Celebrating International Programs with a focus on 60 Years in Paris
The spring and summer of 2007 brought many transitions to the Boxwood Alumnae House. With gratitude, sadness, and good wishes for the future, we have weathered the retirements of Sandra Maddox AH ’59, Assistant to the Alumnae Director, and Nancy Godwin Baldwin ’57, Editor of the Alumnae Magazine. I joined the Alumnae Office just in time to work alongside Nancy as her assistant, to learn from her impeccable editing skill, and to understand more about the institution of Sweet Briar from her perspective of its history and legacy. Still feeling a little as if I’ve just stepped off the podium at commencement, I know it will be a challenge at the very least to fill Nancy’s shoes, but I hope you enjoy the magazine just the same as I begin the task of gathering, editing, and recording our campus news for you.

Sweet Briar has been for me a place full of opportunity available nowhere else. As a student, I spent three years on campus and one year abroad at the University of St. Andrews that challenged me academically and influenced the way I live today. Without Sweet Briar, I doubt sincerely that I would have had the opportunity to travel, and I certainly would not have had the courage. Scholarships granted by generous alumnae urged me to take a risk, leave the continent, and open my heart and mind to discovery. That year gave me great confidence in myself and my education and allowed me to overcome some of my greatest fears.

I know that many of you have had similar experiences abroad through a Sweet Briar program and that is what this issue is all about. As the Sweet Briar Junior Year in France program nears its 60th anniversary, we have used this issue to celebrate the value of those years. You will read stories from those transformed by the enchanting city streets of Paris and classes at the institutions in Paris and Tours. Other programs, such as Junior Year in Spain, have also given students from Sweet Briar and other colleges the chance to challenge themselves by living abroad. These programs are a testimony to SBC’s community and international outreach.

Finally, I would like to offer a special thanks to all those who have given their thought, creativity, and time to this issue of the magazine. It was my pleasure to work with such a willing, enthusiastic, and accomplished group of contributors.

Sincerely,

Colleen Karaffa Murray ’06 in Citta della Pievè, Italy
Early in the film, *An American in Paris*, Gene Kelly’s character is showing his paintings along a sidewalk in Montmartre when a young woman stops and critiques his work. As she walks away, he refers to her as one of those “Third-year girls.” In 1951, that would have meant a Sweet Briar Junior Year in France student. I have always wished he had said that instead, although for the sake of verisimilitude, her comments should have been more insightful.

In recent years, colleges and universities throughout the United States have jumped on the bandwagon of international education. This new trend has been a hallmark of Sweet Briar’s educational philosophy for well over half a century. Although we truly are the venerable standard bearer, we are far from complacent. In addition to our long-standing programs in Paris, Seville, Urbino, Heidelberg, and St. Andrews, Sweet Briar students in recent years have participated in over sixty different programs that literally stretch around the globe from Australia to Zambia.

While students from the very best colleges in the nation, including our own, continue to enroll for an academic year in our Junior Year programs in Paris and Seville, a growing number of them spend a single semester abroad, or they combine successive semesters in two different countries. Summer programs and short-term experiences are also growing in popularity. We recently initiated summer programs in Seville and Paris to provide students with a first-rate option in the summer.

Our students have also benefited from internships and service experiences abroad ranging in the past few months alone from working in the Sarkozy administration in France, to improving the infrastructure in a rural Guatemalan school, to teaching in Germany.

In 1951, the advantages of studying abroad were primarily to strengthen one’s language skills and to learn about another culture by participating in it. In 2007, these remain true, but a new critical component is to gain a clearer understanding of the global community and to see our place in it from a different vantage point.

The six Sweet Briar Promises (Advising Teams, Independent Research, Potential for Self-Designed Majors, Internships and Work Experience, Leadership Program, and Study Abroad) are all intended to help students become independent leaders in a world community. The Study Abroad component is the College’s guarantee that every academically eligible student who wishes to study abroad will have that opportunity.

International education, which has long been part of the history of Sweet Briar, has now become an important part of the future of our nation and the world. As our centennial banners stated: “Sweet Briar College, Always Ahead of Our Time.” We are proud to have our students studying and working throughout the world. This is often made possible through the generosity of alumnae and friends of the college whose support of scholarship funds allows deserving students to have life-changing educational experiences abroad. With their continued support, we remain committed to assuring that our students have the first-hand experiences they need to truly appreciate their distinctive role in our contemporary global culture.
New Recruiter for Admissions Encourages the Study Abroad Experience

JILL E. GAVITT ’97, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS, SPECIAL PROGRAM RECRUITER

Assistant Director of Admissions, Special Program Recruiter is my title at Sweet Briar. It’s a brand new position and if your eyebrows rose at the sight of it, you can imagine that I frequently need to explain my role and responsibilities. This position was created in the summer of 2006 as the need at Sweet Briar arose for someone to attend the majority of study abroad fairs in other states and be a representative of our programs. Sweet Briar has well-known study abroad programs in Paris, France and Seville, Spain that I hope many of you took advantage of as students. If you did study abroad in one of those two locations, you had the opportunity to meet students from different colleges and universities traveling with SBC. These students made the choice to come on our programs because of the excellent quality of our experience and the well-known reputation we have worked hard to establish. I focus on continuing to recruit and attract these students from other institutions.

In my position as a recruiter, I love meeting students who are ecstatic to go abroad. It’s a time of many firsts for them—a first passport, a first overnight plane ride, a first time immersed in a foreign language. I can’t help but share in their excitement because I know from my own experiences where this adventure will lead them. My own study abroad in Seville came just at the right time in my intellectual development. I felt like I had conquered college and was ready for a new challenge. Living and studying in an immersion environment gave me that test. I encountered strange and exotic things, such as the ham hock and colorful African fruits in my señora’s pantry. Despite differences, I soon found that life in Spain was much to my liking, and I easily adapted to the traditional schedule of Andalusia, which included returning home to eat almuerzo with the family, the delightful siesta, and social outings that started at 11:30 p.m. It was difficult to return to the States, especially to a J-term education internship in cold, snowy Rhode Island, but I knew adventure was just a plane ride away.

I lived abroad in Japan for two years after graduation and had the opportunity to travel in Southeast Asia. Afterward, I returned to the USA to teach middle and then elementary school Spanish. I loved sharing firsthand experiences with my students and seeing their faces light up at the idea of a life beyond the familiar. They always had plenty of questions: What did I eat there? What did kids do? How did I call home? They loved the idea that they could study abroad while in college—particularly that it wouldn’t come with an outrageous price tag. They declared that they couldn’t wait to get there. Maybe I will see them someday at a study abroad fair, but until that day arrives, I have the opportunity to speak to hundreds of students each fall about possibilities waiting for them overseas. I educate them about the benefits of Sweet Briar’s programs, our reputation for excellence, and our directors’ careful management of all aspects of their experience abroad.

Our prospective undergraduates cherish the distinct connections they make with their counselors. After all, didn’t we all choose Sweet Briar because we relished that personal attention? Why shouldn’t it be the same for students from other institutions joining us for a semester or year overseas? Last fall, I saw 496 students at 15 different colleges’ study abroad fairs. After every fair, I mailed each student a handwritten postcard thanking them for their interest and encouraging them to contact me with questions. Our prospective study abroad participants received notice immediately that the Sweet Briar programs would give them individualized assistance to maximize their time in Europe. On the final rosters, I was happy to see numerous familiar names. I knew that my conversations with some of these students influenced their choice. Several of them have since shared with me that they loved their experiences with us and were so happy to have learned of the opportunities we offered. At the fairs, I was also able to speak with many underclassmen who are not yet eligible for our programs, but who expressed a strong desire to join us when the time comes.

Our programs demand a high level of student achievement. Students must have at least a 3.0 GPA in both their language and general studies. They are required to have taken at least one language class beyond the intermediate level. They must be prepared to live with a host family and study with native students directly at the university. Today, there are a plethora of study abroad choices for students and many have done away with the language immersion aspect. My position allows Sweet Briar to make more individual connections with the best and the brightest to maintain our high academic standards.

Everyone involved in study abroad has a story like mine, a story that revolves around the life-altering experiences brought about by time out of the country. We are passionate about continuing that tradition through offering programs that are the best in their field.
Sweet Briar Girls on the Go!

As Director of International Studies, I am in charge of many aspects of International Learning on campus. My day is divided between helping international students adjust to life in the United States and helping U.S. students find the right study abroad program(s) for them. Often, I work with degree-seeking international students who also study abroad from Sweet Briar.

This summer, the Sweet Briar International Studies Office set a record with 48 students traveling abroad on 21 different programs. Six of these were SBC-managed programs and included new programs in France, Guatemala, Botswana/South Africa, and Germany. In total, from fall 2006 through summer 2007, 75 students studied abroad in the following countries: Australia, Italy, Costa Rica, Ireland, Czech Republic, New Zealand, United Kingdom, France, Germany, China, South Africa, Thailand, Brazil, Guatemala, Greece, Turkey, Bulgaria, Ecuador, Chile, Peru, Nicaragua, Mexico, Panama, Netherlands, Russia, and Botswana. We anticipate 40 students will study abroad during the 2007–2008 academic year and many more the following summer.

The riding program in Botswana/South Africa, the education internship in Germany, and the Engineering project in Guatemala were each accompanied by a faculty member who had not led groups to the destination country prior to the trip. This involved a lot of extra planning for the faculty leaders and my office. Together, we established emergency plans and put new safety procedures into place. We had wilderness experts and country experts join the groups and bought accident and sickness policies for everyone. We were ready for any emergency that came our way thanks to the collaboration of all those involved.

Each student plans her study abroad experience very carefully. Most begin their journey as prospective students when they visit the College and attend admissions events where programs are discussed. As early as their junior year in high school, students learn that if they come to SBC, the entire world is open to them.

The benefits of studying abroad are numerous. Caroline Chappell ’09 said of her experience in Latin America this summer: “It has only been a little over a week and [the trip] has already exceeded all of my expectations. It truly is the opportunity of a lifetime that I will have forever in my heart. I feel as though I have already begun to grow as a person through meeting other people from different walks of life and circumstances.”

Caroline’s mother Wendy Weiler ’71 also studied abroad when she was a student at SBC.

Laura Gandy ’08 writes: “Within this past year I climbed the great wall of China, explored Emperor Qin Shihuang’s tomb, witnessed the operations of a textile factory in Shanghai, went scuba diving in the Great Barrier Reef and sampled vegemite, was interviewed on Danish national television about the President’s State of the Union speech, shadowed a Polish physician, held a human heart and human brain in my hands, saw the Berlin Wall, and bonded with elderly patients in a nursing home suffering from dementia who did not speak a word of English. I wouldn’t have been able to do any of these things without Sweet Briar’s International Study Abroad scholarships. With the help of the Acuff and Davenport scholarships, I was able to do an internship in Australia in fall of 2006 and study both Medical Practice and Policy and China Studies in Denmark during spring of 2007.”

We do our best to meet financial needs regardless of the program. Last year the International Studies Advisory Committee awarded approximately $30,000 in study abroad scholarships with a minimum award of $1,000 and a maximum award of $5,000. Many more dollars were awarded by financial aid for study on Sweet Briar-managed programs. The Mr. and Mrs. A. Marshall Acuff International Scholarship Fund and others have supported growing student numbers and interest in study abroad programs.

I love the work I do at Sweet Briar. I am grateful to be here every day, doing what I do best. Between caring for the international students who come to campus and guiding students in their study abroad quest, I lead a fulfilling and productive work life.

Sweet Briar Riders in Africa

Campus Safety Officer Kerry Scott, a 1976 Washington and Lee graduate, arranged and led an African expedition for seven members of the Sweet Briar community who set out this past spring to explore African terrain.

Kerry’s ties to Africa took root in 1996 when he traveled to see the sights, hunt, ride horses, and explore the continent. In 2001, he was assigned military duties in various African countries. After successive trips and assignments, certain parts of Botswana and Namibia became a second home. A retired lieutenant colonel, Kerry now owns Narrow Gate Tack, Inc. and its equestrian travel subsidiary, Narrow Gate Trekking. This past May and June, Sweet Briar instructor of riding John Conyers, Jenny Walkiewicz ’09, Lauren Stephens ’09, Erin Peabody ’10, Emily Wiley ’07, Chrissy Serio ’07 and her mother, Louise, went on an African riding adventure with Narrow Gate. The trip to Botswana and Cape Town left lasting impressions of culture and environment with those who attended.

Narrow Gate Trekking is affiliated with Limpopo Valley Horse Safaris. From May 20–27, SBC adventurers camped and rode out into the Tuli Game Reserve of eastern Botswana. While Kerry stayed behind to help prepare food, pitch tents, and tend to other camp support duties, the SBC group and two seasoned guides rode through rugged terrain on sturdy Boerperds, farm horses bred for their composure in the African bush. “They are the most sure-footed animals I’ve ever seen,” said Emily Wiley ’07. The riders saw impala, eland (the largest of the antelope), leopards, giraffes, zebras, and a 3-day-old rhino with its mother. They also saw “a LOT of elephants,” mentioned Kerry.

Sweet Briar College Alumnae Magazine  •  www.alumnae.sbc.edu
“and at one point needed to ride out of the way of a big female, appropriately named Charger.”

In unusually cold weather, the horses carried them along the parched Limpopo riverbed as they looked at Baobab trees and “galloped with zebras, dodging trees, holes, and other natural obstacles,” shared Emily.

For Emily, the trip was a cultural awakening. Emily spoke of “stark differences” between American and African culture, especially in regard to mobility. “Many of the people we stayed with for the week had never left the 100 mile radius surrounding the safari area. Their ability to pursue mobility. “Many of the people we stayed with for the week had never left the 100 mile radius surrounding the safari area. Their ability to pursue higher education or travel was limited by their currency and the structure of their society.”

