WATERWAYS OF THE TSARS
ST. PETERSBURG TO MOSCOW ABOARD THE VOLGA DREAM

JULY 28 TO AUGUST 11, 2008
Dear Sweet Briar Alumnae and Friends,

Please join us for a very special midsummer voyage aboard the M.S. Volga Dream. As we navigate the gentle Russian waterways, the countryside will unfold, revealing a fascinating land of peaceful villages and domed monasteries. St. Petersburg and Moscow will delight us with their splendid palaces, extraordinary museum collections and architectural treasures.

Our journey begins in St. Petersburg, the most beautiful of Russian cities. We will be privileged to enter the Hermitage Museum before hours and attend a private evening concert in its opulent Italian Hall. At Catherine’s Palace, we will see the exquisitely restored Amber Room and at elegant Peterhof admire the whimsical fountains, cascades and terraced gardens.

During a splendid week-long cruise along the Volga, mother of Russian rivers, the landscapes through which we sail will provide a glimpse into Russian history. Ports of call include Valaam, a holy site in Russian Orthodoxy; the small island of Kizhy for a visit to the fantastic Church of the Transfiguration; the peaceful village of Goritsy; the Golden Ring city of Yaroslavl and medieval Uglich. For our evening pleasures, an ensemble of talented Russian musicians will perform on board.

Our journey concludes with a three-night stay in Moscow, where we will see the stellar collections at the Old Tretyakov Gallery and the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts. Other highlights include a private viewing of the treasures of the Armory Museum and a performance by the legendary Bolshoi company.

This exciting trip is co-sponsored by the alumni association of Washington and Lee University and members of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

We hope you will join us.

Sincerely,

Louise Swiecki Zingaro, ’80
Executive Director of Alumnae Affairs
NEW YORK

Monday, July 28  Depart on an overnight flight to St. Petersburg.

ST. PETERSBURG

Tuesday, July 29  Arrive late this morning in vibrant St. Petersburg. Islands, canals, bridges and pastel-colored palaces in the neoclassical and Russian baroque styles make this the most beautiful of Russian cities. Visit the gold-domed St. Isaac’s Cathedral, a symbol of imperial opulence, before arriving at the Corinthia Nevskij Palace Hotel. Gather for a festive welcome dinner with remarks by Lamar Cecil.

ST. PETERSBURG

Wednesday, July 30  This morning visit the baroque Winter Palace where, by special arrangement, we enter the Hermitage Museum before it opens to the public. The museum’s four hundred rooms contain spectacular examples of nearly all schools of Western art, including one of the greatest collections of French Impressionist and Post-Impressionist works. A private visit is arranged to one of the Hermitage’s treasuries of gold objects and precious jewelry. After lunch the afternoon is at leisure. Gather this evening for a private after-hours tour of Old Masters in the Hermitage and an operatic concert in its lavishly ornate Italian Hall.

ST. PETERSBURG

Thursday, July 31  Drive to Tsar’s Village to visit Catherine’s Palace, masterpiece of the Italian architect Rastrelli, before it opens to the public. See the exquisitely restored Amber Room, a painstaking 25 years in the making. The chamber is covered with more than a ton of amber, replicating mosaics, frescos and wood carvings. Enjoy a stroll in the formal gardens. Continue to nearby Pavlovsk Palace, built in the 18th century for Catherine’s son, Paul I, and housing beautiful decorative arts. Following lunch in the palace restaurant, the balance of the day is at leisure.
**ST. PETERSBURG | M.S. VOLGA DREAM**

**Friday, August 1**  Drive to Oranienbaum, with its ornate Chinese Palace designed by Antonio Rinaldi.  Continue to elegant Peterhof to see the fountain-filled lower gardens and Peter the Great’s favorite pavilion, Mon Plaisir.  Enjoy lunch in the Orangerie Restaurant in the palace gardens.  Continue by hydrofoil to the M.S. Volga Dream and celebrate the beginning of our cruise with a cocktail and dinner on this festive summer night.

