



The Briar Wire

THE SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE ALUMNAE NEWSLETTER JUNE 2018 | VOLUME 4 | ISSUE 5

Dear Sweet Briar Alumnae and Friends,

Keeping a promise is one of the most important things we can all do in life. When we make a promise to another person, we are bonded for life; if we break the promise, we break a bond of trust. As we approach Reunion, we know that the bonds we built at Sweet Briar are iron-clad and unbreakable.

We kept the promise to the Class of 2018. Sweet Briar, the institution, was there for them throughout their college years, with dedicated faculty, administration, and staff to educate these talented women of consequence. We have also declared that we are keeping this promise to all the classes that will follow.

Many have asked me, "How can you be certain that Sweet Briar College will still be around for the foreseeable future?"

I believe that it is as simple as vision, leadership, engagement, students, and financial resources.

This past year, we welcomed a new president with a bold vision for the future, and she has recalibrated the model for liberal arts education in America through form and function. She introduced a highly-focused curriculum around an integrated core leadership program and promised to invest in our comparative advantage with three Centers of Excellence, a new calendar, and experiential learning, while driving a new standard of excellence in every quadrant of the campus. Sweet Briar is truly setting the pace for the liberal arts college of the 21st century. The faculty have already rolled up their sleeves to shape the new curriculum (in a document totaling more than 400 pages) that will become a reality in the fall of this year. The alumnae are engaged like never before, the enrollment projections are 40 percent ahead of last year's deposits, and the fundraising goals are within reach. These past three years, the nation has been watching the next chapter in the Sweet Briar story unfold, and that interest continues, especially

now, as we claim our new standing in the higher education landscape, judging by a recent New York Times article, which you can read at <https://nyti.ms/2KBaNwm>.

As I write this letter to you, we are basking in the glow of an exciting all-class reunion that honors the classes ending in 3s and 8s. As we age, we become more astute about the time that has elapsed and our perspective increases. For the first time since 2013, I was able to participate with my classmates on campus for a reunion. I am more cognizant than ever about the impact of Sweet Briar on my life over the past 39 years, when I first stepped foot on the campus.

A few thoughts come to mind, shared with me by many alumnae as we approach a reunion that transcends generations:

- "No matter the challenges and circumstances in our lives we are committed now more than ever to each other and to the future Sweet Briar College, our students and their education."
- "Our faculty, staff and board of Sweet Briar share our commitment to the College and the vision laid out by President Woo in September 2017."
- "Whatever Sweet Briar has given to each of us, in return we should give her our renewed commitment of time, talent and treasure."

As we come to the close of this transformational academic year, let us all focus on the Sweet Briar of tomorrow. Let's examine what we can do to ensure President Woo's vision and the College's distinctive liberal arts education each catalyze the next generation of women of consequence.

With gratitude,

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

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(800) 381-6131

PO Box 1057
Sweet Briar, VA 24595



Google visits Sweet Briar to teach intensive computer science course

by Amy Ostroth

Eight Sweet Briar students extended the school year by one week, taking an intensive course taught by a software engineer from Google, where they're learning to develop applications for Android.

The eight students included a newly minted alumna from the Class of 2018 and students with majors and minors including biochemistry, engineering, molecular biology, environmental design, engineering, math and, of course, computer science.

The Sweet Briar students, who have taken previous classes at the College in Python, learned Java and XML for this course. Google provided some of the starting code and helped the students understand how different elements interact. "I've really played around with the basics and see how things work," said Sophia Babieri '19. "The support and individual attention was amazing. I was able to ask questions when I had them and I love the applicability of the skills I'm learning."

Classmate Sarah Saleem '20 agrees. "I took the course because I've always had an interest in app creation, and who wouldn't want to take a class taught by Google?" she said. "It was a great environment with no pressure and guidance throughout the process. It was helpful to have my questions answered."

For a company like Google, these classes

provide an opportunity to encourage the next generation of coders. "We want to provide practical knowledge," said Googler Lauren Guerrant. "The class taught students about how projects actually happen in the workplace." She acknowledged, too, the value of encouraging women in particular to get into coding. "At Google, we're committed to designing for everyone. In order to do that, we need to understand different perspectives and to build a company that looks like the world we live in," she said.