There was something magical about living without TV, internet, and other “modern conveniences,” as Emily found her favorite times during the week were enjoying company and sleeping under the stars. Emily was exposed to abrupt changes of environment and economy within Africa as well. The group traveled to Cape Town at the end of their journey where they experienced the big city of South Africa. Emily writes that “there was a glaring difference between South Africa and Botswana, which was immediately apparent after crossing the border at the Limpopo River. In Botswana, there was little ‘modern civilization’ anywhere, yet Cape Town could have been a coastal city in the United States.”

Many of those who went on the trip are eager to visit Africa again, and Kerry is excited that another trip is being planned for next year. He hopes that he will be able to make this safari an established travel experience for students and alumnae in the future.

Kerry is the son of Sweet Briar alumna Virginia June Early Holt ’53.

---

Junior Year in Spain

DR. MARÍA CELESTE DELGADO-LIBRERO
DIRECTOR, JUNIOR YEAR IN SPAIN

The Sweet Briar College Junior Year in Spain program is affiliated with the University of Seville in Spain. Since its establishment in 1984, 1,557 female and male students from more than 120 accredited U.S. colleges and universities have studied in Seville through JYS in semester- or year-long stays.

JYS NOW

On departure day, a member of the Virginia JYS team and a student assistant meet the students at the JFK airport in New York. The student assistant, a recent JYS alum, accompanies the students to Spain and stays with them through orientation, serving as a kind of “older sibling” with similar life experiences, hopes, and expectations who has already lived the adventure on which the new students will embark.

Resident Director Macarena Pérez-Tino, her sister and SBC coordinator, Blanca Pérez-Tino, and I meet the students at the Madrid airport and bring them to a hotel. As an introduction to Spain, the group spends two days in Madrid visiting the Prado and Reina Sofia Museums and the Palacio Real among other sites before flying to Seville, where the students’ host families welcome them to their homes.

Before the semester begins, a mandatory three-week orientation prepares the students for the transition into living in Seville and studying at the University. Orientation classes take place at our student center on San Fernando Street. The students, divided into small groups, attend three classes daily: Advanced Spanish Grammar, Advanced Conversation, and Spanish History and Culture, all of them with a special focus on Andalusia and Seville. Students attend informational meetings on practical topics ranging from security issues to culture shock, from how to navigate the seemingly difficult University building to where to find the best flamenco shows. The group also visits sites such as the Cathedral with its emblematic minaret (Giralda) and the Alcázar in Seville, the Roman city of Itálica, Carmona, Granada, Jerez (home of sherry), and Cádiz.

During orientation, the students tend to stay close together, and the JYS team is constantly involved in their lives. Things change when the semester begins: students enroll in different classes and extracurricular activities, feel more confident about the language and culture, and learn how to fend for themselves. Often, students visit the university center to check email, work on papers, or just say hi, living in the knowledge that our team is there to help.

During the semester, students may take three types of classes, all taught in Spanish: JYS classes, cursos concertados, and regular University classes. JYS classes are designed and taught by JYS faculty, open to JYS students only, and held at our student center. Cursos concertados are designed and taught by University of Seville faculty, open to all foreign students at the University. Regular University classes, usually in the Schools of Philology and of Geography and History, offer many courses on Spanish language, literature, history, and art.

In addition to academics, extracurricular activities keep our students active (sports), entertained (choir, flamenco lessons, theater, opera, etc.), challenged (via a new University-organized internship
program), and socially engaged (volunteering with international, national, and local NGO’s). Most students also take advantage of holidays to travel in Spain, Western Europe, and Morocco.

All students live with host families, which is a great way for them to become integrated into the culture and language. Some students are wary at first, fearing a loss of independence or problems adapting to life with strangers, but these fears dissipate quickly and, for many students, the ties they develop with their host families are the most rewarding aspect of their experience. Many of our students’ (U.S.) families come to visit them in Seville and get to meet their host families. Our students then become ambassadors and interpreters between the two cultures, transmitting the knowledge they have acquired. This phenomenon, to me, is the greatest contribution that any study-abroad program can make to students’ lives and to the larger picture of mutual human understanding.

**JYS SOON**

I became the JYS director this past January. Before that time, my involvement in study abroad and JYS, although quite significant for my personal life, had been only occasional. In 1991, I received the scholarship that JYS grants every year to an English Philology student from the University of Seville to attend Sweet Briar College as a student and teaching assistant in Spanish for the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures. As a faculty member in that department since 2000, I advised many students who were interested in studying in Latin America or Spain. But when I started my new job I did not know the ins and outs of the program, so I spent the first six weeks of the spring semester “shadowing” my first group of students: 33 juniors from Barnard, Brandeis, Brown, Bryn Mawr, Chicago, Claremont McKenna, Columbia, Haverford, Northwestern, Tufts, and Yale. I went through orientation, attended classes, went on all the trips, and participated in all the activities. It was quite intense, but I learned many valuable things, especially the fact that I had become the director of a very solid program with an excellent infrastructure and very good academic standing both in Seville and in the United States. Most importantly, I learned this program has a competent, intelligent, motivated, supporting, friendly team on both sides of the Atlantic: Helen Grose and Toni Hudson in Virginia, Macarena Alonso Pérez-Tinao, Blanca Alonso Pérez-Tinao, Isabel Fernández Ruiz, Noelia Panduro Muñoz (SBC teaching assistant, 2003–2004), Rocio Guerrero Durán (SBC teaching assistant, 1997–1998), and Pepe Reyes Bautista in Seville.

With my newly acquired knowledge, I am ready to improve and expand the program. First of all, I would like JYS and the Spanish section at Sweet Briar to work more closely together in the development of classes and research projects in Spain. Two projects are already underway which, although relatively modest in scope, will have a positive impact: organizing the JYS library in our Seville center and developing a new web site. Another of my priorities is to sign agreements with other Schools of the University of Seville. I am also trying to establish a similar cooperation agreement with the other university in Seville, Universidad Pablo de Olavide, which has classes in fields not offered by the University of Seville. I would like to see our student center in Seville become a hub of academic exchange for professors from the United States interested in research in Seville or Andalusia.

During the academic year 2009–2010, JYS will celebrate its 25th anniversary. If you are interested in learning about the events we plan to organize, whether you are a JYS alumna or someone who has decided to learn Spanish and/or about southern Spain, keep your eyes peeled; you’ll be reading from us soon.
Since 1948, the Sweet Briar College Junior Year in France program has been internationally recognized as one of the most prestigious study abroad programs in Paris. To be named the first woman director of such a stellar program has been both an honor and a privilege. It has also been challenging to continue the outstanding work of former JYF Directors Joseph E. Barker (1948–1957), R. John Matthew (1957–1972), Robert Marshall (1972–1984), and Emilie Langlois (1984–2000) who dedicated their careers to improving and perfecting the program.

In turn, I have initiated several changes to reflect needs of the 21st century. The first major change, voted by the Advisory Committee prior to my directorship, was to adopt a one-semester program. Enrollment figures for year only students were diminishing. Unfortunately, many American students are unable to spend an entire year abroad due to double majors and increased requirements on their home campus. Although this change has generated more work, it has also helped JYF maintain a sustainable quality program while other programs in Paris are either phasing out or closing. In 2006–2007, there were 133 JYF students (29 attended the full year, 54 fall only, and 50 spring only) from over 32 colleges and universities, both private and public, such as Amherst College, Georgetown University, Haverford College, James Madison University, Northwestern University, Sweet Briar College, University of Virginia, Wheaton College, Whittier College, University of Southern California, and Williams College.

Other major program developments over the past seven years of my Directorship include the addition of an exchange agreement with Paris IX (Dauphine), a university which excels in business and business management curriculum. Due to this added curriculum offering, Babson College is sending its first student to JYF in 2007–2008. We anticipate new exchanges at other Sorbonne universities in 2008.

An internship program was expanded in 2006 whereby over 20 students per year are placed in fields relative to their majors. Students are involved in science labs, political parties, art galleries, film production, journalism, and fashion design. We were fortunate to place four students in the UMP (Union pour un Mouvement Populaire). Our students witnessed French politics in action and worked behind the scenes during Nicolas Sarkozy’s political campaign. They were even invited to his victory reception at the Elysée Palace. One student worked at a major French newspaper, Le Monde, while others worked at Lobster films. The internship program has turned out to be one of the most rewarding academic experiences for JYF students.

The decision to hire a permanent Resident Director took nearly five years. Hiring a different professor of French each year to direct the program in Paris became more and more difficult. Since 2005, Mme Marie Grèce has held the role as Paris Resident Director along with Associate Director Mme Karen Parnet and Internship Director Mme Lucy Hervier. These permanent positions ensure continuity in areas of academic advising, housing placement and internships. In order to keep the “American presence” alive in the Paris program, a new annual position was established in 2006. Each spring, a French professor from an American university is invited to teach one course for the JYF program. This allows JYF to offer new courses in various fields by renowned scholars from our affiliated colleges and universities.

After September 11, several new security measures were implemented. Listservs were created for current students, parents and study abroad advisors; wallet size info cards with contact numbers for our JYF staff are distributed to students and parents; students abroad are encouraged to have cell phones; a phone tree has been established in case of emergency; and students are registered at the American Embassy. All current U.S. government Travel Advisory Warnings are posted in our offices and emailed to JYF students. JYF educates and updates students about precautionary measures during their travels to other foreign countries at vacation time.

A new JYF summer program was launched in June 2007. Although there was a small group of ten students from nine different colleges, the program was very successful. We are confident that the summer program will continue to expand.

A group of 86 students arrived in Paris on August 24, 2007 to begin a unique chapter in their college career. It is always with great joy that my staff and I work closely with these motivated students to offer rich and rewarding experiences, which have always remained some of their fondest memories. The annual JYF Alumni Bulletin relates praiseworthy testimonies from JYF alums about their studies at the Sorbonne and their séjour en France. JYF alumni enjoy successful careers in all fields both abroad and in the US. Many are professors of French, artists, writers, politicians, diplomats, lawyers, college presidents, businessmen, film producers, photographers, actors, and the list goes on and on.

We are always so pleased to receive news about their accomplishments and read wonderful stories about how JYF influenced their lives.

On Thursday, June 12, 2008, the 60th Anniversary of SBC JYF will be celebrated in Paris. There will be a gala event at Reid Hall, the former JYF headquarters in Paris for over 25 years. SBC JYF is now located in the Annexe of the Alliance française building at 34 rue de fleurus, Paris 75006. Information about our 60th Anniversary celebration will be sent to alums in the spring and will occur in conjunction with the SBC Alumnae Tour to France. If you are interested in attending the Paris celebration, please email at: jyfcelebration@sbc.edu.

One cannot discuss JYF without mentioning our two assistants, Mrs. Mary Sue Fauber, Assistant to the Director and Mrs. Pat Wydner, Office Manager, who have both worked for the JYF program for over 34 years (now under their third Director). Many thanks for their loyalty, efficiency and wealth of knowledge of the program. JYF owes much of its success to these two dedicated women.

You are always welcome to visit our JYF offices on the Sweet Briar College campus at Sweet Briar, Virginia or in Paris at 34, rue de fleurus to observe classes. We would be delighted to meet you or renew acquaintances with JYF alumni.

Bonne Continuation!
When I was appointed permanent Resident Director of the Sweet Briar Paris program two years ago, I stepped into a job well established in tradition. Today we are lucky that so much has already been put into place for us. What must it have been like to be in the first class at Sweet Briar in Paris 60 years ago? Politically, the Marshall plan was adopted and the cold war had started, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was signed at UNESCO in December 1948, and in Saint Germain des Prés, artists from all over the world were sitting in cafés and discovering be-bop music in clubs. Paris was enthralled for the first, and certainly not the last, time by American culture. In the same way that today French hip hop bands give us their Gallic version of American rap, in 1948, the Zazous danced out of the war-time obscurity of the Club Tabou and onto the liberated streets of Paris, Boris Vian echoing in their wake.

What a moment that must have been for young students arriving in Paris for the first time! But every year is rich in history in-the-making, and the last two years were no exception: strikes and national ferment in 2006 (against the now deceased CPE, an anonymous acronym for most Americans, but one that disrupted university life for two months), and presidential elections in 2007. Both events brought our students rapidly into French culture and the cauldron of French politics.

As most of you will remember, a good part of the education students receive during their year in France is acquired outside of the classrooms. Parisians are passionate about politics; national conversations and cross-generational debates are carried on in living rooms and on café terraces.

Sweet Briar in Paris continues to offer students an authentic French experience based on living with a French family and taking classes at the Paris Universities. This total immersion is supported by Sweet Briar’s administrative expertise, which offers cultural experiences as well as guidance in familial and academic areas. Approximately 150 students each year attend the program and go to four different universities as well as attend a spectrum of art classes. In-house classes, taught in French by French professors, fill any gaps in University programs, while our tutors aid students in all subjects. Our on-site art class takes students for conferences in the Louvre every week, and the History of Paris class brings the city to life with visits to historical monuments. Our internships in French businesses, arts organizations, and political parties are an additional means of becoming involved in French life while garnering academic credit and professional experience.

Sweet Briar’s offices continue to serve as a home base for current students and alumni. In 1948, students would stop by for letters from home; today, they come to check their email. Our reading room with its roof-top terrace is a terrific place to have a cup of coffee or tea and surf the net to find out what’s at the cinema, what day the Pompidou Center is closed, or maybe plan a trip. It is a great place to share information and experiences. I, too, appreciate being able to share my experience as a native Parisian with students in an informal atmosphere. From swimming pools to cinema, from bike paths to the best banana and nutella crêpes, one of the real satisfactions of directing Sweet Briar’s program is watching our students discover the pleasures of Paris, and I’m sure this is as true today as it was sixty years ago!
Claude Doubinsky were assets to the program. What was once a six-week session is now only two weeks because courses at the Paris universities begin in mid-September (compared to early November in the good old days)!

