



The Briar Wire

THE SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE ALUMNAE NEWSLETTER MARCH 2019 | VOLUME 5 | ISSUE 3

My fellow alumnae and friends,

All around campus there are early signs of spring, where the forsythia is popping in front of Sweet Briar House, the daffodils are raising their shoots by Daisy's Garden and the migratory birds are everywhere. Our thriving College reflects this seasonal renewal as it enters into the second semester of the academic innovation while the nation scrutinizes it, fascinated and somewhat envious.

The future of our college depends on the excellence of our students, faculty and the staff, and above all, the commitment that you have shown over the years to make it so. With our energetic and visionary president leading our campus community and the wind beneath our wings, we soar ahead as One Sweet Briar.

We continue to deliver on the promise of perpetuity when every March we plant a Sweet Briar rose in the Quad by the bell tower. We ring the bells to recommit ourselves, our resources and our passion to the belief in this college that continues to produce amazing women leaders—and to herald the future. Your engagement has come in so many wonderful forms that set us apart: By telling our story, attending events, recruiting students, providing networks for internships and jobs and making significant financial contributions. Sweet Briar alumnae and friends are engaged like never before in an endeavor that is monumental. We must continue to do so!

The economic landscape for small liberal arts colleges is challenging, as you know. State universities are getting big, bigger, and finally mammoth—enjoying the benefit of the scale as well as the largesse from the state government. In the past few weeks, our office has received a number of calls from liberal arts colleges that are contemplating or faced with closure or merger, asking how we survived and how we pivoted to prepare for perpetuity. We tell all of them that we are a work in progress, but that our success thus far is based on a relentless focus on three critical priorities:

1. Making Sweet Briar distinctive and therefore an exciting place for our students
 2. Recalibrating our budget to make our business sustainable, and
 3. Managing and honoring a wide variety of capital.
- The people and the place are always your most treasured and essential assets in any undertaking.

Without your financial support, we cannot maintain excellence in the distinctive curriculum we are developing on women's leadership, in the humanities and sciences. The same holds true for stewarding our environment, the natural and built resources that are the foundation of this magnificent place. All of these assets deserve our immediate attention.

Now, the time has come for me to say the expected: I hope you will make your gift this week on March 1, the first of our ten annual **DAYS OF GIVING** at sbc.edu/give. We hope to continue what many say is impossible to do four years in a row, by raising \$500,000 in one day. Also, between March 2 and 10, we will again seek to raise another \$500,000 to honor our founder. March 10th as we all know is the birthday of Indiana Fletcher Williams, and what better way to serenade her!

Currently our total giving is \$5.1 million in gifts and pledges; that leaves us with another \$4.9 million before we reach our goal of 10 million for this fiscal year. We have a long way to go between now and June 30, 2019 but I know we can do it, and the bells will be ringing again on that day.

Thank you for your belief in Sweet Briar and all that is true and important. I am humbled to be working together with you each and every day.

With gratitude,

Mary Pope M. Hutson '83

Vice President for Alumnae Relations and Development

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Beth Ann Trapold Newton '86, *Major
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Rachel Pietsch, *Alumnae Relations
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Clélie D. D. Steckel, *Director of the
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Katie Keogh Weidner '88, *Major
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Wanda Vest, *Data Entry Manager*

Recruit a Student

Admissions Ambassadors: Making a difference for future generations of Sweet Briar Women

by Heather Colson Ewing '90 and Michelle Badger '06, Alumnae Alliance Council
Admissions Ambassador Working Group Co-Chairs

First and foremost, thank you to the 150 SBC Admissions Ambassador (AA) volunteers, who helped Admissions efforts this fall! Either by representing SBC at college fairs, developing relationships with area high schools or recommending students, our AAs made a significant impact on recruiting efforts.

The SBC Admissions Ambassador program continues to make improvements so that we can effectively recruit while creating a positive experience for our volunteers. As you know, SBC Admissions counselors each have their own territories. This spring, we will encourage AAs to work directly with their area counselors. For example, if you have a fair you are interested in attending for SBC, or a school you think SBC should know about, reach out to the counselor in your area, which you can find at sbc.edu/admissions/contact-an-admissions-counselor.

To help you get to know our counselors, please consider this a virtual introduction! They are excited to have the extra hands provided by our incredible AAs! While their online bio provides information on each of them, we hope these questions and answers show you the passion and enthusiasm they have for SBC!