Confidence building was an important part of the course because the more support young women get from other women in the industry, the more confidence they'll have to join the field. Course instructor Jocelyn Schulz was glad for the chance to get these students excited about coding. "I think the best thing that can come out of this class is to make software engineering less intimidating," she said. "I want these women to know that if they have an interest in it, they can do it."

Raina Robeva, professor of mathematical sciences and director of the College's Center for Engineering, Science and Technology in Society, says "The course exposed the students to best practices and taught them new skills in a non-competitive and supportive environment. In the end, that's the best way to encourage more women to enter the field, something that both Sweet Briar and Google are committed to." ■

\$4.4 million left to raise by June 30!

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.

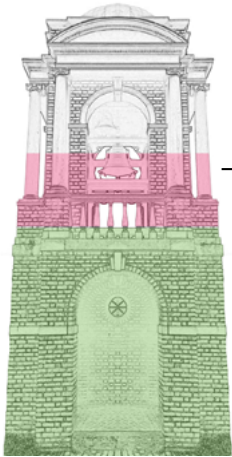
The 2018 fundraising goal for the **Sweet Briar Fund** is **\$13 million**.

CLASS CHALLENGES

Have you and your classmates made your gifts yet? Make a gift online at sbc.edu/give or call **(800) 381-6131**.

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

Goal:
\$13 million
before June 30, 2018



\$8.6 million
received in gifts
and pledges
66% of goal

\$4.4 million left
to raise!

as of 05.24.2018

Class Year	Giving June 30, 2017	Giving May 24, 2018	Participation June 30, 2017	Participation May 24, 2018
1940	\$3,175	\$16,400	7.0%	33.3%
1941	\$1,050	\$1,050	4.9%	12.5%
1942	\$52,350	\$1,300	8.0%	11.8%
1943	\$45,045	\$14,625	16.1%	23.5%
1944	\$16,308	\$19,755	33.3%	57.7%
1945	\$1,150	\$2,100	16.7%	25.0%
1946	\$63,875	\$30,100	14.0%	16.2%
1947	\$2,215	\$1,365	15.7%	18.6%
1948	\$20,402	\$13,036	24.2%	17.0%
1949	\$120,729	\$161,523	29.4%	48.6%
1950	\$59,656	\$7,800	24.4%	19.2%
1951	\$24,418	\$9,805	40.3%	39.3%
1952	\$44,593	\$37,698	48.5%	35.4%
1953	\$32,916	\$22,843	37.0%	26.4%
1954	\$47,172	\$126,540	39.2%	36.8%
1955	\$148,829	\$45,775	38.2%	38.3%
1956	\$32,455	\$32,810	27.0%	29.2%
1957	\$1,107,014	\$200,019	39.4%	33.9%

Class Year	Giving June 30, 2017	Giving May 24, 2018	Participation June 30, 2017	Participation May 24, 2018
1958	\$162,475	\$342,141	32.3%	28.1%
1959	\$254,968	\$418,680	27.5%	30.1%
1960	\$606,691	\$607,393	42.4%	38.4%
1961	\$314,516	\$36,425	28.7%	29.3%
1962	\$388,643	\$130,377	39.6%	37.2%
1963	\$681,221	\$994,211	37.1%	38.3%
1964	\$735,807	\$159,711	37.6%	42.3%
1965	\$74,200	\$48,038	30.7%	34.8%
1966	\$662,664	\$388,817	32.1%	27.6%
1967	\$132,576	\$87,004	51.6%	42.9%
1968	\$375,145	\$355,821	41.4%	52.2%
1969	\$13,675	\$8,318	12.6%	11.2%
1970	\$164,407	\$43,732	32.3%	28.1%
1971	\$60,385	\$39,342	27.3%	20.0%
1972	\$1,035,141	\$232,636	41.2%	26.0%
1973	\$46,860	\$39,435	29.7%	22.9%
1974	\$147,911	\$75,427	27.4%	24.7%
1975	\$412,835	\$320,685	35.4%	23.5%
1976	\$92,414	\$59,747	27.1%	18.4%
1977	\$244,210	\$17,178	24.1%	16.6%
1978	\$382,774	\$255,756	30.1%	29.4%
1979	\$157,303	\$95,418	24.7%	20.3%
1980	\$84,402	\$50,319	24.7%	22.5%
1981	\$195,539	\$123,959	18.5%	14.7%
1982	\$508,879	\$39,499	26.5%	19.9%
1983	\$197,383	\$184,513	27.1%	24.4%
1984	\$77,706	\$45,476	22.6%	21.7%
1985	\$1,082,803	\$46,357	23.8%	16.7%
1986	\$63,358	\$30,928	29.7%	21.6%
1987	\$79,764	\$54,607	21.6%	14.0%