Over the years outside events have buffeted the program: the Cold War in the early years, the 1968 protests that led to a liberalization of some of the most restrictive features of the program, and more recently under my tenure, in September 1986 the bombing of the Tati store not very far from our offices (the students were in Tours), the 1991 Gulf War, and now the Iraq War and constant terrorist threats. During all these crises parents were always more worried than their sons and daughters. To spend one’s junior year abroad, one must love challenges! No wonder the large majority of the alumnae and alumni think the year was a turning point in their lives!

A Trip to France in 1935

First encouraged by her father to explore the world beyond her homeland, Anne Corbitt Little ’34 traveled abroad in 1935. In Norfolk, Virginia, she boarded a small steamship owned by the Baltimore Mail Line and braved a ten-day journey across the ocean to London. The seventy-passenger boat was surprisingly comfortable, except when they hit a strong nor’easter with waves that sent them up in the air and smashed them down on the water.

After docking, she went to Oxford where she had been invited to attend the commencement ceremony of her friend’s brother. From England, she journeyed to Paris and met with Sweet Briar Professor of French Joseph E. Barker who was waiting to take charge of the JYF group, then under the auspices of the University of Delaware. He introduced Anne to the head of French schools who found a position for her as an assistant in English at the Université de Paris: Sciences Politiques. The school was located in Bourges, a quaint town with a beautiful 13th century cathedral and many medieval houses.

Before French schooling began, Anne journeyed to Holland and then back to Paris to go with Dr. Barker and the JYF group to study at the Institut de Touraine in Tours for six weeks. They attended classes daily and visited many châteaux of the Loire Valley.

French schools started in September. In Bourges, Anne lived in the school; when not teaching she took culinary and French literature classes. One of her colorful memories is of the school children stuffing their baguettes with peeled, raw garlic cloves for a snack.

During spring break, Anne joined the JYF group again to go by train to Italy. There, they visited the ancient monuments of Rome, Florence, and Milan.
oral exam with a crowd of auditors sitting around in amusement. But I loved walking from Sciences Po up the very long rue de Vaugirard to the Boul Mich, and down to the Institut Britannique for the course given by well-known Daniel Mornet on Rousseau. It was a privilege to study with Mornet, who had written all the books he assigned. Often he would lose our papers. Between coughs, in his very old voice, he would say that it didn’t matter, the point was writing them.

I crossed to the Sorbonne for weekly lectures by Pierre Moreau on Le Culte du moi, “the religion of me,” having to do with differences between egotism and egoism. He would enter the room, preceded by the huissier who would turn on his light and arrange his things. We would all stand up. The final exam consisted of one question that we had six hours to answer.

With a very devout friend who was to become a nun, I bicycled around Brittany, spending the night in various convents along the way. To save our dwindling finances, we would have a carrot and some bread and cheese for lunch and would often share the convent meals in the evening. We biked around Brest and Perros-Guirec and made it out as far as the Pointe du Raz.

Back in Paris, I would sleep out all night with friends from Fordham on the tip of the Isle de la Cité in Paris and right outside the old monastery at Vézelay. It was 1953, and we listened to Queen Elizabeth’s coronation on a portable radio.

HOW IT MATTERED
Since my JYF, I have stayed in touch with France, becoming a professor of French literature and passionate about French poetry and art, about which I write, as well as other topics. In the summers, I live in a small field house, a cabanon, in the Vaucluse, part of Provence. In its brilliant sunlight, I have never gotten over the effects of my Junior Year in France.

FROM CHARLES BAUDELAIRE TO CHILE’S SARA VIAL
It all began in Tours. We romanticized the arduous realities of the Vendange, bicycled with élan to the chateaux of Amboise and Azay-le-Rideaux, imagined la vie de Bohème as we philosophized about mortality, sipped Dubonnets on the terrace of Le Gran Turc, and meditated about existentialist despair and human angst.

What we found in Tours and Paris was a new intellectual focus. In the morning sessions of our modest classroom in Tours, I encountered the works of Parnassian poets Leconte de Lisle and Charles Baudelaire. Baudelaire’s poem, L’Albatros, made a profound impression on me. I realized that poetry was endowed with both literary aesthetics and pragmatic impact.

How relevant for all of us is the plight of the albatross as Baudelaire described it, echoing the idea of the “turning of a leaf,” and how one’s existence can be suddenly changed. In the poem, this majestic bird is humbled when it inadvertently lands on a ship’s deck where it is mocked and humiliated by crude seamen. The poet and the albatross have much in common, yet almost all of us share a similarity with the bird at those moments when we find our lives changed in seconds. This was the sort of idea that we earnestly discussed over the one Dubonnet that our allowances would permit after class on the terrace.

For me, this poem would come to have other relevance, as indeed would the publications of French writers like Charles Wiener, Andre Bresson, Paul Marcoy, and others who had traveled to South America in the 19th century. In 1953, I could not predict that I would find my own “great adventure” in South America riding high into the Andes to remote villages and gathering material for my books. Nor could I visualize myself sailing around Cape Horn more than 70 times. On one special occasion, I helped a naturalist on board launch an albatross that became stranded on the ship’s promenade. Each time I
approach Cape Horn, I see the Chilean naval outpost atop the hillside and the diamond-shaped cutout of an albatross in flight. El Albatros, a poem by Sara Vial, is engraved on the plaque below the monument:

I am the Albatross  
Who awaits you at the end of the world  
I am the soul of all the mariners  
who have disappeared in these turbulent waters.  

They have not perished.  
Rather, they have been cradled for eternity,  
In the winds and the waves,

As with many experiences in my life—and certainly, in the lives of all those who had the good fortune to travel to France through Sweet Briar College—the example of the two albatross poems underlines a fundamental factor of importance that began in France: continuity. Certain threads became omnipresent in my life, shaping it with interests and overall gestalt. I suspect (after discussing these ideas with such 1953–54 close friends as Millicent Maas (pictured) and the late Ambassador James Rentschler) that other participants in 1953–54 share some of the following sentiments.

Humanism over technology: I learned that humanism was practical as well as cultural. Certainly it was art, architecture, theater, literature, opera, ballet, all of which are the apotheosis of human creativity, but also medical, scientific, and other technological advances. Technology became marvelous. It is vital that we dominate it and not be dominated by it.

The example of great men who combine intellect and action: I found the example of André Malraux of transcendental impact. He was a man who had described his 1920s Cambodian adventures in La Voie Royale and, although criticized for bringing back ancient Khmer statues to France, actually demonstrated remarkable prescience. When I was in Vietnam in 1967–68, and organizing clandestine U.S. operations in Cambodia with Prince Sihanouk (described in a forthcoming book by former New York Times Editor and Pulitzer Prize Administrator Seymour Topping), I discovered that the Khmer Rouge were using the area where those statues had been located as mortar bases! Malraux would go on to participate as a pilot in the Spanish Civil War and later become Minister of Culture under President de Gaulle, a man of action and intellect.

Appreciating the value of the moment: When you finally arrive at your destination, do not be disappointed with what you find; the key is the totality of your experiences during the voyage, as Constatin Cavafy wrote in the poem, Ithaka. I learned to savor the moment during that year in France, especially as a flaneur.

Pleasures of the flaneur: Flaneur is to stroll leisurely, to experience atmosphere. And how wonderfully Paris educated us in this regard! There were strolls through the Tuileries, along the Boulevard St. Germain, along the quais of the Seine, and over the Pont Neuf to Le Vert Galant—with the statue of Henri IV who was assassinated in 1610 by the fanatic Ravaillac. And along the Quai des Grands Augustins, bouquinistes introduced us to the Kama Sutra, which seemed to be the glory of eroticism!

Interest in art: The charm of many sights we encountered and the artists who had painted them: Sisley, Monet, Pissarro, Caillebotte, Matisse, Marquet, Van Dongen, and Bernard Buffet had a major impact on my life. I exhibited my oil paintings internationally, being elected a permanent societaire to the Salon d’Automne in 1972. I have always been an inveterate collector of eclectic art. My experience in France combined with my interest in South America inspired me to write 14 art books published in London, New York, and Lima, as well as numerous catalogues for institutions like President Chirac’s Musée du quai Branly.

James Reid greets Agoli Agba III, Dedyalagni, King of Bénin

Passion for travel: Art inspired several of us to travel beyond the Louvre and Jeu de Paume to more distant venues of Florence, Rome, and Venice during breaks. Medieval art was a special stimulus for my good friend in the program, Millicent Maas, who, fascinated by Notre Dame, was inspired to embark upon the pilgrimage to Chartres and its magnificent cathedral. There were trips to the haunts of the Impressionists: Moret–Sur–Loing to evoke Sisley, to Vetheuil and Giverny to the world of Monet, and to Honfleur and the Normandy coast where Boudin had painted.

New dimensions in terms of thoughts, attitudes, and the purpose of life: The 1950s, as Stanley Karnow describes in his book, Paris in the 1950s, was the era of the Existentialists, of Simone de Beauvoir’s All Men are Mortal, of Albert Camus’ L’Étranger, and above all of Jean-Paul Sartre’s astonishing Existentialism is a Humanism. They followed the great tradition of writers like Proust and Gide and, in the case of Sartre, proved influential to me in taking decisive actions, accepting their responsibility, and determining their significance.

Intellectual curiosity: In the Paris of the 1950s, how could we not be stimulated to an awareness of new horizons of intellectual curiosity!

Breadth of vision and willingness to listen to and understand the views of other peoples and nations: I came to appreciate how important this was, not only from lectures, but also from daily life in cosmopolitan Paris.

Continuous importance of the French language: My ability to speak and write French has always been an indispensable asset to me both personally and professionally. As a U.S. Military Officer at S.H.A.P.E (Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe), 1964–67, I worked in Intelligence Operations regarding Russia and Eastern Europe. In 1967–68, when I was in Vietnam, French contacts provided invaluable assistance in the Top Secret Operation Vesuvius in Cambodia. Recently, in traveling to West Africa to gather material for my art publications and the origins of Brazil’s Carnaval, French ties helped to arrange meetings with the Republic of Bénin’s King Agoli Agba III, Dedyalagni.

The desire to maintain a close association with France by living there: After returning from Vietnam in 1968, stimulated by the advice of Madame Andre Lhote, whose late husband was a cubist painter there, I traveled to the Drome, south of Lyon, and at Mirmande, with its spectacular view of the Rhone river, acquired a 15th century house on the village’s main street. The price proved to be extremely modest and was based upon the number of tiles on the roof!

In conclusion: merci mille fois, Sweet Briar College Junior Year in France, for enriching my life and the lives of many in our group during that memorable 1953–54 Year in Tours, the chateaux country along the Loire river and in Paris, the eternal “Ville Lumiere.”
The SBC JYF program changed my life personally and professionally. I would like to share two stories that will relate to many who have traveled or studied in Paris.

In the '80s, I became publisher of a weekly trade newspaper called Furniture/Today. Although I had taught French at various universities for eight years, my opportunities to speak the language dwindled once I went into publishing. I only used my French on occasional meetings of the local Alliance Francaise. One day I received a brochure from Sweet Briar promoting a week-long reunion of JYF alumnae in Paris. The brochure was timely, as I had been looking for an opportunity to return to France.

Still thinking about business when I arrived in Paris, I paid a visit to the director of the Salon du Meuble, an annual furniture trade show. He had been advertising regularly in one of our competitor’s magazines. I delivered my sales pitch in French to the director (who spoke little English); he was both impressed and grateful. He thanked me for flying to Paris just to ask for his business, and the show is still an exclusive advertiser with us today.

About 10 years ago I was in Paris attending the same furniture show. I took the last day of my trip to visit my old student haunts. I went immediately to the Sorbonne to see if I could find my old classrooms.

The courtyard was unchanged, but new security guards watched the entrance. I used my most eloquent French to persuade them that I had been a student in 1959–60 and had no terrorist intentions. I found the gallery classroom where I had audited Antoine Adam’s Siecle de Lumieres, an 18th century literature course. Beside the door, a sign indicated that a class would begin in 15 minutes. I couldn’t resist taking a seat at the top of the gallery near the door, should I need to escape.

As the classroom filled with students of many nationalities, I felt taken back in time. A bare table and a single chair waited on the stage below. An attractive woman entered with a student assistant who began distributing notes. He handed me a set as if I were a regular attendee.

The professor was electrifying. I can’t recall a more stimulating 90 minutes. When I was a student I could understand perhaps 35% of what the professor said. Now, I could understand almost every word. To understand a brilliant lecture, free from having to take notes or be anxious about an impending exam, was an experience I will never forget.

When I proposed to my wife in 1990, we decided to be married in Paris. The editor of the French furniture magazine pulled a lot of strings (another story in itself) to help us accomplish what we had been told by the U.S. State Department was almost impossible.

We arrived in Paris on a Thursday, with the wedding, a civil ceremony, scheduled for noon on Saturday at the mairie of the 9th arrondissement. We

In those days we traveled to France by a boat, the Mauretania, which helped us sense the distance between France and the United States, a phenomenon lost through air travel. In 1960, cultures were much farther apart than the internet allows today. (Not only were there no McDonald’s, but ketchup was unheard of.) Although I didn’t realize it at the time, France was still licking its physical and psychological wounds from World War II. The few of many examples jotted below of my junior year in France are testimonies to the lasting effect of France on my life and serve as reasons why I moved to France forty years ago.

I lived with three other SBC JYF attendees: Mary Healy, Louise DeCosta, and Anne Ambler, in the Touraine during our six-week introductory course at the University of Tours. Our home was a mini château owned by a family with seven boys ranging in age from several months to sixteen years old (the three-year-old thought my slippers were real rabbits). In the evenings we watched their father, baguette brandished like a sword, chase the seven-year-old and black sheep of
arrived at the mairie to sign the final documents at 11 a.m., Friday. The petit fonctionnaire (bureaucrat) whose signature and approval was essential, gave us a Gallic pouf and shrugged and said his office would close at noon; there wasn’t enough time to do all the paperwork. We would have to come back on Monday. Then, a women in his office looked at him sternly and said, “monsieur, nous ne sommes pas la police; c’est une question de l’amour.” (“We are not the police; this is about love.”) He shrugged again and acquiesced.

