

The Briar Wire

Volume 9, Issue 7 | September/October 2023



My fellow alumnae and friends,

This is the time of the year when the seasons are changing, a time here at the College when we are propelled into the new academic season with vim and vigor, while the leaves change across campus. The returning students had a wonderful break with many of them tackling exciting honors projects here on campus as well as enjoying other scintillating opportunities. You can read about their work in this issue and the alumnae magazine in November.

The campus is humming with 468 students! The first-year class of 140 students are extraordinary women, with 92 of them Presidential or Dean scholars, and a quarter of them first generation. The student body comes from 42 different states and 19 countries. Full of joy and excitement after the three-week session, we enter the twelve-week session as the leaves

begin to change throughout campus, grapes are being harvested and Founders' Day, the Alumnae Leadership weekend, and Families Weekend approach.

As the students soak up the Sweet Briar experience, faculty are focused on delivering an exemplary curriculum and student life is arranging for social and cultural activities, lectures and events on and off campus. The buildings and grounds staff are wrapping up a one-year project completing phase 2 of the student spaces, generously funded by the Class of 1972 (many thanks), and giving the students attractive common spaces within every dormitory. One more commitment kept by all of us is that we will steward our natural and built environment at Sweet Briar.

In the coming month or so, you will begin to hear the "not so quiet" call to action that we deploy the alumnae cavalry through America and abroad to reintroduce Sweet Briar. We will need your help to tell our story and convey to everyone that Sweet Briar College is seeking talented and curious young women. The College offers a beautiful and safe environment with an extraordinary faculty and staff.

I hope you will join me to continue to build up Sweet Briar to be stronger and better by not only recruiting students, but also by making your best gift to the Sweet Briar Fund today (sbc.edu/give). If we all stay committed to the north star of excellence and an unmatched experience for all those students who follow us, your legacy will live on in perpetuity. Sweet Briar now and forever is as constant and as sure as the changing of the seasons.

WITH GRATITUDE,
Mary Pope M. Hutson '83
Interim President

↓
Give Today!
sbc.edu/give

ABOVE

Members of the
Class of 2027 at
this year's Daisy
Ceremony.

Board of Directors of Sweet Briar College

Mason Bennett Rummel '83, Chair
Mary Pope M. Hutson '83,
Interim President
Elizabeth Groves Aycock '96
Peter H. Bryan
Verda Colvin '87
Marianne "Mimi" C. Fahs '71
Kelley Manderson Fitzpatrick '85
Sally Mott Freeman '76, Secretary
The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
Lendon Gray '71
Fred "Buzzy" Griffin, Vice Chair
Martha Holland '72
Keenan Colton Kelsey '66
Michelle O'Neill '85
J. Chapman Petersen
Holly Prothro Philbin '95, Executive
Committee Member at Large
Stephen P. Smiley
Norma Bulls Valentine '93
Claude Becker Wasserstein '82

Alumnae Relations and Development Staff

Claire Dennison Griffith '80, Acting
Vice President of Alumnae
Relations and Development
Calli Arida, Advancement and
Stewardship Manager
Lea Sparks Bennett '83, Advancement
Services Coordinator
Pam Boydoh, Executive Assistant
Lee Anne MacKenzie Chaskes '83,
Director of the Sweet Briar Fund
Margaret McClellan Driscoll '92,
Director of Planned Giving
Paula Eanes, Director of Advancement
Services
Heather Colson Ewing '90, Admissions
Ambassadors Manager
Katie Hawk '21, Advancement Services
Associate
Caroline Chappel Hazarian '09,
Associate Director of Alumnae
Relations
Keeley Sullivan Jurgovan '92, Associate
Director of Alumnae Relations
Lisa Wray Longino '78, Senior Director
of Major Gifts and Stewardship
Rachel Pietsch, Assistant Director of
Alumnae Relations
Emily Dodson Sadler '18, Assistant
Director of the Sweet Briar Fund
Clélie D. D. Steckel, Director of
Development Communications
and Data Analytics
Megan Sunwall, Alumnae Relations
and Development Assistant



ABOVE

June Alomari '24 works on her research project in one of Guion's labs.

