

SWEET BRIAR FARM

# The Briar Wire

THE SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE ALUMNAE NEWSLETTER APRIL/MAY 2018 | VOLUME 4 | ISSUE 4

## Dear Sweet Briar Alumnae and Friends,

**As the interim co-chairs of the Alumnae Alliance Council, we are excited to give all an update of the work of the Alliance.**

In late February, the Alliance councilmembers met on campus for a productive series of meetings. The highlights of the weekend included:

- Presentation, with Q&A, on the new curriculum by the new Centers directors;
- Presentation by the Governance Working Group of its examination of the governance documents of the AA, with discussion by the whole Council;
- Report to the Board of Directors by out-going co-chairs, Debra Elkins '93 and Sarah vonRosenberg '72, of the activities of the Alumnae Alliance over the past year.

Over Spring Break, Katie Schellhammer '95, chair of the Network and Lifelong Learning Working Group, with Barb Watts, director of Career Services, organized a trip for students to Washington, D.C., including a breakfast at the Capitol Hill Club with alumnae mentors, special tours of the Capitol and the Library of Congress by alumnae, and a career fair.

Earlier this year, the Young Alumnae Squad ran a campaign to encourage young alumnae to update their contact information, resulting in 342 alumnae responding, including 151 young-at-heart alumnae.

The Admissions Ambassadors represented the College at 189 college fairs and high schools throughout the country over the past year, and have turned their focus to writing letters to admitted students and recruiting high school juniors.

Reunion planning is well underway, as is planning for the Auction. Stay tuned for more information on both.

We hope all of the alumnae received our recent email calling for nominations for open positions on the Council. The nominations will be open until April 30. If you are

interested in a position or you would like to nominate another alumna, please go to [sbc.edu/alumnae-development/alumnae-alliance-council-nomination-form](http://sbc.edu/alumnae-development/alumnae-alliance-council-nomination-form) and make your nomination or contact us.

If you don't think you're ready to join the Council as a co-chair of a Working Group, join one of our Working Groups instead! There's no application process, just contact one of our Working Group Co-Chairs. All email addresses are listed on [sbc.edu/alumnae-development/alumnae-alliance](http://sbc.edu/alumnae-development/alumnae-alliance):

**Young Alumnae Squad (YAS)** co-chaired by Sara Parsatoon '11 and Alexandra Grobman '12;

**Clubs and Virtual Auction:** Kathryn Yunk '91 and Norma Valentine '93;

**Admissions Ambassadors:** Michelle Badger '06 and Heather Ewing '90;

**Alumnae Communications:** Phyllis Jordan '80, Jane Dure '82, Sarah Reidy Ferguson '96, Eleanor O'Connor '07;

**Development Working Group:** Cathy Foose '78;

**Governance and Strategic Initiatives Working Group:** Sarah Clement '75 and Katie Robertson '97

**The Network and Lifelong Learning:** Katie Schellhammer '95

You can also get involved as a Plus One. Plus Ones participate in monthly calls with the Council to learn about the activities of the Alumnae Alliance and about what's happening on campus. Email one of us to be included on the Plus Ones group.

Thank you, fellow alumnae, Sweet Briar family, and friends for all you do to support Sweet Briar. Holla holla, and we will see you at Reunion!

Sarah Clement '75 and Norma Valentine '93  
Alumnae Alliance Council Co-Chairs



## Board of Directors of Sweet Briar College

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## Alumnae House Staff

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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

## Sweet Briar celebrates Earth Day with campus activities, 'At the Invitation of the President' speaker series

This past Sunday, April 22, people around the world celebrated Earth Day. At Sweet Briar, the campus and surrounding communities gathered together to steward and enjoy the natural environment at the College.

The festivities began with a mini festival in the College's Community Garden, located near the old dairy barns on the way to the Riding Center. Students, faculty, staff, and retirees enjoyed snacks and a wine tasting with Ankida Ridge, a winery in Amherst County, and Irish music by engineering professor Bethany Brinkman's band. Participants prepared and planted community garden plots and also took home herbs for cooking.

Following the festival, the campus community gathered for a farm to table dinner along Quad Road. Meriwether Godsey, Sweet Briar's food service provider, used ingredients sourced from local farms including Kirby Farms, Hannah's Hydroponics, Coon Rock Farm, Twin Oaks Tofu, Country Fresh Farm, Peaceful River Farm, and Brinkley Farms.

After dinner, the community moved to Murchison Lane Auditorium in Babcock Fine Arts Center to hear Bettina Ring, Virginia's Secretary for Agriculture and Forestry, speak for the third event in the "At the Invitation of the President" Series. Secretary Ring emphasized the importance of the current and future stewardship of Sweet Briar's natural resources to the future of Sweet Briar, saying, "I'm very excited about the Center for Human and Environmental Sustainability and how we can work together—faculty, staff and other subject matter experts—and bring thought leaders together to talk about what is next. When we look at the opportunities for greater learning here through the land, it's really, really exciting." ■



Students, faculty, staff, and community members volunteered for a workday in the Sweet Briar Community Garden on Earth Day.