My wife and I now return to France every year for our vacation. We rent a house in Provence, in the village of Menherbes, where Peter Mayle was living when he wrote, A Year in Provence.

You now know how my life was changed both professionally and personally by my Junior Year in France. I send a contribution every year to the R. John Matthews scholarship fund with hope that I will be able to provide a life-changing experience for a deserving student. I have set aside a larger amount in my will to support the program.

I am most proud that my granddaughter, Ashley, chose to attend Sweet Briar rather than my alma mater, UVA. After visiting both campuses she preferred the small classes, the personal attention from her instructors and the feeling of closeness and friendship that was so evident during our visit. I had no plans to influence her decision but, confidentially, Sweet Briar was my choice as well. I am very proud to be both a JYF alumnus and the grandfather of a future SBC alumna.

Joe Carroll is publisher of Furniture/Today, a weekly business newspaper. He is the author of several books on furniture in The Perfect Home series.

Learning to See

DR. GEORGE W. MCDANIEL, JYF 1964–65; B.A. SEWANEE, TN ’66
M.A.T. IN HISTORY, BROWN UNIVERSITY ’72
PH. D. DUKE UNIVERSITY ’79

After all these years, there is one particular experience that continues to shape my life. During my JYF, I was given the chance to participate in a wonderful class at the Louvre that taught me how to appreciate art.

I grew up in Atlanta, a small city at that time, and while French literature was accessible, the history of art was not in our curriculum. Art museums were not a part of our lives. Before leaving for Paris at age 19, I visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. I wanted to see Rembrandt’s painting, Aristotle Contemplating the Bust of Homer, whose recent purchase by the Met at 2.3 million dollars had made headlines. When I looked at the painting, I expected something great to happen. After all, I’d read fine writers like Racine, Flaubert, and Saint-Exupery and felt enlightened. At a younger age, I’d paid good money to go to the concert in Atlanta when Ray Charles was first recorded singing live: “What I’d Say!”; “Yes, Indeed!”; and “The Night Time Is Right Time”. Something beyond words had moved me!

But as I looked at the painting, nothing occurred. I left, puzzled.
Once in Paris, I enrolled in an art history course at the Louvre. The experience challenged me for the subject was new, and the lectures and exams, of course, were in French. On Friday afternoons, our professor lectured for an hour with slides, introducing us to art from the medieval through the 20th century periods; the next hour, she focused on a specific French painter of the 19th century. On Mondays, we went to the Louvre, and she interpreted works of the specific artist in depth and, for the next hour, the art from the general period in history. The course led us through the Louvre to the Jeu de Paume and to the Musée de L’Art Moderne. For our year-end exam, we had to write essays on 19th century French painting and be able to identify any painting by any painter from any one of those three museums and to explain the rationale for our choice.

During that year I spent hours in the art museums of Madrid, Rome, Florence, Venice, Athens, Munich, Brussels, Amsterdam, and London. I came to appreciate the architecture and landscapes of Europe. In August, I returned to New York, revisited the Metropolitan, and sought out Rembrandt’s painting. This time, I couldn’t take my eyes off it. I savored it. I could see one thing, and another thing, and another. It was a feast for my eyes. I could see it.

That experience shaped my career. I’m now director of Drayton Hall, an 18th century historic site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation near Charleston, SC, where I strive to help visitors learn to see what is before them. Our programs help them learn to perceive the architecture, landscape, and diverse people of Drayton Hall as they once were. This commitment has led us to develop a new handheld DVD device, completed in partnership with the History Channel. As visitors walk through the landscape, they can better envision change and continuity as they view historical drawings, documents, and photographs and hear oral history interviews with people who lived here. The DVD also shows images of how the natural vicinity might have appeared (with nearby condos) had our campaigns to preserve it been unsuccessful. This instrument brought me back to my experience at the Met; it is a tool that helps others see more than what is there. It helps them to imagine.

What I learned during my junior year abroad is that few of us can develop that ability to see by ourselves. It takes gifted teachers, serious thought, and an appealing subject. The result leads us to open our eyes and more importantly, our minds.

For more information about Drayton Hall visit www.draytonhall.org.

As a high school senior, Dr. McDaniel was inspired by his French teacher Caroline Sauls Shaw ’58 to participate, like her, in the SBC JYF program. His various connections with Sweet Briar aside from his participation in the SBC JYF program are astonishing and include his mother, Marguerite Heston McDaniel ’28 and sister Marguerite McDaniel Wood ’57 as well as professional colleagues: Drayton Hall board chairman emeritus Jane Pinckney Hanahan ’57 and Drayton Hall major supporter Sally Reahard ’30. Dr. McDaniel is now the executive director of Drayton Hall, a southern plantation home and National Trust Historic Site, near Charleston, SC.
My experience with the Sweet Briar JYF program changed my life. It was through this trip and the wonderful people I met that I was able to come out of my shell and become who I am today. Though a shy person, I made the decision early that my nature would not prevent me from enjoying this great opportunity, and immediately I started getting to know the other 137 students in the program. My efforts paid off. I found a group of wonderful people, life-long friends with whom I shared all kinds of adventures that year and ever since. A strong bond formed between us as we learned together in classes and were immersed in a new environment.

Paris is like no other city. 1988, the bicentennial of the French Revolution, was a spectacular year to experience it. The vibrant place drew me in; I absorbed every shop-front, edifice, street, park, and church I could find.

While I took most of my classes at Sciences Po, my favorite class was offered through the SBC JYF curriculum: Paris A Travers Ses Monuments. Suzanne Oswald, our teacher, would take us on a weekly field trip that gave us the chance to experience history firsthand through the architecture and art of the locations we visited. Each week brought a new adventure and a deeper hunger for discovery. I started dragging my group of friends off to explore new areas of the city and to further my knowledge of French history whenever I could.

When the metro workers went on strike in solidarity for their postal worker compatriots, I didn’t fret about getting around the city; rather, I took to the streets. The walk to school was long, but exhilarating.

On days when I wasn’t in a rush, I would alter my route slightly, visiting new streets and finding new treasures. The walking did wonders for me, both physically and mentally. I developed a great appetite that I quenched at patisseries along the way. Thankfully, the walking outweighed the caloric intake of my new pastime, and my outings with friends became a class of my own making: Paris A Travers Ses Patissiers. At the top of the list was the crêpe man outside the Alliance Française who made a banana-nutella crêpe that has yet to be surpassed and believe me, I have searched.

I look back at that year with great nostalgia and savor the memories. There were countless dinner parties at Dina and Rose’s apartment, both fellow SBC JYF students. Rose and I experimented with food combinations and tortured Dina by making her our taster. Each dinner culminated in great conversations, talking politics, telling stories, and sharing our dreams. It was magical. During that year I developed a continuing passion for life, for experiencing new things, and for savoring wonderful friendships. While our group has scattered across the country, and even the world, the bond we shared that year still links us, and when we email, talk on the phone, or see each other it is as if no time has passed at all.

We’ll always have Paris.

From the start, my time in France was like a fairytale. I lived in Tours and Paris and met extraordinary people in both places. The host family in Tours took us to a political campaign picnic in the verdant hills of the Loire Valley. Speeches were belted from underneath a large, plastic, white tent in the middle of the countryside. We enjoyed a full course dinner accompanied by techno music and got an autograph from the Former Minister of Economy Alain Madelin. On a special day in Paris, I happened to be standing next to the organizers of a school event as they greeted Former Prime Minister Edouard Balladur exiting his car. I remained momentarily in awe while proceeding after them into a room with high ceilings, polished wood floors, long mirrors framed in gold, and intricate carved designs on the white walls.

While in Tours, SBC organized an intense month-long tutorial to help us pass the Sciences Po entrance exam when we arrived in Paris. This offered the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to study at L’Institut d’Etudes Politiques de Paris, a prestigious educational institution that has schooled historical leaders and civil servants of France. We learned to write research papers and conduct presentations using a hypothesis-anti-hypothesis-synthesis framework, otherwise known as “The Sciences Po Plan.” The reading rooms of the libraries had long, narrow tables, and shelves bulging with economics, politics, and international relations books and academic journals. Staff gathered books for us in the stacks, while we ran to a nearby café for a baguette sandwich. They notified us when the books were ready at the desk. SBC’s excellent tutorial enabled us to supplement and apply what we learned in the Sciences Po lectures. One of our tutors, an expert on subjects from development economics to European unification policies, was from Bénin. He challenged us to perform our very best and demonstrated great patience in answering questions, always ensuring that we understood the subject matter.

Outside the classroom, I gained valuable glimpses of life in Africa and of African immigrants in France. My host family had a son who had lived in Chad for two years. During that time he collected art objects, my favorite of which was a carved wooden figurine of thin people paddling a narrow canoe. His friends from Chad visited and brought along non-perishable food. For the first time, I tasted smoked and dried meats, plantains, plantain chips, and nuts from Africa. Their brimming smiles, sincerity, and penchant for storytelling made time spent with them entertaining and informative. I also explored France’s immigrant community with a friend of the family who had immigrated from Africa. She took me to the outskirts of Paris, where we wandered into the bargain shops with everything from clothing to household goods. She spoke of the challenge to find a well-paying job and an affordable, safe place to live in Paris.

Studying development economics with a professor from Benin, meeting friends of my host family from Chad, and talking to a peer African immigrant while living in France sparked my interest in international development, which led me to pursue a career in that field. I am grateful to the SBC JYF Office for providing me with a grant, and for the administrative support led by the late Madame Carol Denis in the Paris Office, which made my time in France exciting, productive, and insightful.
In the summer of 1996 I read *French or Foe* by Polly Platt, the required reading to prepare for the upcoming year in Paris. In one way, it helped. The book gave me an excuse to purchase an Yves Saint Laurent suit, instructing that every Parisian woman must own at least one, even if it be her only ensemble. One cannot risk not being chic à Paris! But the book also made me feel defensive and cautious of self-absorbed store clerks, snotty waiters, and truck drivers who would be en greve at the drop of a chapeau. Once in France, the SBC JYF practicum helped me slip from my worries into eating from the hands of the French, my assumed “foe.”

While at the Sorbonne, I had a heated conversation with one administrator who tried to convince me that I did not exist there as a student. I showed him all of my documentation (love letters to the French) and even my student card with the smiley photo of myself on it. The gentleman remained unmoved and gave me a French shrug, instructing that every Parisian woman must own at least one, even if it be her only ensemble. One cannot risk not being chic à Paris! But the book also made me feel defensive and cautious of self-absorbed store clerks, snotty waiters, and truck drivers who would be en greve at the drop of a chapeau. Once in France, the SBC JYF practicum helped me slip from my worries into eating from the hands of the French, my assumed “foe.”

While at the Sorbonne, I had a heated conversation with one administrator who tried to convince me that I did not exist there as a student. I showed him all of my documentation (love letters to the French) and even my student card with the happy photo of myself on it. The gentleman remained unmoved and gave me a French shrug, instructing that every Parisian woman must own at least one, even if it be her only ensemble. One cannot risk not being chic à Paris! But the book also made me feel defensive and cautious of self-absorbed store clerks, snotty waiters, and truck drivers who would be en greve at the drop of a chapeau. Once in France, the SBC JYF practicum helped me slip from my worries into eating from the hands of the French, my assumed “foe.”

While in France, the parameters of my inner and outer personalities shifted to accommodate new elements. The culture and language that I absorbed alchemized a French self within me—the part whose voice drops a fraction when speaking French, assimilating new elements. The culture and language that I absorbed alchemized a French self within me—the part whose voice drops a fraction when speaking French, assimilating new elements. The culture and language that I absorbed alchemized a French self within me—the part whose voice drops a fraction when speaking French, assimilating new elements.
When I think of St. Andrews, I see red gowns: red gowns against gray stone, against blue sky, red gowns blown out like balloons atop bicycles, red gowns huddled before coal fires. There are other images in my head, of course: the romantic ruins of cathedral and castle, the sea beating against pier and cliffs, the stroll across the Old Course to the West Sands (much to the consternation of the golfers). But everywhere there were the gowns, the emblems of who we were.

Though I would have been a high and mighty junior at Sweet Briar, I was, for non-academic purposes, a Bejantine (feminine of Bejant, a freshman) during my first term at St. Andrews. That meant I had to entertain at the Bejantine Tea, sing the Gaudi on Raisin Monday and present a pound of grapes (actually, a bottle of sherry) to my senior woman, Priscilla Langley, just back from her year at Sweet Briar; but it also meant I had to wear my gown right up on my shoulders, like a coat. (An official Tertian second term, I could slip it coolly off one shoulder; but only back at Sweet Briar could I trail it behind me in the impractical but grand manner of a Magistrand.) However we wore them, the gowns were beautiful. In them we looked like flocks of cardinals suddenly settling on the Quad or being blown about by the fierce wind off the North Sea. They were woolen and heavy, with great sleeves like wings; they were probably the warmest things that any of us owned and in those days, in the dark backward and abysm of time, warmth was definitely an issue.

I arrived at St. Andrews on the heels of a sweltering Texas summer, weather so hot that it made the clothes in your dresser drawer feel as if they’d just emerged from the dryer. It was October, and I’d never been so cold in my life, not inside anyway. I was assigned to University Hall, a women’s residence a windy bike ride away from the Quad, and already my room felt like a refrigerator. Next door was a new dormitory (where fellow Sweet Briar student Tappy Lynn resided) equipped with that miracle of modernity, central heating. But at Hall we were traditional: each of our rooms contained a fireplace with a coal grate, and outside the door, three times a week, a scramble of coal appeared. Charming to be sure, but hardly comforting as I contemplated the winter before me! I resolved not to shiver. Having abandoned the idea of studying in the library (my habit at Sweet Briar) because my fingers grew too numb to turn the pages, I pulled my desk close to the fire, wrapped up in my gown, and slogged through my Anglo-Saxon, baking on one side and freezing on the other. I quickly ran out of coal. A visit to the ironmonger soon revealed that, though not expensive, coal is unbelievably heavy, quite impossible to balance in a bicycle basket. So I began hoarding and eventually my friends would bring a bag of coal from home.

