae and friends of the College maintain the sense of urgency and focus on making your best gift to the College and where possible making Sweet Briar your number one philanthropic priority. Apathy is our greatest enemy at this point in our reemergence to success.

Recruiting students also must be a number one priority for all of us. Help us tell the story that for \$21,000 the tuition for Sweet Briar offers the best education for a young woman today in an unparalleled environment with superb faculty and an experience second to none.

Students and money are still the greatest needs of the College to emerge as a venerable institution that maintains and delivers a quality education. *Please make your best gift now during Sweet Briar Forever Month since we still have seven million dollars to raise as we begin to shape the curriculum and design programs for the future that will truly set Sweet Briar apart.*

With gratitude,

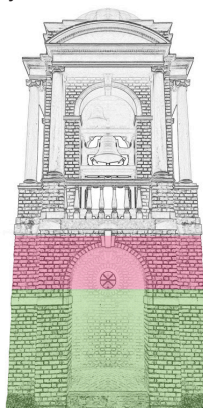
Mary Pope M. Hutson, '83
Vice President for Alumnae Relations and Development

Fundraising Progress

Fiscal Year 2017-2018

(July 1, 2017 — June 30, 2018)

Goal:
\$13 million
before June 30, 2018



— \$5.6 million received
in gifts and pledges

43.3% of goal

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of Sweet Briar College**

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Sweet Briar, VA 24595

Sweet Briar’s engineering program receives ABET reaccreditation

by Janika Carey

Sweet Briar College’s bachelor’s degree program in engineering science has been reaccredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET, the global accreditor of college and university programs in applied and natural science, computing, engineering and engineering technology. Sweet Briar is one of just two women’s colleges in the U.S. with an ABET-accredited engineering program.

ABET accreditation assures that programs meet standards to produce graduates ready to enter critical technical fields that are leading the way in innovation and emerging technologies, as well as anticipating the welfare and safety needs of the public.

“Achieving reaccreditation through ABET’s rigorous review process by peers and authorities in our field emphasizes the value of Sweet Briar’s engineering program,” says Hank Yochum, who directs the Margaret Jones Wyllie '45 Engineering Program at Sweet Briar. “Since we established the program in 2005, our graduates have gone on to work in a variety of industries. Our small, interactive classes, project-based

approach, and the strong support system we provide — as well as the internship requirement we have — prepare our students to jump right into industry when they graduate.”

About 90 percent of Sweet Briar engineering graduates are working in engineering or pursuing graduate degrees. Recent alumnae are employed at BWX Technologies, the Clorox Company, US Navy Air Systems Command, Newport News Shipyard, Deutsche Bank, The Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab and Lockheed Martin.

Often, those first jobs begin as internships. Engineering majors gain valuable experience in industry through local and regional partnerships, and there are always opportunities to make a global impact, too: Recent class projects had students and faculty traveling to Brazil to deliver student-designed assistive devices, including a prosthetic arm for a quad amputee.



Engineering students with professor Kaelyn Leake '09.

Sought worldwide, ABET’s voluntary peer-review process is highly respected because it adds critical value to academic programs in the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) disciplines, where quality, precision and safety are of the utmost importance.

Developed by technical professionals from ABET’s member societies, ABET criteria focus on what students experience and learn. ABET accreditation reviews look at program curricula, faculty, facilities and institutional support and are conducted by teams of highly skilled professionals from industry, academia and government, with expertise in the ABET disciplines.

ABET is a nonprofit, non-governmental organization recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). It currently accredits 3709 programs at over 750 colleges and universities in 30 countries.

More information about ABET, its member societies and the accreditation criteria used to evaluate programs can be found at www.abet.org.

To learn more about engineering at Sweet Briar, email Hank Yochum at hyochum@sbc.edu or visit sbc.edu/stem/engineering. ■

Planned Giving: Best Charitable Gifts to Make in 2018

With the introduction of tax reform this year, you may be looking at your finances and wondering how you can continue to be charitable. There are many ways you can make a difference at Sweet Briar College while enjoying financial benefits for yourself.

Here are some smart ways to give in 2018:

- Donate appreciated stock: With the stock market at or near all-time highs, give your appreciated stocks to a nonprofit like Sweet Briar College and eliminate capital gains tax.
- Name Sweet Briar College as a beneficiary of retirement plan assets:

These assets remain taxable when distributed to a loved one but are tax-free when given to a nonprofit.

- Give from your IRA (if age 70½ or older): Regardless of whether you itemize your taxes, this gift helps you fulfill your required minimum distribution and is not considered taxable income.
- Gifts of real estate: Many real estate markets are enjoying gains. Appreciated real estate may be subject to capital gains tax unless donated to charity or transferred to a charitable trust.