Savannah Oxner '05, MAT '06

soxner@sbc.edu

Title: *Senior Admissions Counselor*

Hometown: *Amherst, VA*

Territories covered: *Richmond and Central Virginia, Colorado,
International*

Special assignments: *M.A.T., International*

What brought you to SBC? *As a student, the academic programs and the community; as an employee, the community and what we are able to provide for young women.*



Gloria Simon

gsimon@sbc.edu

Title: *Senior Admissions Counselor*

Hometown: *Lynchburg, VA*

College: *Randolph-Macon Woman's College, now Randolph College*

Territories covered: *Maryland, Northern Virginia, Washington, D.C.*

Special assignments: *Transfers, turning point students, veterans*

What brought you to SBC? *The opportunity to promote the values of Sweet Briar College.*



Alex Goldman

agoldman@sbc.edu

Title: *Admissions Counselor*

Hometown: *Amherst, VA*

College: *University of Rochester*

Territories covered: *Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Northern Neck (VA), International*

What brought you to SBC? *The community.*



Savanna Klein '16

sklein@sbc.edu

Title: *Admissions Counselor*

Hometown: *Shaker Heights, OH*

Territories covered: *Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Hawaii, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, Highlands (VA), Washington*

What brought you to SBC? *The beautiful 3,250 acre campus and the amazing professors.*



Shawnta' Dandridge LaPrade
slaprade@sbcc.edu

Title: Admissions Counselor
Hometown: Martinsville, VA
College: Radford University
Territories covered: Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Southside and Southwest Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
What brought you to SBC? I am a firm believer in women's empowerment and a sense of community which drove my interest in Sweet Briar College.



Taylor Patterson '16
tpatterson@sbcc.edu

Title: Admissions Counselor
Hometown: Charlottesville, VA
Territories covered: North Carolina, South Carolina, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, Eastern Virginia and Tidewater
Special assignments: Riding
What brought you to SBC? What's not to love about Sweet Briar?



Volunteer!

BECOME AN ADMISSIONS AMBASSADOR!

For more information on becoming an Admissions Ambassador, please email Michelle Badger at michellebadger@gmail.com or Heather Ewing at hce.ewing@att.net. Opportunities include attending college fairs, writing notes to prospective students, and developing relationships with local high schools.

RECRUIT A STUDENT!

You can personally refer prospective students to the Admissions Office through a referral form found on both the Admissions and Alumnae pages of our website. This is an easy way to volunteer as there is no time commitment or follow-up required. Visit sbcc.edu/admissions/refer-a-student to make your first referral today!

Campus community shares its love for Sweet Briar

This past Valentine's Day, the Alumnae Relations and Development Office asked members of the Sweet Briar campus community to share why they love Sweet Briar. We then gathered these images

into a video, which you can view on our Facebook page, [Sweet Briar College Now and Forever](#). Share why you love Sweet Briar on our Facebook page, too!



Samantha Baker '19
Orange, CA; International Affairs



Meenakshi Verma '22
Lucknow, India; Biology

Highlights of the Sweet Briar Collection: A Note from Annie Labatt, Director of Galleries and Museum

Dear Sweet Briar Community,

It is my great pleasure to announce the exhibition currently in Pannell Art Gallery called "The Highlights of the Sweet Briar Collection." The show will be open through the end of reunions, at the beginning of June.

This exhibition is a testament to the great breadth of the collection at Sweet Briar College. Almost every period of art is represented in the college's holdings—from the Medieval and Renaissance, through the Modern and Contemporary periods. Major artists line these walls—Giovanni Piranesi, Francisco José de Goya, William Blake, Max Beckmann, Salvador Dali, Marc Chagall, Picasso. The holdings in the collection by contemporary artists are also rich and strong, with examples from Kara Walker, Toyin Ojih Odutola, Carrie Mae Weems, and Catherine Opie. These are artists' names that you have heard of and who have shaped the field. They appear in our art history text books, in the news, in major museums and galleries, and they appear in our collective consciousness about the broader field of Art History.

The presence of these pieces in the collection also speaks to the strong tradition of donations and gifts by the devoted members of the Sweet Briar community. The wall labels express just how generous and committed the alumnae and their families have been and are. The Friends of Art are also great benefactors to enriching the collection. Everyone benefits through these gifts—students, professors, scholars, and staff. Art is a powerful way of bringing us all together. We may see different things when we look works of art, but we are looking together, as a unified community and college.