Rewind the tapestry of memory, forever young, frozen in time like the gray stone skyline. Kate and Judith, on the other hand, have been two of the great friends of my life.

We were not always smuggled before the fire drinking coffee. Usually we were flying about on our bicycles or climbing in the ruins or otherwise experiencing the great adventure of St. Andrews. And of course we were going to lectures. The lecturers wore flimsy black gowns, rather sad compared to our brilliant red, but their arrival in the lecture hall was greeted with a great stamping of feet, the equivalent of applause, and the lectures themselves were punctuated by the stamping or, to register disapproval, the shuffling of feet. Sad to say, many of their faces and words have faded from memory, but I can see and hear one of them as if he were standing before me this moment: Mr. L., let us call him. He was in fact a splendid lecturer, with the satiric tone of the eighteenth century he loved. No one shuffled his feet while Mr. L. was speaking; we were all terrified of him. Even in that freezing lecture hall, people were in a literal sweat on the days he returned exams or papers. The process was particularly trying if one happened to be female. “The gentlemen may collect their papers in my office after class,” he would announce. “The ladies’ papers are here.” And there was a thunderous noise as he slammed our papers down on the desk. Even though he praised my paper on Tom Jones to the class with what sounded like real enthusiasm, he never troubled to find out who I was or what I looked like. I was a long way from Sweet Briar. Occasionally, I entertain myself with the fantasy of his walking into a lecture hall today. Alas, Justice is not only blind but sometimes absent: Mr. L. slipped away long before he could experience the Women’s Movement.

Yes, it was all a long time ago, the time of things to come, the time before the rest of our lives. If one is lucky, there is a certain magic about such a time. There was that magic at Sweet Briar, of course, but St. Andrews worked enchantment of a different sort. The world was much larger in those days, and the cliffs above the North Sea were very far indeed from the fields and pastures of Central Texas, even from the Blue Ridge Mountains. The distance was measured not merely in miles but in time. I was privileged to pay my first visit to the Old World when it still seemed old, which it assuredly does not today, and to make it in a place sufficiently removed from the traffic of the world and so filled with a sense of its own history that in some marvelous, indefinable way we inhabited the past there even as we contemplated the possibilities of our own mysterious futures. As we all knew, St. Andrews was full of ghosts, and surely we in our red gowns were descendants of some of them.
2006-07 Academic Year at St. Andrews University, Scotland

KATE BEACH ’09

“I’m never going to eat another potato as long as I live,” I told my parents and friends vehemently after returning home from a year of studying abroad at the University of St. Andrews. Whenever anyone asked my mother how I liked studying in Scotland, she always explained that the only thing I complained about was the food. After a year of dealing with the unexpected in unfamiliar countries, I have to admit that my experience was astonishingly positive.

When I went out for dinner on the weekends, a welcome break from the unrecognizable hall food, the people and their lifestyles gradually came to interest me more and more. One instance in particular struck me: a snow-capped old lady brought her West Highland White Terrier into a pub. The little dog was dressed in a tartan blanket. The lady ordered a bowl of soup for herself and water, which she shared with her Westie. To me, they represented an unfamiliar existence, one of simplicity, modesty, and class without flamboyance. A small-town, Scottish feeling radiated from her; watching her, I felt as though I was part of a painting that had suddenly come to life.

The people of the town shaped my experience. Heading over to Scotland, I had very little knowledge of what to expect; however, I imagined kind, welcoming Scots with a distinct accent and a proud culture. I knew that St. Andrews was an international university, but I never would have guessed that my close group of friends would be from all over the world. I was also surprised to find a large number of American students in the town, either studying abroad like me or spending all four years there. At first, I was a little dismayed at how many Americans were in the town and on my hall, but as I got to know them, I discovered how wonderful it was to go through new, challenging experiences with people who shared a similar background. Nevertheless, I certainly did not find that the Americans were the only people I could relate to. I quickly discovered how similar my goals and dreams were to those of my foreign friends, even our sense of humor and tastes in music and movies were very much alike. The conscious or subconscious stereotypes I formed about people from other cultures before leaving America rarely held true; my year abroad forced me to evaluate individuals as individuals.

The people of the town shaped my experience. Heading over to Scotland, I had very little knowledge of what to expect; however, I imagined kind, welcoming Scots with a distinct accent and a proud culture. I knew that St. Andrews was an international university, but I never would have guessed that my close group of friends would be from all over the world. I was also surprised to find a large number of American students in the town, either studying abroad like me or spending all four years there. At first, I was a little dismayed at how many Americans were in the town and on my hall, but as I got to know them, I discovered how wonderful it was to go through new, challenging experiences with people who shared a similar background. Nevertheless, I certainly did not find that the Americans were the only people I could relate to. I quickly discovered how similar my goals and dreams were to those of my foreign friends, even our sense of humor and tastes in music and movies were very much alike. The conscious or subconscious stereotypes I formed about people from other cultures before leaving America rarely held true; my year abroad forced me to evaluate individuals as individuals.

For me, the most valuable part of my time overseas was meeting people and learning just by living a different lifestyle. By interacting with people from all over, I became aware and deeply interested in global issues, ideas, and lifestyles that had never been of personal concern before. Busy with social activities and classes, I wasn’t able to fully realize that each day I spent in Scotland brought about personal growth. Reflecting on the year, I now recognize some of the drastic changes (I’m sure more are still manifesting) in myself. Some trivial, like swearing never to eat another potato, but others of vital importance to me now, like my perspective, immediate interests, and acceptance of other peoples and cultures.
Puerto Lópe...
Can Trade Save the Wild Tiger?

SHEILA ALEXANDER, DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

In July, Dr. Robert Alexander, Sweet Briar associate professor of Environmental Studies, was invited by the Chinese government to attend a workshop and conference on tiger conservation as their guest. The conference was called The International Workshop on Strategies for Tiger Conservation, but was actually more narrowly focused on the issue of trade in tiger products.

All tigers are protected under an international treaty called the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This protection means that no country that is a party to the treaty (currently 172 countries, including the United States and China) can ship or receive any product that contains parts of an animal listed in its Appendix I, such as the tiger. Popular use of tiger parts in Asia include using the skins as decoration and the bone for traditional Chinese medicine.

Although international trade is prohibited, the CITES agreement places no restriction on domestic trade in listed animals, so if an animal is taken within a particular country, there is no prohibition against the sale of that animal, or its parts, within the country. Nevertheless, many countries pass their own laws protecting species from such domestic trade, and China did that in 1993 by prohibiting the sale of any item containing tiger products.

In 1996, Holly’s enrollment at Sweet Briar changed her perspective. A family friend, Alice Perry Park ’65, also from Guatemala, told her about the College. Despite Holly’s initial aversion to attending a rural women’s college, she now admits that it was “in certain ways, the perfect place for me.” At Sweet Briar, Holly was able to receive individual instruction from professors in a peaceful environment where she refined her English and learned more about American and other cultures. “Sweet Briar gave me the opportunity for great communication and friendships with professors,” says Holly. “I felt that as long as I wanted to push myself, I could learn as much as I could fit into my head.”

Holly’s most influential mentor was Assistant Professor of Studio Art Paige Critcher. Professor Critcher was practicing her own photography in Seville, Spain at the same time that Holly was attending the JYS program. They met there, and Holly began to understand the meaning of being a true photographer: the inspiration, the creativity, the discipline, and the limitless possibilities for discovery. When taking Professor Critcher’s class at Sweet Briar during her senior year, Holly realized that her passion for the visual was more than a hobby; she was soon after determined to become a full-time photographer.

In spring 2000, Holly graduated with degrees in International Affairs, Spanish, and German; she would later become proficient in Italian and Japanese. After graduation, she spent two years in Japan teaching English and cultural diversity to rural communities. In 2003, Holly returned to the United States in order to follow her vocation; she attended the SALT Institute for Documentary Studies in Portland, Maine, and worked at Aurora Stock Agency, the same company that now sells her photographs. Holly has traveled to over 45 countries including much of Asia, exploring the world through her camera. The images tell of her great ability to blend into a foreign culture and celebrate it.

Today, Holly works as a freelance documentary photographer and photojournalist. As a freelancer, Holly lives on the edge, never knowing for certain where her next photography shoot will take her. Uncertainty is a challenge in itself, yet it brings about many possibilities. She says: “The photography I love to do, documentary photography, is fulfilling for me because it’s like being in a real world classroom. What I photograph, the people I photograph, always teach me something new, inspire me, and make me want to tell more and more about...
for tiger products. If this is the case, then a legal market in tiger products would help wild tigers. Others believe the establishment of such a market will increase poaching as black market operators see an opportunity to exploit the new market. If this is the case, then opening this market could lead to the complete loss of some wild tiger populations. The stakes are high and the outcome uncertain, so the issue is extremely contentious.

The Chinese government has vowed not to allow such a market to be established unless they have clear evidence that it will not adversely affect wild populations. This is the context within which Dr. Alexander was invited to participate by the State Forestry Administration of China as one of four wildlife economists brought in to address the question of how opening a domestic market in tiger products might affect poaching of wild tiger populations. The other economists came from New Zealand, South Africa, and India. "It was an honor to be asked," Dr. Alexander said. "You present research and publish journal articles, but you seldom get an opportunity to directly affect important conservation decisions."

Dr. Alexander’s research has typically focused on African wildlife. In June, he went to South Africa to further his work on the economics of African wild dog conservation. While tigers have not been on his agenda before, the mathematical models he has created may be designed to work with any species. "If you have the data, the models can tell you whether the economic incentives will favor increased or decreased poaching of a species. Unfortunately, one of the problems with tigers is that we have very little data. We may have to address this question with different types of models, or we may have to use a different approach altogether."

Dr. Alexander acknowledges that the issue is a difficult one for him personally. "In our culture the concept of raising tigers for harvest is distasteful, and I am no exception to that. Yet this is a cultural bias—Hindus react similarly to our eating cows—and not the real issue. The important issue is the fate of tigers in the wild. This may help wild tigers and it may hurt them; it is critical that we figure out which of these is most likely before the Chinese government makes a decision."

While no consensus was reached at this workshop, the issues were clearly defined and plans were set for beginning the research. "The workshop was the context within which Dr. Alexander was invited to participate by the State Forestry Administration of China as one of four wildlife economists brought in to address the question of how opening a domestic market in tiger products could lead to the complete loss of some wild tiger populations. The stakes are high and the outcome uncertain, so the issue is extremely contentious.

The Chinese government has vowed not to allow such a market to be established unless they have clear evidence that it will not adversely affect wild populations. This is the context within which Dr. Alexander was invited to participate by the State Forestry Administration of China as one of four wildlife economists brought in to address the question of how opening a domestic market in tiger products might affect poaching of wild tiger populations. The other economists came from New Zealand, South Africa, and India. "It was an honor to be asked," Dr. Alexander said. "You present research and publish journal articles, but you seldom get an opportunity to directly affect important conservation decisions."

Dr. Alexander’s research has typically focused on African wildlife. In June, he went to South Africa to further his work on the economics of African wild dog conservation. While tigers have not been on his agenda before, the mathematical models he has created may be designed to work with any species. "If you have the data, the models can tell you whether the economic incentives will favor increased or decreased poaching of a species. Unfortunately, one of the problems with tigers is that we have very little data. We may have to address this question with different types of models, or we may have to use a different approach altogether."

Dr. Alexander acknowledges that the issue is a difficult one for him personally. "In our culture the concept of raising tigers for harvest is distasteful, and I am no exception to that. Yet this is a cultural bias—Hindus react similarly to our eating cows—and not the real issue. The important issue is the fate of tigers in the wild. This may help wild tigers and it may hurt them; it is critical that we figure out which of these is most likely before the Chinese government makes a decision."

While no consensus was reached at this workshop, the issues were clearly defined and plans were set for beginning the research. "The workshop was the context within which Dr. Alexander was invited to participate by the State Forestry Administration of China as one of four wildlife economists brought in to address the question of how opening a domestic market in tiger products could lead to the complete loss of some wild tiger populations. The stakes are high and the outcome uncertain, so the issue is extremely contentious.

The Chinese government has vowed not to allow such a market to be established unless they have clear evidence that it will not adversely affect wild populations. This is the context within which Dr. Alexander was invited to participate by the State Forestry Administration of China as one of four wildlife economists brought in to address the question of how opening a domestic market in tiger products might affect poaching of wild tiger populations. The other economists came from New Zealand, South Africa, and India. "It was an honor to be asked," Dr. Alexander said. "You present research and publish journal articles, but you seldom get an opportunity to directly affect important conservation decisions."

Dr. Alexander’s research has typically focused on African wildlife. In June, he went to South Africa to further his work on the economics of African wild dog conservation. While tigers have not been on his agenda before, the mathematical models he has created may be designed to work with any species. "If you have the data, the models can tell you whether the economic incentives will favor increased or decreased poaching of a species. Unfortunately, one of the problems with tigers is that we have very little data. We may have to address this question with different types of models, or we may have to use a different approach altogether."

Dr. Alexander acknowledges that the issue is a difficult one for him personally. "In our culture the concept of raising tigers for harvest is distasteful, and I am no exception to that. Yet this is a cultural bias—Hindus react similarly to our eating cows—and not the real issue. The important issue is the fate of tigers in the wild. This may help wild tigers and it may hurt them; it is critical that we figure out which of these is most likely before the Chinese government makes a decision."

While no consensus was reached at this workshop, the issues were clearly defined and plans were set for beginning the research. "The workshop was the context within which Dr. Alexander was invited to participate by the State Forestry Administration of China as one of four wildlife economists brought in to address the question of how opening a domestic market in tiger products could lead to the complete loss of some wild tiger populations. The stakes are high and the outcome uncertain, so the issue is extremely contentious.