The Sweet Briar campus community gathered for a celebratory Earth Day dinner along quad road. Food service providers Meriwether Godsey used locally-sourced ingredients for the meal.



President Meredith Woo and Virginia Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, Bettina Ring.



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**.

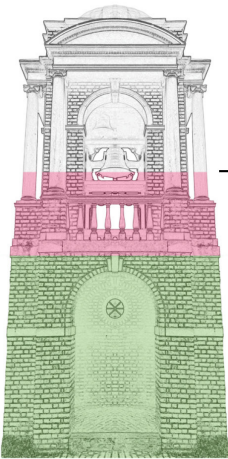
# CLASS CHALLENGES

Have you and your classmates made your gifts yet?

Make a gift online at [sbc.edu/give](http://sbc.edu/give) or call **(800) 381-6131**.

Fundraising Progress  
Fiscal Year 2017-2018  
(July 1, 2017 — June 30, 2018)

Goal:  
\$13 million  
before June 30, 2018



\$8.1 million  
received in gifts  
and pledges  
62% of goal

\$4.9 million left  
to raise!



as of 04.16.2018

Class Year	Giving April 15, 2017	Giving April 13, 2018	Participation April 15, 2017	Participation April 13, 2018
1940	\$3,175	\$11,400	7.0%	7.7%
1941	\$1,050	\$1,050	4.5%	5.0%
1942	\$52,350	\$1,300	7.8%	4.4%
1943	\$25,045	\$14,625	9.7%	14.8%
1944	\$10,208	\$19,755	28.0%	35.7%
1945	\$750	\$2,100	14.0%	16.2%
1946	\$42,875	\$30,100	13.6%	10.7%
1947	\$1,705	\$1,165	12.7%	9.7%
1948	\$9,327	\$12,936	20.9%	12.3%
1949	\$62,329	\$160,973	25.0%	25.0%
1950	\$55,456	\$7,700	21.1%	14.8%
1951	\$18,666	\$9,480	37.8%	30.4%
1952	\$31,560	\$26,866	34.3%	26.0%
1953	\$22,216	\$22,243	31.4%	22.4%
1954	\$31,845	\$126,190	29.9%	28.0%
1955	\$75,500	\$39,725	30.5%	28.7%
1956	\$24,470	\$31,210	21.3%	20.3%
1957	\$818,076	\$196,969	31.5%	28.7%

Class Year	Giving April 15, 2017	Giving April 13, 2018	Participation April 15, 2017	Participation April 13, 2018
1958	\$145,849	\$66,336	26.5%	22.1%
1959	\$47,089	\$218,280	25.2%	22.4%
1960	\$534,827	\$607,393	39.4%	32.7%
1961	\$308,736	\$33,975	22.6%	21.7%
1962	\$332,168	\$129,917	25.9%	30.1%
1963	\$341,509	\$849,274	29.7%	30.5%
1964	\$671,309	\$156,706	32.2%	35.2%
1965	\$53,733	\$46,888	23.8%	28.2%
1966	\$367,889	\$111,842	23.9%	19.5%
1967	\$95,931	\$50,296	40.9%	32.5%
1968	\$335,070	\$341,268	26.6%	32.3%
1969	\$6,250	\$7,950	9.1%	8.8%
1970	\$125,019	\$43,212	22.4%	23.3%
1971	\$32,255	\$38,642	16.6%	18.8%
1972	\$477,774	\$230,286	20.4%	21.0%
1973	\$32,440	\$33,935	23.3%	20.8%
1974	\$92,181	\$71,817	22.2%	22.4%
1975	\$365,679	\$317,910	24.2%	21.2%
1976	\$64,246	\$44,996	21.4%	16.3%
1977	\$219,960	\$17,053	16.2%	15.8%
1978	\$225,385	\$243,491	23.0%	26.6%
1979	\$137,819	\$95,282	15.9%	18.3%
1980	\$47,200	\$46,489	17.0%	21.5%
1981	\$178,551	\$122,184	14.5%	13.8%
1982	\$445,003	\$28,239	18.5%	18.2%
1983	\$174,319	\$178,226	21.5%	21.6%
1984	\$61,083	\$44,543	17.4%	20.1%
1985	\$51,666	\$42,817	15.4%	15.4%
1986	\$31,552	\$23,466	22.6%	20.7%
1987	\$50,047	\$52,557	15.0%	10.6%