**VALAAM**

**Saturday, August 2**  Step ashore this morning on the largest of the islands of Valaam, an archipelago in Lake Ladoga.  Visit the Monastery of the Transfiguration of the Savior, a holy site of Russian orthodoxy, with its brilliant-blue domes set against granite ledges and high mountains.  At teatime we continue our cruise on Lake Ladoga past a shoreline dotted with willows, alder trees and stately pines.

**SVIR RIVER CRUISE**

**Sunday, August 3**  Enjoy the shipboard amenities, lectures and entertainment as we cruise the Svir River.  A brief stop in the village of Mandrogi provides a glimpse of daily countryside life and a chance to view traditional Russian folk arts and crafts.

**KIZHY | LAKE ONEGA**

**Monday, August 4**  This morning discover the picturesque, tiny island of Kizhy, a UNESCO World Heritage Site on Lake Onega.  The open-air Museum of Architecture includes the Church of the Transfiguration, an onion-domed masterpiece built without a single metal nail.  Enjoy lunch on board as we cruise Lake Onega.

**GORITSY**

**Tuesday, August 5**  Cross Lake Beloye, or the White Lake, formerly known as the “tsar’s fishing grounds.”  After lunch, arrive in the peaceful village of Goritsy to tour the Kirilov Belozersky Monastery with its frescoed 13th-century Cathedral of the Assumption.  See the collection of ancient icons and religious artifacts at the monastery’s museum.  Reboard the Volga Dream for dinner in the bright evening light.
YAROSLavl

Wednesday, August 6 The oldest city on the Volga, Yaroslavl was largely unharmed during World War II. See the Monastery of the Transfiguration of the Savior, noted for its architecture and icons, and the Church of St. Elijah the Prophet, richly decorated with frescoes. There will be time at leisure to browse in the local craft shops before returning to the ship.

UGLICH

Thursday, August 7 Ancient Uglich is now a “living museum” showcasing traditional Russian arts and culture. Highlights include the Chapel of Dimitry, the 17th-century architectural treasure built on the site where the young son of Ivan the Terrible met his death. Also see the five-domed Church of the Transfiguration, noted for its beautiful iconostasis, and attend a concert of choral music. Return to the Volga Dream for lunch as we cruise past the small villages. Join the captain this evening for a festive gala dinner.

MOSCOW

Friday, August 8 After lunch, disembark the Volga Dream in Moscow, Russia’s cultural and emotional heart. During an architectural tour, visit Red Square and see St. Basil’s Cathedral with its fanciful colored onion domes. View Lenin’s tomb, the red-brick Kremlin towers and the golden cupolas of the Kremlin cathedrals. Continue to the Marriott Royal Aurora Hotel; dinner and the evening are at leisure.

MOSCOW

Saturday, August 9 Enter the Kremlin grounds this morning, before public hours, to view the tsarist treasures at the Armory Museum, including royal coaches, thrones, bejeweled crowns and Fabergé creations. Continue to the beautifully frescoed 15th-century Assumption and Annunciation Cathedrals. Following lunch, discover the prized collection of icons and Russian art at the Old Tretyakov Gallery. This evening we plan to attend an opera or ballet performance by the world-famous Bolshoi company.

MOSCOW

Sunday, August 10 During a morning visit to the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts, view its outstanding collection of Old Masters and gold jewelry from Schliemann’s excavations of Troy. Also see the noted collection of French Impressionists works that are housed in an adjacent palace. Lunch and the afternoon are at leisure. Gather this evening for a farewell reception and dinner in the hotel.