The Chinese government has vowed not to allow such a market to be established unless they have clear evidence that it will not adversely affect wild populations. This is the context within which Dr. Alexander was invited to participate by the State Forestry Administration of China as one of four wildlife economists brought in to address the question of how opening a domestic market in tiger products might affect poaching of wild tiger populations. The other economists came from New Zealand, South Africa, and India. "It was an honor to be asked," Dr. Alexander said. "You present research and publish journal articles, but you seldom get an opportunity to directly affect important conservation decisions."

Dr. Alexander’s research has typically focused on African wildlife. In June, he went to South Africa to further his work on the economics of African wild dog conservation. While tigers have not been on his agenda before, the mathematical models he has created may be designed to work with any species. "If you have the data, the models can tell you whether the economic incentives will favor increased or decreased poaching of a species. Unfortunately, one of the problems with tigers is that we have very little data. We may have to address this question with different types of models, or we may have to use a different approach altogether."

Dr. Alexander acknowledges that the issue is a difficult one for him personally. "In our culture the concept of raising tigers for harvest is distasteful, and I am no exception to that. Yet this is a cultural bias—Hindus react similarly to our eating cows—and not the real issue. The important issue is the fate of tigers in the wild. This may help wild tigers and it may hurt them; it is critical that we figure out which of these is most likely before the Chinese government makes a decision."

While no consensus was reached at this workshop, the issues were clearly defined and plans were set for beginning the research. "The workshop was the context within which Dr. Alexander was invited to participate by the State Forestry Administration of China as one of four wildlife economists brought in to address the question of how opening a domestic market in tiger products could lead to the complete loss of some wild tiger populations. The stakes are high and the outcome uncertain, so the issue is extremely contentious.

The Chinese government has vowed not to allow such a market to be established unless they have clear evidence that it will not adversely affect wild populations. This is the context within which Dr. Alexander was invited to participate by the State Forestry Administration of China as one of four wildlife economists brought in to address the question of how opening a domestic market in tiger products might affect poaching of wild tiger populations. The other economists came from New Zealand, South Africa, and India. "It was an honor to be asked," Dr. Alexander said. "You present research and publish journal articles, but you seldom get an opportunity to directly affect important conservation decisions."

Dr. Alexander’s research has typically focused on African wildlife. In June, he went to South Africa to further his work on the economics of African wild dog conservation. While tigers have not been on his agenda before, the mathematical models he has created may be designed to work with any species. "If you have the data, the models can tell you whether the economic incentives will favor increased or decreased poaching of a species. Unfortunately, one of the problems with tigers is that we have very little data. We may have to address this question with different types of models, or we may have to use a different approach altogether."

Dr. Alexander acknowledges that the issue is a difficult one for him personally. "In our culture the concept of raising tigers for harvest is distasteful, and I am no exception to that. Yet this is a cultural bias—Hindus react similarly to our eating cows—and not the real issue. The important issue is the fate of tigers in the wild. This may help wild tigers and it may hurt them; it is critical that we figure out which of these is most likely before the Chinese government makes a decision."

While no consensus was reached at this workshop, the issues were clearly defined and plans were set for beginning the research. "The workshop was
On Saturday, May 12, 2007, Sweet Briar celebrated its 98th Commencement, graduating 103 young women from 22 states and two countries, Senegal and Morocco. Sweet Briar conferred Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) degrees to six ambitious women.

Commencement exercises began with a moment of silence to honor those who died in the recent Virginia Tech tragedy. U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao delivered an encouraging speech regarding the employment environment that our graduates will enter. According to her statistics and remarks, the job market is healthy, and the number of women to complete higher education is experiencing phenomenal growth. As hats flew and music sounded, the Class of 2007 crossed the threshold into the workforce with a promising future.

We are pleased to announce that the College conferred its fifth honorary degree during Commencement to Elaine Chao. President Muhlenfeld remarked that Elaine “is our nation’s 24th Secretary of Labor and the first Asian American woman appointed to a President’s Cabinet in U.S. History. She has made an indelible mark on one of our country’s greatest assets—the more than 150 million men and women who make up the country’s workforce. In their hands rest our nation’s economic prosperity. And, in her hands rests the duty to safeguard their health, safety, retirement, security, and competitiveness.” She was awarded with the degree, Doctor of Public Service, honoris causa. To further celebrate her contributions to public service, Chao was also awarded the Center for Civic Renewal Award.
COMMENCEMENT HONORS

The Emilie Watts McVea Scholar
The highest-ranking member of the Class of 2007.
Jennifer Leigh Summerfield, Cross Lanes, WV

The Presidential Medalist
The Presidential Medal recognizes seniors who have a range of accomplishments comparable to those associated with candidates for Rhodes, Marshall, or Truman scholarships. Awardees must have demonstrated exemplary intellectual achievement.
Christina Shaheen Moosa, Chesapeake, VA

The Penelope Lane Czarra Award
This award honors the senior who best combines scholastic achievement, student leadership, and effective contributions to the quality of life at the College.
Eleanor Rose O’Connor, Belmont, NC

The Connie M. Guion Award
This is given to a senior for her excellence as a human being and as a member of the College.
Laura Jane Schaefer, Emmaus, PA
Rebecca Lynn Teachey, Amherst, VA

The Walker Family Award
This award honors a senior with high scholastic standing who has a cheerful, positive disposition and shows warmth, generosity, and humility.
Heidi Lynn Trude, Warrenton, VA

The Judith Molinar Elkins Prize
The family of the late Professor Judith Elkins established a prize to recognize the outstanding achievement of a senior majoring in the mathematical, physical, or biological sciences, actively participating in the College community, and demonstrating the ideals and dedication to learning exemplified by the life of Professor Elkins.
Kelsey Erin Jeffers, Falls Church, VA
Jennifer Leigh Summerfield, Cross Lanes, WV

The Alpha Lambda Delta Award
Jennifer Leigh Summerfield, Cross Lanes, WV

American Association of University Women
Melissa Shelton, Arrington, VA
Rebecca Lynn Teachey, Amherst, VA

The Marcia Capron Award for Excellence in French
Maggie Elizabeth Bell Saylor, Bluffton, OH

The Juliet Halliburton Davis Environmental Studies Award
Laura Jane Schaefer, Emmaus, PA

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Outstanding Scholar Education Award
Danielle Catherine Dionne, Potomac Falls, VA
The Goethe-Institut Buchpreis
Claire Elyce Bryan, Chesapeake, VA

The Kathryn Haw Prize in Art History
Laun Sung, Gaithersburg, MD

The James Lewis Howe Award in Chemistry
Erica Cane Kennedy, Nashville, TN

L’Alliance Francaise de Lynchburg
Caitlin Sara Harvey, Wellesley, MA

The Mathematical Sciences Award
Jessica L. Poore, Pulaski, VA

The Jessica Steinbrenner Molloy Award in Theater Arts
Caitlin Elizabeth Cashin, Montclair, VA

The Lawrence G. Nelson Award for Excellence in English
Shavonne Wei-Ming Clarke, Manassas, VA
Rachel Elena Reynolds, Bethesda, MD

The Pauline Roberts Otis Award in French
Maggie Elizabeth Bell Saylor, Bluffton, OH

The W. Edward Overly Award in Spanish
Marissa Virginia Wikes, Fairfax, VA

The Lucile Barrow Turner Award
Caitlin Elizabeth Cashin, Montclair, VA

PHI BETA KAPPA 2007
Megen Anne Blaesing, Hurt, VA
Shavonne Wei-Ming Clarke, Manassas, VA
Kendra Elyse Hawkins, Johnson City, TX
Sarah Rose Kindschuh, Portland, OR
Christina Shaheen Moosa, Chesapeake, VA
Anne Katherine Proctor, Everett, WA
Natalie Amelia Pye, Atlanta, GA
Rachel Elena Reynolds, Bethesda, MD
Maggie Elizabeth Bell Saylor, Bluffton, OH
Laura Jane Schaefer, Emmaus, PA
Jennifer Leigh Summerfield, Cross Lanes, WV
Laun Sung, Gaithersville, MD
Rebecca Lynn Teachey, Amherst, VA
Marissa Virginia Wikes, Fairfax, VA

CUM LAUDE
Elizabeth Caitlin Ashley, Saint Albans, WV
Amanda Cash Browning, Shipman, VA
Jennifer Linn Dick, Staunton, VA
Stephanie Anne Giles, Colleen, VA
Caitlin Sara Harvey, Wellesley, MA
Laura Renea Kamusek, Prince George, VA
Natalie Amelia Pye, Atlanta, GA
Rachel Elena Reynolds, Bethesda, MD
Morgan Lorraine Roach, Jeffersonston, VA
Laura Jane Schaefer, Emmaus, PA
Brandy May Stinnette, Madison Heights, VA
Emily Collins Wiley, Vernon, NJ

ALUMNAE RELATIVES

Morgan Roach ’07 with sister Ryan Roach ’10
April Miller ’07 with sister Madge Elizabeth Miller ’98
Megen Blaesing ’07 with sister Kristen Blaesing ’11
MAGNA CUM LAUDE
Megen Anne Blaesing, Hurt, VA
Shavonne Wei-Ming Clarke, Manassas, VA
Marieme Diop, Dakar, Senegal
Sarah Elizabeth Gurtler, Lancaster, PA
Kendra Elyse Hawkins, Johnson City, TX
Kelsey Erin Jeffers, Falls Church, VA
Sarah Rose Kindschuh, Portland, OR
Jessica Erin Leonardi, Fort Washington, MD
Irene Marie Garrett Maslanik, Lakeland, FL
Eleanor Rose O’Connor, Belmont, NC
Jessica Leigh Poore, Pulaski, VA
Anne Katherine Proctor, Everett, WA
Maggie Elizabeth Bell Saylor, Bluffton, OH
Betty Caroline Skeen, Aiken, SC
Laeun Sung, Gaithersville, MD
Rebecca Lynn Teachey, Amherst, VA
Heidi Lynn Trude, Warrenton, VA
Marissa Virginia Wikes, Fairfax, VA

SUMMA CUM LAUDE
Christina Shaheen Moosa, Chesapeake, VA
Jennifer Leigh Summerfield, Cross Lanes, WV

THE HONORS PROGRAM,
CLASS OF 2007

Honors Degree and High Honors in Philosophy
Christina Shaheen Moosa, Chesapeake, VA

Honors Degree and High Honors in Classics
Natalie Amelia Pye, Atlanta, GA

Honors Degree and High Honors in English
Rachel Elena Reynolds, Bethesda, MD

Honors Degree and Highest Honors in English and Creative Writing
Shavonne Wei-Ming Clarke, Manassas, VA

Honors Degree and Highest Honors in International Affairs
Maggie Elizabeth Bell Saylor, Bluffton, OH

Turning Point students Melissa Shelton ‘07 and Karen Summers ‘07

Masters of Arts in Teaching graduates, l-r: Tamra Scott ’06, Lisa Mollica ’06, Gemma Bourgeau ’06, Victoria Hankins ’06, Breanne Leibering ’04, Elizabeth Churchill ’06
Class of 1942: l-r: Ann Morrison Reams, Elizabeth Blackmer Childs, Joanne Oberkirk Willis. The Class of 1942 came back as cheerful and bright as ever!

Class of 1947: l-r: Husband Lloyd and Virginia Barron Summer, Husband John and Judith Burnett Halsey, Husband Douglas and Sara McMullen Lindsey all had a wonderful time at Reunion ’07.

Class of 1952 had an outstanding showing of 14 alumnae and 8 husbands! Dean Jonathan Green and his wife Lynn Buck hosted a fantastic dinner for the post 50th classes that was enjoyed by all at the Elston Inn and Conference Center.

Scrapbook
Each class made three announcements at Convocation:
- Reunion Gift to the Annual Fund (RG);
- Class Participation: (PART);
- Five Year Total Giving (to all funds): TG

Photos © David Abrams except as noted.
Class of 1957 gathers to celebrate their 50th—Their Best Ever!

1957 won the Nancy Dowd Burton Award for the largest Reunion Gift (after their banner was printed, additional gifts raised the total to $618,151.57); the Five Year Total Giving Award to All Funds ($6,962,295); the Participation Award for Classes Celebrating 25th–50th Reunions (87%); and the first Nancy Godwin Baldwin Award (new Alumnae Association Award recognizing the Highest Percentage of Alumnae Attending Reunion in that Year (29%).

1962 The Class of 1962 celebrated their 45th Reunion. 10 alumnae and 5 husbands enjoyed a lovely weekend of fellowship. RG: $56,031; PART: 60%; TG: $2,514,008.

The Class of 1952 showed a DVD at Reunion this year entitled “Resting On Our Laurels—Connecting the Generations.” If you would like to order your own copy, please send a check for $20.00 to: Patton Productions, 17 East 97th Street, Suite 4D, New York, NY 10029

This will cover one DVD and postage. Half of all proceeds will be donated equally to the North Shore Music Theater, a nonprofit organization, and Sweet Briar College.

Sweet Briar College Alumnae Magazine • www.alumnae.sbc.edu
The Class of 1977 celebrated a lovely 30th Reunion. 9 alumnae, 1 husband, and 1 alumna daughter spent the weekend enjoying wonderful company in SBC's beautiful setting. RG: $26,768; PART: 53%; TG: $502,979.

The Class of 1982 celebrated their 25th Reunion with wonderful attendance: 32 alumnae, 5 husbands, and 5 children. They shared great memories during a special picnic at the Boathouse on Friday evening. RG: $30,298; PART: 52%; TG: $155,702.

“The class of ’67 had a great time with several members making their first trip back to campus in many years. Besides catching up with classmates, golf, riding and enjoying the beautiful campus were very popular activities,” Diane “Toots” Dalton ’67. 27 alumnae and 6 husbands celebrated the Class of 1967’s 40th Reunion. RG: $50,357; PART: 60%; TG: $252,457.