Honors Summer Research

Each year, the Honors Program awards fellowships to a select group of Sweet Briar students to support them in conducting independent research projects under the supervision of a faculty member. The Honors Summer Research Program is an eight-week, on-campus program that brings together students and faculty from all disciplines. The program creates a unique academic experience for the participants by providing the opportunity for intensely focused research, a one-on-one working relationship with a faculty mentor, or mentors, and weekly meetings and presentations by both faculty and students highlighting their ongoing research as well as research methodologies across the academic disciplines.

Protein Suppression in Ovarian Cancer

Rising seniors June Alomari and Shannon Carter have worked closely at Sweet Briar this summer with Dr.

Kala Bonner to examine the effects of protein suppression in the treatment of ovarian cancer, particularly high grade serous ovarian cancer, which is the most common and lethal form of ovarian cancer.

June's research involved suppressing a protein found in cancer cells to determine whether it affects the cancer cells' ability to metastasize throughout the body. Shannon's research also involved protein suppression, but her goal was to see how the protein affects cancer cells' ability to proliferate.

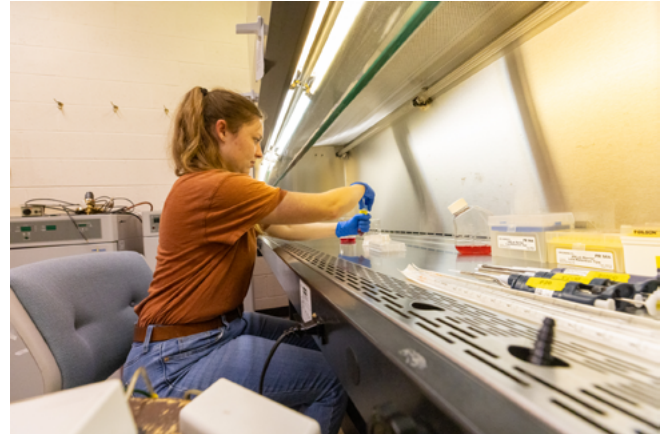
Shannon says she came to Sweet Briar intending to become a veterinarian, but now plans on continuing cancer research in graduate school. "I got into cancer biology on accident. I dropped a business class and needed to fill the spot, so I took cancer biology. Loved it. So now I'm on track to research cancer post grad. Dr. Bonner's graduate research was with the same protein, MACF1 in Glioblastoma, which is brain can-

cer; studies suggest that there is a correlation between MACF1 expression and treatment resistance in ovarian cancer, so we decided to explore.”

June sees her research as an important step in reaching her goal of becoming a gynecologist. “Doing this research helps me learn more about different diseases that impact people with uteruses, as well as help me be a better member of society and prepare me for my academic endeavors in the future.”

“There’s a misconception that because Sweet Briar is a small school you can’t scale down big research projects like this to fit our resources, but you totally can,” adds June. “I want other students to know that they can do amazing research here.”

June, from Sterling, Virginia, is majoring in biology and minoring in English and creative writing. Shannon, from King George, Virginia, is a biology major and chemistry minor, as well as a member of the IHSA equestrian team. ●



Summer 2023 Projects

Parboni Dey '25: Effects of Organic Fertilizers on N Mineralization and Soil Organic Carbon Sequestration Mediated by Iron Minerals; Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Lili Lei

Audrey Flattich '26: Mountains and Majestic Vistas: Investigating How Virginia Wineries Make and Market Place; Faculty Sponsors: Dr. August Hardy and Dr. Lisa Powell

Olivia Heffernan '25: The Mysteries, Mysteria, and Mystai of Ancient Greco-Roman Religion; Faculty Sponsors: Dr. Erin Pitt and Dr. Tracy Chapman-Hamilton

Nishu Hoque '25: Zinc Whisker Growth Mitigation Via Reduced Mechanical Deformation; Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michelle Gervasio

Julia Jessen '24: Reduce, Reuse, or Recycle? Economic Incentives Effects on Disposable Plastic Bag Usage; Faculty Sponsor: Dr. August Hardy

Elizabeth McElveen '25: Shattering into Pieces: Destruction Through the Lens of Art and Philosophy; Faculty Sponsors: Dr. Kimberly Morse-Jones and Dr. Chris Penfield

Ana Patino '25: Developing solid insulators with 3D printing materials and analyzing their breakdown phenomena under various environmental conditions; Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Farhina Haque

ABOVE

Shannon Carter '24 runs one of the tests for her research project under a vent hood in Guion.