MOSCOW | NEW YORK

Monday, August 11 Depart on a morning flight home.
Cruise Russia’s historic waterways in comfort and style aboard the deluxe, 111-passenger M.S. Volga Dream, celebrated for its meticulous design, elegant appointments and impeccable service. All staterooms and suites are outside and feature a wood- and marble-accented private bathroom, air conditioning, telephone, satellite television with VCR, radio, safe and plush robes. Each standard stateroom has a large picture window. Continental cuisine is served along with Russian specialties, and complimentary wine is offered at meals. The inviting lounge, decorated with paintings by young Russian artists, offers a well-stocked bar and panoramic windows, and the library features a diverse selection of films on videotape as well as e-mail access. Other shipboard amenities include a boutique, hair salon, fitness room and sauna. A doctor accompanies the voyage. The full-length Sun Deck with teak planking and deck chairs recreates the ambiance of an ocean-going yacht and is a lovely setting for deck lunches and barbecues.
LAND | CRUISE RATES
(Per Person, Double Occupancy)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cabins</th>
<th>Decks</th>
<th>Rates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>101 to 108</td>
<td>Cabin Deck</td>
<td>$6,395</td>
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<tr>
<td>201 to 210</td>
<td>Main Deck</td>
<td>$7,495</td>
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<tr>
<td>301 to 315 &amp; 317 to 324</td>
<td>Promenade Deck</td>
<td>$8,495</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deluxe Cabin. Double bed. Single supplement of $5,000.</td>
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<tr>
<td>406 to 409, 411 &amp; 412</td>
<td>Sun Deck</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Superior Stateroom. Twin beds.</td>
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<td>316 &amp; 405</td>
<td>Promenade &amp; Sun Decks</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Junior Suite. Double bed.</td>
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<td>402 to 404</td>
<td>Sun Deck</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Superior Junior Suite. Double bed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>300</td>
<td>Promenade Deck</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Owner's Suite. Double bed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>325, 326 &amp; 410</td>
<td>Various Decks</td>
<td>$6,995</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Standard Single Cabins.</td>
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Rates Include

- Three nights accommodations at the deluxe Corinthia Nevskij Palace Hotel, St. Petersburg
- Seven nights cabin accommodations aboard the M.S. Volga Dream
- Three nights accommodations at the deluxe Marriott Royal Aurora Hotel, Moscow
- All meals during the cruise. On land portion: buffet breakfast daily, four lunches and two dinners. Complimentary wine with dinners on cruise and at welcome and farewell dinners on land
- Opera concert at the Hermitage
- Bolshoi performance in Moscow
- Enrichment program of lectures and special events
- Escorted sightseeing and entrance fees for visits
- Airport / hotel / pier group transfers and porterage
- Gratuities to guides and drivers
- Taxes; port and service charges

Not Included in Rates: International airfare; passport and visa fees; customary shipboard gratuities; alcoholic beverages other than wine at dinners on cruise and at welcome and farewell dinners on land; personal items and expenses; airport transfers for those not on group flights; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically included.

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Please note: There is no elevator aboard the M.S. Volga Dream.

Neva Lounge on Sun Deck.

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SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE | RESERVATION APPLICATION

WATERWAYS OF THE TSARS | JULY 28 TO AUGUST 11, 2008

To reserve a place, please complete and return this form with your deposit of $1,000 per person (of which $350 is non-refundable for administrative fees) payable to Academic Arrangements Abroad. Mail to: Sweet Briar Alumnae Association, Boxwood Alumnae House, Sweet Briar, VA 24595.

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NAME CLASS

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

TELEPHONE (HOME) (BUSINESS)

FAX E-MAIL

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ACCOMMODATIONS

M.S. Volga Dream Cabin Preference 1. 2.
Hotel Room Preference Double Twin Single
I wish to share a cabin/room with

FORM OF PAYMENT

Enclosed is my check (payable to Academic Arrangements Abroad).
Credit card deposit of $1,000 per person for a total of $ Final payment must be made by check.

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NAME AS ON CREDIT CARD 5- OR 4-DIGIT SECURITY CODE

CREDIT CARD NUMBER EXPIRATION DATE

Each participant must sign below. I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the Terms & Conditions of this program. I/We agree to full payment by check 120 days prior to departure.

SIGNATURE REQUIRED DATE

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For more information, please contact Melissa Coffey '98 at the Sweet Briar Alumnae Office
Telephone (434) 381-6243 or (800) 381-6131 Fax (434) 381-6132 E-mail: mcoffey@sbc.edu
Specially negotiated round-trip airfare will be of which $350 is non-refundable for administrative fees, is required with the reservation application. Final payment, by check only, must be received 120 days prior to departure.