The Class of 1972 celebrated their 35th Reunion during which 23 alumnae and 1 husband were able to reconnect over picnic fare, outdoor activities, and visits to open houses around campus. RG: $201,131; PART: 69%; TG: $1,859,626.
The Class of 1987 won the Participation Award for the class with the highest participation in the 5th–20th Reunion group. Congratulations 1987! 22 alumnae, 4 husbands, and 6 children were there to share the fun. RG: $38,454; PART: 52%; TG: $440,686.

At their 15th Reunion the class of 1992 enjoyed their exciting weekend with 13 alumnae, 6 husbands, and 8 children on campus. RG: $18,290; PART: 26%, TG: $193,967.

"The Class of 1997’s 10th Reunion was fantastic! Our attendance increased from our 5th year, and so many different groups within the class were represented. Many of us had not seen each other since graduation, but it was as if we had never left Sweet Briar. I’m proud of my classmates, as well as so many of our parents, for giving toward our Reunion Gift to Sweet Briar. The College needs our continued support and we were thrilled to successfully surpass our goal! I can’t wait to return to SBC again, and I thank the campus community for its hard work to welcome us back home with such grace and gusto. Holla holla," from Anne MacDonald Carter ’97.

The Class of 1997 had a wonderful turnout: 34 alumnae, 14 husbands, 5 children, and 3 friends! Go ’97! RG: $17,821; PART: 40%; TG: $270,551.

The Class of 2002 broke the 5th Reunion Giving record with a contribution of $12,647! 18 alumnae, 1 child, and 1 friend attended. PART: 27%; TG: $110,153.
It is my great pleasure and privilege, as President of the Alumnae Association, to introduce Nancy Godwin Baldwin of the Class of 1957, recipient of the 2007 Outstanding Alumna Award. This award, one of the highest that Sweet Briar College can bestow, was founded in 1968 to recognize alumnae who have given outstanding service to the College in a volunteer capacity.

We are delighted to have Nancy’s nieces, Cannie Chrysler Shafer ’78 and Sophie Chrysler Hart ’81 and Sophie’s husband Rick Hadley here to help celebrate Nancy.

We also welcome alumnae in non-reunion years, colleagues and friends who made a special effort to be here today to honor Nancy. And of course we are delighted that so many of Nancy’s classmates from the great Class of 1957 are present to celebrate their 50th Reunion and cheer her on. Will all of you please stand? Thank you so very much for joining us!

The 1957 Briar Patch aptly describes Nancy as “exuberant, spontaneous, individual… Sophisticated Lady… loves sweet smells, bubble baths and cats… a girl of many talents and interests… versatile… the theatre… organized confusion… passion for zany literature and festive occasions… dynamic wit… magnetic personality… creativity flows through every vein… vitality plus…” Boy did they have that right!

“Outstanding” in every way from her student days onward. A drama major at Sweet Briar from Petersburg, Virginia, Nancy directed her Freshman and Senior Shows, served as Sophomore Class President; Vice President of the Judicial Board; member of the Curriculum Committee and Toast Mistress for Junior
Banquet. She was on the Dean’s List and was elected to *Who’s Who in American Colleges and Universities*. Nancy was also a member of the Q.V.’s; Paint and Patches, and was elected to the May Court.

As many of you are aware, we are celebrating the 400th Anniversary of Jamestown, VA. I’ll bet that many of you don’t know that during her senior year at Sweet Briar, Nancy wrote “Lord Jeffrey’s County,” a play depicting the history of Amherst County for the 350th celebration of Jamestown. The play was performed in the West Dell with a cast of over 100.

After graduation, Nancy went to Bowling Green State University in Ohio, where she did graduate work in speech and theatre. It was fortunate for us that she returned to Virginia, and took a one-year position in the Admissions Officer as a “traveler,” while trying to decide what her next adventure would be. Little did she know then, that her one-year position would lead to a lifelong commitment to Sweet Briar College. How fortunate for us!

Nancy served as Assistant Director of Admissions from 1958–1966 and Director of Admissions from 1966–1980. She shaped the pool of future leaders for the Alumnae Association and the College for twenty-two years. Then in 1986, Ann Morrison Reams ’42, director of the Alumnae Association, asked Nancy to serve as editor of the *Alumnae Magazine*, and to serve on the Alumnae Association Board. She has done an exemplary job for 21 years producing what is considered the flagship communications vehicle for our alumnae constituency. At the same time she was serving as editor, Nancy agreed to “help out” for a short period of time in the Development Office. Once again, a short-term commitment led to 20 years of service to Sweet Briar. From 1986 to 2006 she was instrumental to the College in maintaining close, personal ties with our most generous donors.

Nancy’s generous spirit extends well beyond our gates. She has given of her time, talent, and resources to St. Catherine’s, her preparatory school in Richmond, she has supported community theatre, and she is an avid supporter of the Humane Society of Amherst County, to name a few.

For Sweet Briar, Nancy has been an active member of the Amherst Alumnae Club, served on her Class Reunion Gifts Committee, and sold flower bulbs for Sweet Briar to support student scholarships. She loves to travel and was called upon to host two Sweet Briar Alumnae Association tours. Nancy served on the Centennial Awards Committee to select the outstanding members of the Sweet Briar community during the College’s first hundred years. She has demonstrated her commitment to the future of the College as a member of The Silver Rose Society and as a member of The Williams Associates, having named Sweet Briar in her will.

I would be remiss in talking about Nancy’s gifts to Sweet Briar without mentioning her husband Tom. Tom and Nancy were partners in their support of Sweet Briar. Tom Baldwin was an excellent Sweet Briar husband, supporting Nancy in her professional and volunteer roles for the College. Together, they took an active interest in helping students transition from home to college. Many a Sunday evening was spent entertaining groups of students at their home for Sunday suppers. They sponsored classes and extended their hospitality to countless members of faculty and staff as well.

Nancy, through your excellent work, we have a stronger and more vibrant Alumnae Association composed of women you saw promise in. We also have a first rate magazine which has led the way in keeping the lines of communication open between the College and her alumnae. On May 4th at the Community Reception honoring Nancy, President Muhlenfeld said that through Nancy’s work in Admissions, shaping the future pool of the Alumnae Association, and her work with the Alumnae Magazine, our chief communication vehicle, it is quite possible that Nancy has had the greatest positive impact on our Alumnae Association of any other person in Sweet Briar’s history. Thank you for dedicating yourself to making Sweet Briar College the best it can be.

On June 30, 2007, Nancy will retire from Sweet Briar College. The Alumnae Association has established a new award, which will be presented for the first time today. It is an award that recognizes the class with the highest percentage of alumnae attending Reunion in that year. The award is named the Nancy *Godwin* Baldwin Reunion Attendance Award.

To quote Nancy, “I always say, shortly after I was born, I turned right and came here.” We thank you, Nancy, for making that turn. We thank you for the dedication, loyalty, and love you give to everything you have done and continue to do for Sweet Briar College. We are so proud of you and we applaud you! You have earned the rose, over and over again!
Nancy Baldwin Accepts the 2007 Outstanding Alumna Award

Thank you, Linda.
Hello, Everyone. Welcome Back!
Since coming back, Reunions have always been my favorite Sweet Briar occasions. I have only missed one, in 1958. I returned to start my first “real job” in August ’58, way past Reunion time.

Since then, each one has made happy memories. Which reminds me of Bob Hope singing “THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES.”

On one occasion, he is quoted as saying,
“I’ve been on NBC so long the peacock was hatched from an egg I laid.”

I can relate to that! In recent years, each Reunion, alumnae of all ages have asked: “How long have you been here?”

I want to set the record straight: I wasn’t here to actually meet Indiana Fletcher Williams…But I have felt her presence.

There is something else I want to set straight. In early days, and since, some misguided sources have termed Sweet Briar a “Finishing School.”

WRONG!!!! That was never true.

The first five graduates in the Class of 1910 set the pace. They all “went out and made a difference.”

Sweet Briar was recognized even then: in February 1909, Cornell University made a difference.

The Story of Sweet Briar
The first five graduates in the Class of 1910 set the pace. They all “went out and made a difference.”

Sweet Briar was recognized even then: in February 1909, Cornell University made a difference.

Since coming back, Reunions have always been my favorite Sweet Briar occasions. I have only missed one, in 1958. I returned to start my first “real job” in August ’58, way past Reunion time.

Since then, each one has made happy memories. Which reminds me of Bob Hope singing “THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES.”

On one occasion, he is quoted as saying,
“I’ve been on NBC so long the peacock was hatched from an egg I laid.”

I can relate to that! In recent years, each Reunion, alumnae of all ages have asked: “How long have you been here?”

I want to set the record straight: I wasn’t here to actually meet Indiana Fletcher Williams…But I have felt her presence.

There is something else I want to set straight. In early days, and since, some misguided sources have termed Sweet Briar a “Finishing School.”

WRONG!!!! That was never true.

The first five graduates in the Class of 1910 set the pace. They all “went out and made a difference.”

Sweet Briar was recognized even then: in February 1909, Cornell University made a difference.

The Story of Sweet Briar
The first five graduates in the Class of 1910 set the pace. They all “went out and made a difference.”

Sweet Briar was recognized even then: in February 1909, Cornell University made a difference.

Since coming back, Reunions have always been my favorite Sweet Briar occasions. I have only missed one, in 1958. I returned to start my first “real job” in August ’58, way past Reunion time.

Since then, each one has made happy memories. Which reminds me of Bob Hope singing “THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES.”

On one occasion, he is quoted as saying,
“I’ve been on NBC so long the peacock was hatched from an egg I laid.”

I can relate to that! In recent years, each Reunion, alumnae of all ages have asked: “How long have you been here?”

I want to set the record straight: I wasn’t here to actually meet Indiana Fletcher Williams…But I have felt her presence.

There is something else I want to set straight. In early days, and since, some misguided sources have termed Sweet Briar a “Finishing School.”

WRONG!!!! That was never true.

The first five graduates in the Class of 1910 set the pace. They all “went out and made a difference.”

Sweet Briar was recognized even then: in February 1909, Cornell University made a difference.

The Story of Sweet Briar
The first five graduates in the Class of 1910 set the pace. They all “went out and made a difference.”

Sweet Briar was recognized even then: in February 1909, Cornell University made a difference.
I stand in awe of what they manage to accomplish in four years with the guidance of a very fine faculty. Sweet Briar has been blessed.

Just as I know it was in the fifties, and as it had to be when the College welcomed its first students, Sweet Briar’s faculty is made up of individuals who are here because they want to teach, to further their students’ interests, talents, academic ability—to help prepare them for their next—and for their lifelong—endeavors. Of course they also publish, serve on numerous committees, continue their own scholarly pursuits...“All in a day’s work!”

And they do other things, for fun relaxation. If you have time this trip, go take a look at the Community Garden where faculty and staff grow an abundance of all kinds of vegetables. It’s worth seeing.

Over the years, alumnae here for a few days, away from their busy lives, have said, wistfully: “It must be wonderful to be in this beautiful, peaceful place every day!”

“Yes. Undeniably beautiful. “Peaceful?” Yes—when time allows! And it is wonderful to be here. I appreciate that—I live here.

But day-to-day life on these gorgeous acres does not move slowly. Sweet Briar is a vibrant community. Every day brings new challenges and poses new possibilities.

Everything hasn’t, and doesn’t, come up roses. There have been hard times and tough decisions. Mistakes happen. Things go awry as they do everywhere else.

But the late J. Wilson Newman, former Chairman of the Board during the sixties, to whom this College owes a great deal, said something during a Convocation years ago that I have remembered.

“There’s something special about Sweet Briar. There always has been,” he said.

I agree.

Watching and being part of the ongoing campus life has been a privilege for which I am grateful.

I am also grateful to you and to your predecessors.

I am grateful that Sweet Briar has all of you to depend upon:

—For your love of the place
—For your ongoing efforts to keep it strong by helping the Admissions Office identify prospective students who will take advantage of what the College has to give
—And for your appreciation of what it is and what it can be—now, and far into the future.

Sweet Briar remains at the top, in great measure because of you, card-carrying, interested alumnae.

You are “Outstanding”!
I SALUTE YOU!-------
AND THANK YOU!
KEEP ON KEEPIN’ ON!
transitions

Nancy B’s Travels through SBC History Leave Indelible Legacy

JENNIFER MCMANAMAY
STAFF WRITER

Nancy Baldwin’s hand print on the College is undeniable. She served as assistant director of admissions (1958–66) at Sweet Briar, director of admissions (1966–80), and editor of the Alumnae Magazine (1986–present). During that time, she also agreed to “temporarily” work part time in development—for about 20 years. Her association with Sweet Briar spans 54 years.

“Nancy shaped the future of Sweet Briar in many ways through the students she’s admitted,” said Louise Swiecki Zingaro ’80, director of the Alumnae Association. “She admitted me.”

Among SBC graduates’ accomplishments, Nancy may be proudest of her own two nieces, Cannie Chrysler Shafer ’78 and Sophia “Sophie” Chrysler Hart ’81. The College’s Chrysler Award for four-year athletes was named in honor of Shafer, who was one of nine charter member inductees of the Sweet Briar College Athletics Hall of Fame at Homecoming 2006.

Undoubtedly, Sweet Briar has shaped Nancy, too.

“I always say, shortly after I was born, I turned right and came here,” said Nancy.

Some who know Nancy say she is timeless. No one remembers her with a different hairstyle. She dresses impeccably, with a keen eye for hip animal-themed clothing and jewelry. But she doesn’t mind if students today wear pajamas to class or let their jeans drag the ground.

Every generation is its own, and they get the same respect as all that went before. That constant evolution is one reason Nancy remained at Sweet Briar.

“It was endlessly interesting,” she said. “Everything that I saw happening seemed good at the time, some proved good, some proved not so good, but there was something going on all the time.”

Nancy was honored during Reunion on May 19, when she received the 2007 Outstanding Alumna Award for her volunteer service. We are grateful to Nancy for being an active part of the College community, and we will miss her.