For more information, please contact:

Claire Dennison Griffith '80, Senior Director of Alumnae Relations and Development
PO Box 1057 | Sweet Briar, VA 24595
Phone 434-381-6479 | Email: cgriffith@sbc.edu

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.

If they haven't already, your class officers will be reaching out to you to encourage you to make a gift to the Sweet Briar Fund. Thanks to our March Days of Giving, Sweet Briar Forever month is an especially important time for all alumnae to make their gifts. Thank you to all class officers, volunteers, and the Alumnae Alliance, 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	\$17,400	23.8%
1945	\$2,050	13.2%
1946	\$29,100	10.7%
1947	\$1,100	6.3%
1948	\$12,936	12.3%
1949	\$160,723	23.1%
1950	\$3,550	11.4%
1951	\$6,525	15.7%
1952	\$22,641	17.5%
1953	\$21,493	19.4%
1954	\$122,700	22.6%
1955	\$30,925	14.7%
1956	\$25,910	16.1%
1957	\$73,119	19.7%
1958	\$52,336	19.6%
1959	\$214,075	16.3%
1960	\$79,533	23.8%

Class Year	Giving	Participation
1961	\$23,350	14.9%
1962	\$118,212	25.6%
1963	\$695,709	24.7%
1964	\$86,566	22.2%
1965	\$30,804	21.3%
1966	\$69,242	15.0%
1967	\$33,221	23.1%
1968	\$292,025	20.0%
1969	\$4,875	4.4%
1970	\$32,392	15.8%
1971	\$31,017	15.2%
1972	\$71,775	12.6%
1973	\$23,330	15.5%
1974	\$49,057	18.2%
1975	\$52,107	14.9%
1976	\$8,496	11.4%
1977	\$14,228	11.8%
1978	\$58,336	17.6%
1979	\$81,083	12.0%
1980	\$35,344	17.0%
1981	\$64,426	10.2%
1982	\$18,752	11.9%
1983	\$144,676	11.5%
1984	\$29,941	9.0%
1985	\$22,849	8.8%
1986	\$16,720	13.5%
1987	\$50,460	8.8%
1988	\$19,145	12.2%
1989	\$6,120	7.4%

Class Year	Giving	Participation
1990	\$14,716	10.7%
1991	\$1,969	8.1%
1992	\$6,725	8.3%
1993	\$13,138	12%
1994	\$5,620	7.7%
1995	\$7,095	9.6%
1996	\$31,821	12.1%
1997	\$3,420	9.2%
1998	\$15,014	10.4%
1999	\$7,385	6.8%
2000	\$3,737	6.9%
2001	\$25,785	9.0%
2002	\$3,798	7.9%
2003	\$12,792	10.4%
2004	\$5,064	6.9%
2005	\$3,837	9.6%
2006	\$6,793	7.6%
2007	\$2,669	7.4%
2008	\$2,160	6.1%
2009	\$3,005	8.5%
2010	\$1,134	5.0%
2011	\$3,792	7.9%
2012	\$5,345	6.0%
2013	\$292	3.4%
2014	\$577	5.8%
2015	\$2,435	7.6%
2016	\$1,409	11.8%
2017	\$1,660	5.7%

Data reported as of February 28, 2018.

Ginette Hemley to headline 2018 Waxter Forum at Sweet Briar

by Amy Ostroth

Ginette Hemley, senior vice president for wildlife conservation at the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), will speak at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 14, at The Florence Elston Inn & Conference Center. Her lecture, "Keeping Tigers Alive: A story of Recovery and Hope," comes as part of Sweet Briar's annual Waxter Forum. The event is free and open to the public.



Courtesy of the World Wildlife Fund

Hemley has more than 30 years of experience in international conservation and has developed global recovery strategies for critically endangered species, including tigers and elephants. She has a Bachelor of Science in biology from the College of William and Mary, and has studied at Oxford University.

In her role at WWF, Hemley oversees programs to protect some of the world's most endangered and iconic species, using community-based approaches and mobilizing public support for species and habitat conservation. One of her areas of focus is the reduction of illegal wildlife trade; she is a former director and current board member of TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network.

"It's wonderful that Ginette will be sharing optimistic news about tiger conservation, because it's easy to become overwhelmed by environmental problems," said Dorys McConnell Duberg Professor of Ecology Linda Fink, who serves as director of Sweet Briar's environmental science program. "As a highly respected conservationist at WWF, Ginette is a great example of women's leadership. I'm delighted that our students will have several opportunities to interact with her during her campus visit."