Class Year	Giving June 30, 2017	Giving May 24, 2018	Participation June 30, 2017	Participation May 24, 2018
1988	\$43,928	\$35,443	20.9%%	18.8%
1989	\$29,406	\$22,235	19.7%	16.0%
1990	\$58,563	\$78,231	16.8%	18.1%
1991	\$39,765	\$9,289	30.0%	13.4%
1992	\$30,296	\$15,571	22.7%	13.4%
1993	\$46,766	\$18,840	29.7%	17.9%
1994	\$14,773	\$6,525	18.1%	13.3%
1995	\$25,632	\$11,475	27.4%	20.2%
1996	\$84,036	\$47,234	27.0%	37.4%
1997	\$20,892	\$11,825	21.5%	21.7%
1998	\$35,623	\$20,059	28.2%	25.9%
1999	\$45,598	\$11,723	22.1%	23.8%
2000	\$14,352	\$8,496	19.4%	12.8%
2001	\$39,018	\$39,625	20.9%	15.1%
2002	\$19,066	\$5,948	16.3%	12.3%
2003	\$20,134	\$20,885	24.1%	15.5%
2004	\$16,830	\$13,634	20.1%	10.6%
2005	\$24,787	\$10,757	19.3%	12.0%
2006	\$18,886	\$9,096	22.2%	12.4%
2007	\$21,524	\$4,334	17.3%	10.0%
2008	\$12,295	\$7,405	17.0%	11.5%
2009	\$8,876	\$4,031	20.8%	12.0%
2010	\$10,603	\$1,817	14.9%	9.0%
2011	\$10,114	\$5,204	15.0%	15.2%
2012	\$9,776	\$6,104	12.8%	9.4%
2013	\$1,255	\$712	10.9%	5.4%
2014	\$4,508	\$847	10.6%	7.5%
2015	\$1,626	\$2,710	10.8%	9.0%
2016	\$2,329	\$2,361	22.1%	14.9%
2017	--	\$2,046	--	7.8%

Congratulations to the Class of 2018!



English and creative writing major Emma Thom is headed to Vanderbilt University to study secondary education this fall. The two-year master's program includes licensure. "I was born in Nashville, and I am thrilled to be going back to my roots," says Emma, who plans to specialize in English.



Marina Biel has accepted a job in the land development department at Kimley-Horn as a civil engineering analyst in Delray Beach, Fla. "After interning at Kimley-Horn this past summer, I knew I was interested in working there full time," says the engineering major and math minor from Palmyra. "I'm excited to begin my professional career at a company that supports young women engineers and encourages them to perform at the highest standard."



Psychology major and sociology minor Ashton Mays is moving to Durham, N.C., to attend Duke University School of Nursing and its accelerated BSN program. "I am so very excited about this opportunity to further my career in the medical field," says Sweet Briar's recently crowned Presidential Medalist.



Claire Zak is headed to Texas A&M University for a Ph.D. program in nautical archaeology. "I plan to focus on Old World seafaring and shipwrecks, especially of the Classical era," says the archaeology and classics double-major with an anthropology minor from Saint Cloud, Fla. (Here Claire is in Ostia, the port city of Rome, during an archaeological conservation field school last summer.)