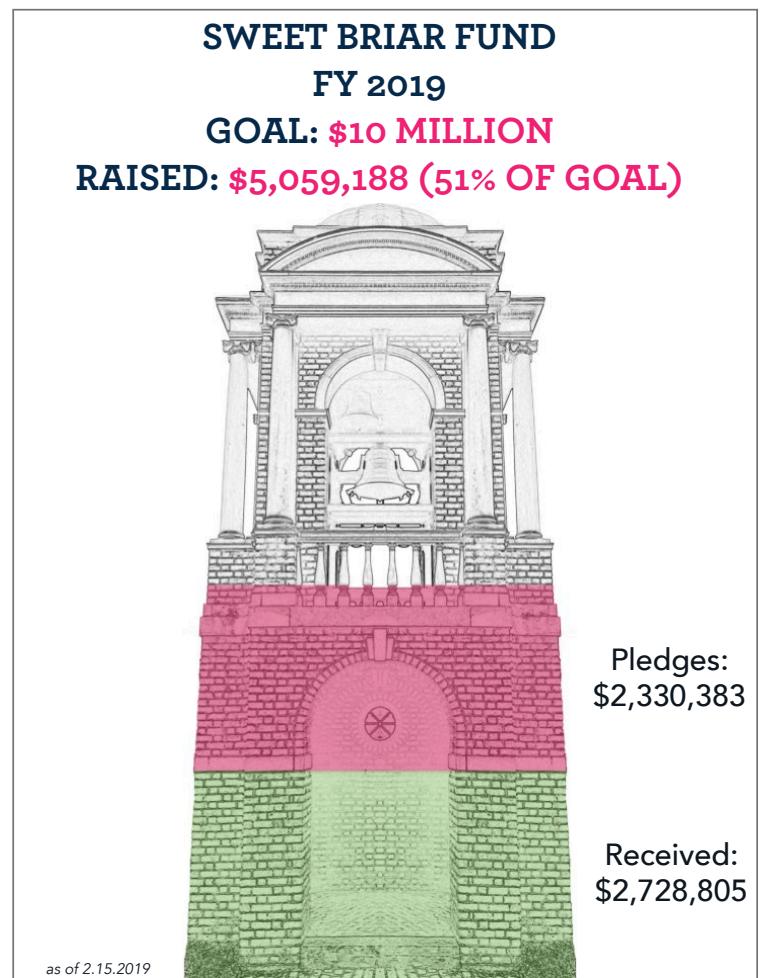
Throughout the semester there will be events and programs that will aim to bring together the community of Sweet Briar. Every Wednesday from the sixth of February to the seventeenth of April I will lead in-depth conversations about certain selected works of art. Events by students of the Music Department will provide a musical context to the creation of these particular pieces. Daisy's Harp will activate the space through music, dance, and the spoken word on the 3rd of April at 7:00. Tours by student docents and talks by professors in the Visual Studies Department will continue to create conversations about the pieces on the walls of Pannell Art Gallery. These events will be updated

and promoted at sbc.edu/arts/art-exhibits-and-events.

This is a special opportunity to study and deepen our knowledge the history of art through the lens of Sweet Briar's treasures. We hope very much that you will join us for "The Highlights of the Sweet Briar Collection."



Annie Montgomery Labatt
Director of Galleries and Museums
alabatt@sbc.edu



Every gift matters.
Every gift makes
a difference!
Make your gift at
sbc.edu/give.

Make your best gift to the Sweet Briar Fund and help us ring the bells this March at [**sbc.edu/give!**](https://sbc.edu/give)

March 1 Goal: \$500,000
March 2-10 Goal: \$500,000

Total Goal: \$1,000,000

Here's how you can help Sweet Briar during March Days of Giving:

1. Make your gift at [**sbc.edu/give**](https://sbc.edu/give).
2. Share your support of Sweet Briar on social media. Make it personal: Why do you love Sweet Briar? How does supporting Sweet Briar make you feel?
3. Ask five friends to join you in making a gift to Sweet Briar via phone, email, text, or plan ahead and mail a note!
4. Remind everyone of the goals for March Days of Giving.

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Jazé Spradley
Campus Safety



Ailish Rhoades '19
Lebanon, CT; English



Caroline Thomas '19
Appomattox, VA; Business



John Morrissey
Professor of Biology

2019 All-Class Reunion: A Celebration for All!

May 31 - June 2, 2019

Greatest Hits

Some of your favorite events are back again in 2019!

All events listed take place on Saturday, June 1.

Alumnae Colleges

Featuring President Meredith Woo and the President's Cabinet.

An update on Sweet Briar's agricultural enterprises, and Hands-on engineering.

Reunion Convocation

With an update from President Woo and Mary Pope M. Hutson '83, Vice President for Alumnae Relations and Development, and Reunion Class Giving Awards.

Celebration Dinner and Dance

Dinner, dancing, and music by Another Level!

New and Now

Special events making their debut include:

Float the Boathouse (Friday)

Kick Reunion weekend off with your favorite pool float at the lake!

Comedy Night with Amy Gibbs Brown '99 (Friday)

Get your laugh on in FAC Theatre!

Anne Adams '87 Memorial Tennis Tournament (Saturday)

Round robin doubles & tennis social in memory of varsity tennis player, Anne Adams (1966 - 1984).
(advance registration required)

See the full Reunion schedule of events at sbc.edu/reunion.