Health All participants must be in good health. This program involves walking over uneven surfaces and climbing stairs at monuments and other locations not handicapped accessible. Any condition that may require assistance or special medical attention or other accommodation must be reported at the time of your reservation. Please note: there is no elevator aboard the M.S. Volga Dream.

Insurance Trip Cancellation / Emergency Medical Evacuation / Baggage / Accident and Sickness Insurance Protection is Strongly Recommended. Cancellation Penalties Are Strictly Enforced. Sweet Briar College will send an insurance application upon receipt of deposit, although you may select an alternative insurer of your choice.

Changes in Itinerary & Costs The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Sweet Briar College (SBC) and Academic Arrangements Abroad (AAA). All prices quoted are based on prevailing fuel prices, airfares and currency exchange rates in effect as of November 2007 and are subject to change without notice. Deviations from the scheduled itinerary are at the expense of the individual.

Responsibility Clause The participation of SBC is limited to educational sponsorship of the program described in this brochure (The Program). AAA acts only as an agent for the participant with respect to transportation, accommodations and all other services, relating to The Program. AAA, SBC and/or their agents assume no responsibility or liability for any act, error or omission, or for any injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned by reason of any defect in any aircraft, ship, train, bus or other carrier, or through neglect or default of any subcontractor or other third party, which may be used wholly or in part in the performance of their duty to the participants of The Program. The passage ticket issued by the carrier is the sole contract between the participant and the carrier. Nor will AAA or SBC and/or their agents be responsible for loss, injury, damages or expenses to persons or property, due to illness, weather, strikes, local laws, hostilities, wars, terrorist acts, acts of nature or other such causes in connection with The Program or anything beyond their reasonable control. AAA is not responsible for transportation or other program delays and changes, nor additional expenses or loss of time that may be incurred. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort or well-being of the participants, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter the itinerary at any time, without notice to the participants, such alterations will be made without penalty to AAA or SBC. Additional expenses, if any, shall be borne by the participants. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the participant at all times. SBC and AAA reserve the right to accept or decline any person as a participant at any time, or to require any participant to withdraw from The Program at their own expense when such an action is determined by AAA or SBC to be in the best interest of the participant’s health and safety, or the general welfare of the other participants.

Cancellation Policy AAA must strictly adhere to its cancellation policy to offset costs incurred prior to the commencement of The Program, which may include but are not limited to: advance payments to land operators; ship charters; communication expenses; development/promotional expenses and the loss of time that might have permitted resale of reserved space. All cancellations must be made in writing to the offices of AAA, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10018-3721, and are subject to a $350 non-refundable administrative fee. All refunds are limited to amounts actually received by AAA and are the sole responsibility of AAA; SBC shall have no liability for refunds. At the time AAA receives written notification of cancellation, the following cancellation charges will apply: cancellations received between 120 and 91 days prior to departure, 20 percent of program cost per person; those received between 90 and 61 days before departure, 50 percent of program cost per person; no refunds will be given for cancellations received within 60 days of departure. No refunds are given for cancellation on or after the day of departure, or for unused portions of the tour, for any reason. Air cancellation charges, if any, will be assessed in accordance with airline regulations. All group fare tickets must be issued no less than 30 days prior to departure. NOTE: Neither AAA nor SBC shall be liable for any airline cancellation penalties incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable ticket. In the case of a cancellation due to shortage of participants, AAA will attempt to notify all participants at least 45 days prior to departure. However, AAA reserves the right to cancel The Program prior to departure for any reason and, in such case, reimbursement of refundable costs of the trip by AAA shall constitute full settlement with the participant. In the unlikely event that a dispute arises between a participant and AAA or SBC, the following conditions will apply: (a) the dispute will be settled by binding arbitration administered by the American Arbitration Association in New York, NY; (b) the dispute will be governed by New York Law; (c) the maximum amount of recovery to which a participant shall be entitled under any and all circumstances will be the sum of all monies actually received from the participant by AAA. The participant agrees that this is a fair and reasonable limitation on the damages, of any sort whatsoever, that a participant may suffer. Upon payment of the deposit to AAA, the participant agrees to be bound by the above terms and conditions.

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On the cover: The Church of the Transfiguration, Kizhi, photo by Maren Romney.