Class Year	Giving April 15, 2017	Giving April 13, 2018	Participation April 15, 2017	Participation April 13, 2018
1988	\$28,980	\$28,888	15.7%	17.9%
1989	\$15,640	\$12,435	11.1%	14.0%
1990	\$24,068	\$20,931	12.8%	15.7%
1991	\$12,454	\$6,143	24.2%	12.5%
1992	\$19,115	\$8,185	17.7%	10.5%
1993	\$33,626	\$18,765	19.6%	16.7%
1994	\$6,892	\$6,430	11.6%	12.9%
1995	\$11,107	\$10,805	15.5%	15.0%
1996	\$70,480	\$34,647	14.5%	18.1%
1997	\$13,050	\$10,724	16.6%	20.0%
1998	\$19,580	\$18,724	22.1%	18.0%
1999	\$15,130	\$11,348	18.9%	21.1%
2000	\$7,580	\$8,412	14.3%	12.0%
2001	\$18,149	\$38,315	16.6%	13.3%
2002	\$9,611	\$4,928	11.6%	12.1%
2003	\$14,589	\$20,035	17.5%	14.2%
2004	\$10,220	\$13,634	11.6%	10.6%
2005	\$15,169	\$4,567	13.4%	10.7%
2006	\$14,629	\$8,020	17.1%	10.1%
2007	\$12,075	\$4,334	9.3%	9.9%
2008	\$5,055	\$7,405	11.4%	11.3%
2009	\$4,090	\$3,381	15.0%	11.3%
2010	\$9,898	\$1,632	10.4%	8.6%
2011	\$5,459	\$5,214	11.0%	15.0%
2012	\$6,236	\$5,996	10.2%	8.9%
2013	\$776	\$712	8.6%	5.1%
2014	\$4,598	\$747	8.0%	7.4%
2015	\$926	\$2,685	7.1%	8.5%
2016	\$2,238	\$2,341	20.1%	14.8%
2017	\$	\$2,046		7.7%



## 'Jersey Brothers' author Sally Mott Freeman '76 speaks at Sweet Briar

by Amy Ostroth

"Jersey Brothers" author Sally Mott Freeman '76 was the featured speaker for the Gerhard Masur Lecture presented by Sweet Briar's Friends of the Library on Friday, April 13.

Freeman has been busy this year, following the release of her first book, "The Jersey Brothers: A Missing Naval Officer in the Pacific and His Family's Quest to Bring Him Home." The book is the true story of three brothers, all serving in World War II, and what happens when the youngest brother, Barton, goes missing in the Philippines. The middle brother, Bill, was Freeman's father.

The book is the result of a decade of research. Mott says she had to build a timeline, speak to dozens of people, and comb through trunks and storage boxes of information. It was time-consuming work. Last year, Sweet Briar asked Freeman about what the book meant to her.

"Closure," she said. "What happened to Barton, who was unaccounted for at the end of World War II, had been a long-repressed family mystery. While it



Sweet Briar alumna Sally Mott Freeman '76 speaks to the Friends of the Library as the Gerhard Masur lecturer at their annual meeting.

may have receded in time, its corrosive effect on my father and his family of origin had not. After much digging, I did find out what happened to him, and it was emphatically not what officials told the family at the time."

For more information about Friends of the Library, email LaVerne Paige at [mpaige@sbcb.edu](mailto:mpaige@sbcb.edu). ■

## Friends of Athletics events bring alumnae back to their home turf

Alumnae, students, faculty, and staff showed their competitive spirit the weekend of April 14 and 15, meeting head to head on Poplar Grove's golf course and on Sweet Briar's lacrosse field.

The games began on Saturday morning with the second Sweet Briar Classic golf tournament, where 32 golfers including two teams of students met against teams of alumnae, faculty, staff, and coaches. The Classic received more than 10 sponsorships raising nearly \$6,000. The course at Poplar Grove is one that Sweet Briar golfers are familiar with as the team



practices there during their season; the course is also open to alumnae and their families during Reunion.

On that Sunday, more than 40 alumnae, students, coaches and spectators flocked to Babcock Field for the 34th Annual Alumnae Lacrosse Game. With T-shirts reading, "Fierce, Fast & Foxy," the alumnae challenged the students and followed the game by tailgating together in the Fitness and Athletics Center. ■



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



# Online Silent Auction

**SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE**

Join us for an online auction fundraiser organized by the Sweet Briar College Alumnae Alliance to benefit our College! The funds raised from this event will benefit the Sweet Briar Fund.

Past popular items include: artwork, jewelry, golf or sports packages, beach or vacation homes, sports or concert tickets, name brand purses and Sweet Briar memorabilia.

The auction will go live on Monday, May 14, 2018 at noon, EST. We will update you with the website where you can visit to bid, bid, bid!

If you have any questions, please contact Norma Valentine '93, 2018 Alumnae Auction Chairwoman, at 803-522-2709. ■