In addition to her public lecture, Hemley will meet with biology, environmental science and government students during class visits on Wednesday and Thursday.

The Julia B. Waxter Environmental Forum at Sweet Briar College is an annual event that brings nationally recognized speakers to campus for a public lecture and interactions with students.

Previous speakers have included forest ecologist Joan Maloof, author Barbara Kingsolver, biogeochemist William Schlesinger and author Michael Pollan. The event is supported by an endowment established by the late Julia Baldwin Waxter '49 and her husband, Bill.

For more information on this event, please email Linda Fink at lfink@sbc.edu. ■

Sweet Briar's Melissa Richards elected to Girl Scout board of directors

The Girl Scouts of Virginia Skyline Council has elected Melissa Farmer Richards, vice president for communications and enrollment management at Sweet Briar College, to its board of directors.

Previously, Richards served as vice president for communications and acting executive officer for admissions and financial aid at St. Lawrence

University, and assistant vice president for marketing and publications at Virginia Tech. She has 25 years of global experience in communications, public relations, integrated marketing strategy, brand management, special events, and strategic alliances.

Richards earned a master of public administration at Virginia Tech and a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Virginia. She was one of the founding members of TEDxVirginiaTech and served as faculty advisor for TEDxStLawrenceU. She is one of the founding board members of the Blacksburg Children's Museum. She was a Girl Scout troop leader from 2009 to 2011 and founded Troop #397 in the Virginia Skyline Council.

With support from dedicated adult volunteers, parents and staff, the Virginia Skyline Council delivers the best Girl Scout experience to 9,500 members: 6,000 girls and 3,500 adults in a 36-county area within Central, Southside, Southwest and Western Virginia. The council's headquarters is located in Roanoke City, with three camp properties: Camp Icimani in Roanoke County, Camp Sacajawea in Bedford County and Camp Sugar Hollow in Albemarle County. To volunteer, reconnect or join, call 540-777-5100, email info@gsvsc.org or visit www.gsvsc.org. ■



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

Virginia Center for the Creative Arts to hold salon at Sweet Briar

by Amy Ostroth

Three VCCA fellows presented their work to the Sweet Briar community at 8 p.m. on Thursday, March 1, in the library's Reahard Gallery.

Andrea Clearfield showed original footage from her Tibetan music documentation and discuss a new body of work — much of it composed at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts — that was inspired by that field research. She also performed examples of her Tibetan-influenced compositions. Clearfield is an award-winning composer of music for orchestra, chorus, chamber ensemble dance and multimedia collaborations.

With anthropologist and ethnomusicologist Katey Blumenthal, Clearfield recorded the last royal court singer of Lo Monthang, Nepal, a remote and restricted region near the border of Tibet. Their recordings are part of the World Oral Literature Project of Cambridge University, dedicated to preserving endangered languages.

Ukrainian-born Luba Drozd presented two video and audio installations. Her works subtly layer how intangible spaces within us — such as memory space, knowledge and perception of time — are controlled and regimented. Drozd's video and audio installations have been exhibited at several museums, including the Bronx Museum, UIMA Chicago, the Carver Center Gallery, the Ukrainian Museum in New York and the New York Video Festival at Lincoln Center.

In addition to her visiting artist residency at the VCCA, she is also the recipient of a MASS MoCA Visiting Artist Residency, a Millay Colony residency, and fellowships at BRIC and the Bronx Museum.

Fiction writer and journalist Rose Skelton read a story,

"Heartwood," about the friendship between a man and his neighbor, a shepherd, after the death of the man's wife. The story is set on the Isle of Mull, where she lives. Skelton lived in and reported on west Africa for 15 years. Her articles have appeared in the International Herald Tribune, The Guardian, the Observer, the BBC, the Independent and others.

She has an M.F.A. in creative writing from Warren Wilson College in North Carolina and is currently working on a collection of short stories entitled *Homescar*, set on the Scottish Hebridean Islands. She trains African journalists in investigative reporting and is a member of the Tobermory Lifeboat crew, which rescues people at sea.

The salon is an important step in building a stronger relationship between the VCCA and Sweet Briar, which is one of the primary goals of the College's new Center for Creativity, Design and the Arts. Margaret Banister Writer-in-Residence Carrie Brown, the center's director, is excited about the occasion.

"VCCA fellows often organize themselves for informal salons in the evenings at the residence at VCCA," Brown says. "I'm delighted that they're willing to share those experiences with the Sweet Briar community."

This is the first of many such events at Sweet Briar. ■



Carrie Brown, director of Sweet Briar's Center for Creativity, Design and the Arts.