Emily Dodson will be working at M&T Bank in its Management Development Program in Richmond. "I found this program by attending a UVa Job Fair in September with career services, and I was seriously talking to a total of three companies," says the business major and environmental studies minor. Several interviews later, Emily sealed the deal: "My goal was to have a job by Christmas, but instead, I had a job by Thanksgiving!" Emily says finding that job was like "another 3-credit class" last semester. Her professors made sure she didn't fall behind in her studies. "I am so thankful to have professors who are flexible and willing to work with me," she says. "I was so supported by the Sweet Briar community." ■

Alumnae Alliance Council Column: Alumnae Admissions Ambassadors

Dear Alumnae and Friends,

We are Michelle Badger '06 and Heather Colson Ewing '90, and we serve as the co-chairs of the Admissions Ambassadors (AAs) Working Group of the Alumnae Alliance. We are thrilled to share with you the recent activities of our working group.

A few facts about AA efforts in 2017-18:

- We covered nearly 250 fairs, resulting in more than 1,400 prospects.
- We made 400 one-on-one contacts with accepted students.
- We wrote and/or called 1,500 juniors in high school.
- We wrote and/or called the legacy accepted students (they have a mother, cousin, aunt or sibling who've attended SBC.)
- We made personal visits to more than 150 high schools, sharing information about SBC with counselors, teachers, coaches, and administrators. (Personal visits are an area we'd really love to grow!)
- Most important, we represent nearly every graduating class and area of the country (even Teresa Tomlinson, SBC Board Chair, has worked multiple Georgia fairs!) And we have already had members of the Class of 2018 sign up to help.

Thank you to all who have served as AAs this year! We celebrate your efforts and ask that you continue helping in the years ahead. It's clear that our collective enthusiasm is making a significant difference to the Admissions effort!

With that in mind, we would like to encourage more alumnae to become involved as AAs. Helping Sweet Briar's admissions efforts can be an incredibly rewarding experience. Last fall, a parent asked Michelle to speak with her daughter, who was interested in studying biochemistry or molecular biology as well as playing the cello in college. The daughter wanted to learn more about the overall

experience at Sweet Briar from someone who lives in the North. Jump to May 1, and Michelle was thrilled to learn that this student has enrolled and will be a member of the Class of 2022. While there are many pieces that come together to help a student choose SBC, Michelle was proud to be a part of this young woman's decision.

Besides "I've enrolled at SBC!" one of the best comments we hear from those in the Classes of 2020, 2021, or 2022 is "I first heard of Sweet Briar at a college fair." Chances are it was because an AA (or two) were there. Indeed, recently a deposited member of the Class of 2022 shared that she only found out about SBC when she met an alumna in Florida when she attended her high school's college fair.

Another example of our impact is from a recent post on an online college parent support page. A mother wrote that she had a daughter at Smith and knew nothing about Sweet Briar until her younger daughter started receiving information. The College wasn't really on their radar until the daughter received a handwritten note from an alumna and "that really made an impression so we're going to visit in May!" We all know how important the visit to SBC can be!

If you aren't able to help officially as an AA, please think about the high school students you know, or teachers, college counselors or administrators at your area high schools and send their contact information to us. We have found that some of our best contacts and prospective students come from alumnae.

For more information on becoming an Admissions Ambassador, follow sbc.edu/alumnae-admissions-ambassadors-sign-up.

Or you can always reach out to either of us—we are on call 24/7!

Best,

Heather and Michelle

Sweet Work Weeks is back: Four years of unprecedented volunteerism

We are very excited to get the 4th annual Sweet Work Weeks underway. Alumnae, students, faculty, staff, parents, and friends of the College are welcome to return to campus as early as noon on Sunday, Jul. 29, with projects starting on Monday, Jul. 30, and continuing through noon on Aug. 18. New students move in on Aug. 17, so participants will have the opportunity to help with that!

Other projects so far this year include:

- Painting two residence halls (possibly three)
- Beautifying the grounds and academic buildings
- Working in the library and the admissions office
- Other projects to be determined.

We hope you can join us for what is sure to be a great time in service to Sweet Briar! ■



July 30 — August 17

Register now at sbc.edu/alumnae-development/sweet-work-weeks.