BELOW

Olivia Heffernan '25 conducts research in the Mary Helen Cochran Library.



SWEET WORK WEEKS 2023



ABOVE

Some of the volunteers from Sweet Work Weeks 2023 stopped for a group photo in the '72 Student Commons Courtyard.

BELOW

Kate Schlech '70 paints a lamppost in front of a faculty member's home on Woodland Road.
Photo credit:
Vikki Schroeder '87.



SWEET WORK WEEKS 2023



One of the Sweet Work Weeks crews showing off their hard work on Farmhouse Road.
Photo credit: Vikki Schroeder '87.

Jess Hiveley '97 and
Vikki Schroeder '87,
Sweet Work Weeks Co-Chairs.
Photo credit:
Annamarie Spencer '13.



Ellen Harrison Saunders '75 pauses while weeding "Uplift," the sculpture behind Cochran Library.
Photo credit: Vikki Schroeder '87.

FY 2023 FINAL CLASS STATISTICS

Class Year	Giving June 30, 2023	Participation June 30, 2023
1950	\$33,058	31.0%
1951	\$106,623	35.3%
1952	\$19,848	49.1%
1953	\$167,513	28.6%
1954	\$1,501,925	35.8%
1955	\$25,904	40.7%
1956	\$19,700	29.0%
1957	\$152,334	34.8%
1958	\$518,556	33.3%
1959	\$448,295	34.4%
1960	\$876,882	37.4%
1961	\$141,761	40.0%
1962	\$1,829,095	36.1%
1963	\$986,238	41.7%
1964	\$142,691	42.9%
1965	\$130,650	39.9%
1966	\$217,566	32.9%
1967	\$96,200	31.7%

Class Year	Giving June 30, 2023	Participation June 30, 2023
1968	\$148,165	59.5%
1969	\$39,260	22.5%
1970	\$87,537	33.3%
1971	\$322,942	36.4%
1972	\$684,693	30.5%
1973	\$295,192	44.5%
1974	\$175,205	24.6%
1975	\$1,630,336	32.7%
1976	\$141,148	19.9%
1977	\$78,106	30.1%
1978	\$315,687	39.2%
1979	\$127,343	18.9%
1980	\$38,460	28.2%
1981	\$656,995	18.3%
1982	\$429,739	18.1%
1983	\$114,900	32.2%
1984	\$54,149	24.6%
1985	\$68,510	21.4%

Reunion Giving & Participation Awards

The Nancy Dowd Burton '46 Award

2023 Recipient: 1963

Given to the class celebrating an anniversary Reunion year with the highest total giving to Sweet Briar in the current fiscal year.

The Centennial Award

2023 Recipient: 1963

Given to the class celebrating an anniversary Reunion year with the highest total giving to Sweet Briar over the last five years since their last anniversary Reunion year.

Visionary Class Award

2023 Recipients: 1954, 1962, 1975

Given to any class that contributes \$1 million or more to any funds at Sweet Briar within one fiscal year.

The Nancy Godwin Baldwin '57 Award

2023 Recipient: 1973

Given to the class celebrating an anniversary Reunion year with the highest percentage of its members attending Reunion.

Participation Award, Post-50th Classes

2023 Recipient: 1968

Given to the class celebrating an anniversary Reunion year after their 50th Reunion with the highest participation in giving to Sweet Briar.

FY 2023 FINAL CLASS STATISTICS

Class Year	Giving June 30, 2023	Participation June 30, 2023
1986	\$48,693	37.0%
1987	\$16,628	11.7%
1988	\$30,163	29.3%
1989	\$14,982	12.8%
1990	\$33,582	17.2%
1991	\$7,213	27.4%
1992	\$41,580	20.5%
1993	\$26,246	25.0%
1994	\$4,154	17.0%
1995	\$32,781	32.7%
1996	\$18,501	30.8%
1997	\$13,783	26.0%
1998	\$65,221	32.8%
1999	\$17,600	12.3%
2000	\$4,574	11.4%
2001	\$7,110	11.4%
2002	\$14,614	15.2%
2003	\$22,566	14.6%

Class Year	Giving June 30, 2023	Participation June 30, 2023
2004	\$2,643	10.9%
2005	\$1,750	7.0%
2006	\$12,341	23.1%
2007	\$5,452	11.7%
2008	\$6,561	21.5%
2009	\$1,780	7.3%
2010	\$3,531	9.1%
2011	\$4,645	8.1%
2012	\$5,803	10.4%
2013	\$624	4.8%
2014	\$1,766	6.7%
2015	\$2,885	12.3%
2016	\$800	6.4%
2017	\$81	1.0%
2018	\$960	8.0%
2019	\$135	6.7%
2020	\$1,025	7.5%
2021	\$152	7.5%
2022	\$620	4.3%

Participation Award, 25th through 50th Reunion Classes

2023 Recipient: 1973

Given to the class celebrating an anniversary Reunion year between their 25th and 50th years with the highest participation in giving to Sweet Briar.

Participation Award, 5th through 20th Reunion Classes

2023 Recipient: 2008

Given to the class celebrating an anniversary Reunion year between their 5th and 20th years with the highest participation in giving to Sweet Briar.

FY 2023 Success

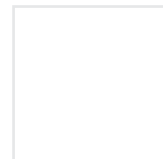
Total Raised: \$18,746,632

Sweet Briar Fund Total: \$6,546,578

Restricted Total: \$2,119,854

Where Women Lead Campaign Total:
\$10,080,200

Final Overall Alumnae Participation Rate: 30.5%



Fall 2023 Schedule of Events

Founders' Weekend	September 15-16	Field Hockey @ Randolph-Macon College	October 21
Writers Series: Lynn Emanuel & Maggie Anderson	September 19	Soccer vs. Greensboro College	October 22
Soccer vs. Trinity Washington College	September 20	Gager Concert Series: Miramar	October 23
Alumnae Volunteer Leadership Weekend	September 22-24	Writers Series: Leslie Jamison	October 25
Soccer @ Averett University	September 27	Field Hockey vs. University of Lynchburg	October 25
Fall Admissions Open House	September 29-30	The Tempest	October 26-29
Field Hockey vs. Eastern Mennonite University	September 30	Field Hockey vs. Shenandoah University	October 28
IHSA Fall Horse Show	October 1	Soccer vs. University of California Santa Cruz	October 30
Field Hockey vs. Washington & Lee University	October 4	NCEA vs. University of Lynchburg	November 3
VCCA Salon	October 4	VCCA Salon	November 8
Soccer @ William Peace University	October 5	NCEA vs. Sewanee	November 10
Families Weekend	October 6-8	Fall Admissions Open House	November 10
97th Annual Horse Show	October 7	Babcock Season: Hub New Music	November 14
Field Hockey @ Roanoke College	October 7	Thanksgiving Break (students)	November 17-26
Soccer @ Warren Wilson College	October 8	Winter Elite Equestrian Junior Clinic	November 17-18
Writers Series: Kristina R. Gaddy	October 10	Fall Dance Concert	December 1-2
Admissions Counselor Open House	October 11	Daisy's Harp Concert	December 6
Field Hockey @ Virginia Wesleyan University	October 11	Winter In-House Horse Show	December 8
Fall Break (students)	October 12-15	Equestrian Talent Search Clinic	December 9-10
Field Hockey vs. Bridgewater College	October 14	Applied Music Students Recital	December 11
Soccer vs. Trinity Washington College	October 18	Reading Day	December 14
Field Hockey @ Ferrum College	October 18	Exams	December 15-17
Fall Admissions Open House	October 21	Winter Break Begins (students)	December 18

Schedule is subject to change.

Please visit sbc.edu/events to check for details and locations for campus events.

Check vixenathletics.com/calendar to see details and locations for athletics events, including riding.