Nancy Kleinhans ’06
LOUISE SWIECKI
ZINGARO ’80
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ALUMNAE AFFAIRS

Nancy Kleinhans ’06 joined the Alumnae Office Staff as an Assistant Director on Monday, July 16, 2007. She filled the position that was open as a result of Paula Kirkland Ledbetter’s move to the Admissions Office.

Nancy graduated from Sweet Briar College in May 2006 with a B.A. in English. As a student she worked in the Alumnae Office as a Student Assistant and Reunion Intern. After graduating, she moved to Tampa, Florida where she worked at Hillsborough Community College as a Writing Assistant and at the Academy of the Holy Names as an Advancement Administrative Assistant.

Nancy’s major areas of responsibility are coordinating Reunion, the Alumnae Admissions Representatives program, working with Alumnae Club Programs in Regions VIII, IX, and X, and assisting with our Alumnae Magazine.

Donna Dodd
LOUISE SWIECKI
ZINGARO ’80
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ALUMNAE AFFAIRS

Donna Dodd, Assistant to the Executive Director and Office Manager began work on May 2, 2007, filling the position open due to Sandra Maddox’s retirement. Donna worked at Sweet Briar from 1997–2006 in the Business Office and in Purchasing. Her major areas of responsibility are working with the Executive Director on Alumnae Board meetings, budgets, and general office duties. Donna’s daughter Kelly graduated from Sweet Briar in 2001.
A Record Setting Celebration!

LAURA GLOVER ’86, DIRECTOR OF ANNUAL GIVING

Just as the Annual Fund is integral to the success of the College each year with its vital budget support of all aspects of the Sweet Briar experience, the Reunion Giving program is the cornerstone of the Annual Fund, raising more than $1.1 million in unrestricted gifts in 2007. Reunion classes are the pacesetters each year for the Annual Fund, and the new Reunion Giving Recognition Plaque was unveiled at Reunion Weekend in May to honor those classes holding the all-time records for unrestricted giving in the 5th through 50th reunions. The unveiling was truly a time of celebration as three classes, the Classes of 1957, 1972, and 2002, all set new records for Reunion Giving in 2007.

In her remarks at the unveiling of the new plaque, President Muhlenfeld stated: “Records are great to make and even better to break. We are here to celebrate both with the unveiling of this plaque.” The plaque is displayed in the Atrium of the Student Commons and serves as a daily reminder to students and others throughout the year of the commitment of Sweet Briar alumnae to the continued excellence of the College.

Reunion classes raise the bar on philanthropy at Sweet Briar and are stellar examples of the joy of giving. These record-setting classes have a tradition of giving every single year to the Annual Fund. They commit to giving regularly and they maintain that commitment. They keep in touch with one another and with the life of the College. When their Reunion year arrives, they already have a solid foundation upon which to build and a plan in place for achieving ambitious goals with their class gifts. They know that supporting Sweet Briar upholds the value of the degree that they received—a degree that has equipped them to deal with the world confidently, no matter what they choose to do.

The Class of 1957 has held many Reunion Giving records over the years and set a new gold standard in giving for their 50th Reunion raising more than $617,000 for their class gift. Nannette McBurney Crowdus, Class of 1957 Giving Chair, explains why her class has been so successful:

“The Class of 1957 is truly amazing, for so many reasons. The glue that has held us together all these years is our love for Sweet Briar and our appreciation of and devotion to each other. These things have manifested themselves in our dedication to lead the way in gifts of all kinds: Annual Fund, Silver Rose, Boxwood Circle, Keystone Society and participation. We are a class of donors, past, present and future because we believe in Sweet Briar and all it stands for. We have set a fearsome challenge for those who come behind us. It will be a proud day when our records are broken because we showed the way.”

This attitude is a reflection of true Sweet Briar spirit—a commitment to doing the very best, to taking joy in the challenge, and to supporting even greater achievement in those women who follow. That Sweet Briar spirit echoes in the remarks of Aja Grosvenor, Class of 2002 Reunion Giving Chair, upon her class setting a new record:

“The very best thing about this display is that the glass plates are removable, and the plaque is meant to change—records, after all, are meant to be broken. Our class has a sense of responsibility toward Sweet Briar. Members of this class, no matter what we have chosen to do with our lives, all give of ourselves every day in volunteer activities. Our inspiration to break the old record for giving in a 5th reunion is an outgrowth of that. We’ll do our best to keep the philanthropy going.”

As you and your classmates look forward to your next Reunion, remember: set your goals high, have tons of fun, and don’t worry about hurting anyone’s feelings when you set a new Reunion Giving record. Those classes whose records are broken will be happy to help you celebrate your success!

**REUNION GIVING RECORD HOLDERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50th</td>
<td>Class of 1957</td>
<td>$617,957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45th</td>
<td>Class of 1960</td>
<td>$160,927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40th</td>
<td>Class of 1964</td>
<td>$135,580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35th</td>
<td>Class of 1972</td>
<td>$201,131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30th</td>
<td>Class of 1964</td>
<td>$100,165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25th</td>
<td>Class of 1972</td>
<td>$107,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th</td>
<td>Class of 1986</td>
<td>$60,698</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th</td>
<td>Class of 1972</td>
<td>$37,659</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th</td>
<td>Class of 1980</td>
<td>$21,071</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Class of 2002</td>
<td>$12,647</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Christian Carr, Assistant Professor of Arts Management; Director of the Sweet Briar Museum to Lecture in Richmond, VA

“Architectural History at VCU: The First Decade and a Half,” Virginia Commonwealth University’s Fifteenth Annual Symposium on Architectural History and the Decorative Arts, will take place on Friday, November 16, 2007, at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond, VA.

Christian Carr, Director of the Sweet Briar Museum and Assistant Professor of Arts Management, will give a paper on Sweet Briar House in the afternoon session. Titled “Palladian Plantation, Italianate Villa, Aesthetic Retreat,” her paper will address the ways in which the home of Sweet Briar College’s president evolved throughout the 19th century. All alumnae are welcome to attend!

The Virginia Historical Society is located at 428 North Boulevard, Richmond, and the conference will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission is free to students, $8.00 per person for members of sponsoring institutions, and $10.00 per person for others. A post-conference reception will be held at the restored Hancock-Wirt-Caskie House (1808-09) by courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey R. Bowles III. The charge for the reception is an additional $10.00. For reservations, please send checks, payable to VCU, to Conference, Department of Art History, Virginia Commonwealth University, P. O. Box 843046, 922 West Franklin Street, Richmond, VA 23284-3046, by November 9. For hard copy of the brochure which lists the full range of topics, or other information, please call 804/828-2784.

SBC ’59 one tenth of the class

Several members of the Class of 1959 got together for a mini-reunion luncheon this past June in Ware Neck, VA.


Back row: Patricia Coxe Ware, Dorothy “Dede” Ulf Mayer, Judy Sorley Chambers-Simpson, Tabb Thornton Farinholt

UPCOMING SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION TOURS:
www.sbc.edu/alumnae/travel.html

OCT. 19–NOV. 3, 2007: A President’s Trip: Argentina, Chile and Patagonia
FEB. 10–18, 2008: Island Life in Tahiti and French Polynesia
JUNE 3–14, 2008: A President’s Trip: Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of SBC’s JYF Program in France
JULY 2–15, 2008: Alumni Campus Abroad in Ukraine and Romania aboard the MS Dnieper Princess
JULY 29–AUG. 6, 2008: Village Life in Ireland: Dublin and Killarney
OCT. 24–NOV. 2, 2008: A Connoisseur’s Northern Italy
recent deaths

1920s
Selma Brandt ’22
Mrs. Selma B. Kress
January 15, 1996

Gertrude Anderson ’28
Mrs. William A. Molster
July 2, 1997

1930s
Serena Ailes ’30
Mrs. Mark C. Stevens
September 16, 2006

Mary Van Winkle ’32
Mrs. Charles King McClure Jr.
August 28, 2006

Elizabeth Anderson ’34
Mrs. William A. Molster
July 2, 1997

1940s
Jane Burnett ’40
Mrs. Perry C. Hill
May 4, 2006

Dorothy Myers ’42
Mrs. Robert P. Morehead
November 30, 2005

Mabel Sheldon ’42
Mrs. Elmer F. Francis
October 8, 2006

Elizabeth Whitaker ’42
Mrs. Richard E. Hook III
February 12, 2006

Betty Lynn Emerick ’43
Mrs. David Bethiefs
October 16, 2006

Anne McJunkin ’43
Mrs. Frank E. Briber Jr.
September 8, 2006

Dorothy Stauber ’43
Mrs. Joseph McCarthy
October 4, 2006

Josephine Soule ’43
Mrs. William W. Claghorn
November 16, 2006

Marguerite Brink ’46
Mrs. Leo Feuer, Jr.
October 23, 2006

Dorothy Christian ’46
Mrs. Richard L. Schley Jr.
December 11, 2006

Sara Davis ’48
Mrs. J. Kyle Spencer
November 15, 2006

1950s
Amie Willard ’52
Mrs. Huntington T. Block
September 23, 2006

Sara Ironmonger ’53
Mrs. Jack E. Greer
November 14, 2006

1960s
Barbara Bowen ’60
Mrs. H. Clay Moore, Jr.
October 14, 2006

Helen Gardner “Polly” Chapman ’61
Mrs. Fred D. Herring
November 3, 2006

Annabel Pagan ’61
Mrs. Robert V. Blakey
September 6, 2006

Mary McGrew ’66
Ms. Mary McGrew Lee
September 6, 2006

Joan Niles ’66
Mrs. James Tansey
August 5, 2006

1970s
Lillian Dugger ’73
Mrs. Lillian G. London
October 6, 2006

Gail Kuehner ’77
Ms. Gail Kuehner Rakes
June 21, 1996

Cara Olexo ’78
Miss Cara E. Olexo
September 20, 2006

1980s
Susan Maylor ’82
Miss Susan Elaine Maylor
August 9, 2004

1990s
Lynn McEachern ’96
Miss Lynn Morrison McEachern
November 26, 2006

If you wish to write to a member of the family of someone recently deceased, please contact the Alumnae Office for name and address.

in memoriam

Gladys Wester Horton ’30, 1909–2007

It is with sadness that we report the death of Gladys Wester Horton, Class of 1930. Mrs. Horton served on the College’s Board of Overseers from 1956 until 1973. She was President of the Alumnae Association from 1956–1960; alumna member of Overseers from 1961–1965; and Director from 1965–1973. As a member of the Buildings and Grounds, Development, Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Executive Committees, Mrs. Horton’s expansive wisdom and expertise served the College well. In 1959, she established the Boxwood Circle (annual gifts of $1,000) and continued to be active in fundraising for the College. In addition, the Gladys Wester Horton Scholarship Fund was established by the North Jersey Sweet Briar Club. For her generous devotion to Sweet Briar, she was named Outstanding Alumna in 1976. Mrs. Horton’s other activities and organizations included serving as President of the Maplewood New Jersey Service League; the Board of Education of Maplewood and South Orange, New Jersey; Board member of the local Red Cross; the Arboretum of Millburn and Short Hills, New Jersey; the Neighborhood House of Millburn, New Jersey; the Junior Women’s Club of South Orange, New Jersey; and the New Jersey Symphony Auxiliary Board.

She was preceded in death by husband Leonard Mead Horton and son William L. Horton. She is survived by daughter Nancy Horton McCarthy and five grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren.
“It is ‘touchable’ history,” she enthuses. “Sweet Briar is magical for one who loves old buildings, particularly because we have the Cram architecture, and we are on the National Registry of Historic Buildings.”

Mrs. Ottaway has provided a bequest for historic preservation of the Sweet Briar campus, making her an Indiana Fletcher Williams Associate. Williams Associates are those individuals who have followed Indiana’s example by making provisions in their estate plans for Sweet Briar College, and so help assure the College’s future financial viability. Mrs. Ottaway has made other generous gifts to assist with work on needed renovations for Sweet Briar House and to support the Tusculum restoration project.

“Preserving Sweet Briar’s physical heritage is important,” says Mrs. Ottaway. “It shows that we value our historic beginnings while stretching toward the future with our cutting-edge programs.”

Another project of interest to Cynnie has been the deconstruction of Tusculum and its relocation to the College campus.

“When I went to school at Sweet Briar, I didn’t know anything about Tusculum. I learned about it recently. Saving architecturally unique buildings that are an example of such fine workmanship is important, but how lucky we are to have access to a historically significant building that has ties to the original Sweet Briar plantation as Maria Fletcher’s childhood home!” Tusculum was carefully deconstructed by Heartland Construction over the past year, with all materials carefully numbered, diagrammed, and stored in one of Sweet Briar’s barns until funds are available for its reconstruction on campus.

“Loving history seems to be something in my blood,” Cynnie explains. “I enjoy going to Williamsburg with the children. We’ll stand for hours and watch as they work on an archaeological dig, sharing the enthusiasm of the workers when they find something significant. I can just imagine life back in the 1600s, or whatever the era, when I’m around historic buildings. It inspires me to consider life in the present with a different perspective.”

Mrs. Ottaway is still very much involved with Sweet Briar. She has participated in the Reunion Gifts Committee and has always been a steadfast supporter of the Annual Fund. She made a gift in support of installing an HVAC system in Sweet Briar House early in Our Campaign For Her World, matched by the Roller-Bottimore Foundation, and also gave a second generous gift for the Tusculum restoration project as the campaign came to a close. Her daughter, Elizabeth Frenzel Casalini, is a Class of 1982 graduate of Sweet Briar. Her late husband, John, was a member of the Sweet Briar Board of Directors in 1990. John’s daughter, Amy Ottaway Zambetti, graduated from Sweet Briar in 1989.

You can join Cynnie Ottaway in making Sweet Briar a part of your estate plan. A simply executed Letter of Intent, attached as a codicil to your will, indicates your continued support for the College.

To learn more about the personal, financial, and charitable advantages of making an estate gift or to request the Letter of Intent form, please contact The Office of Development at (434) 381-6161 or toll-free at 888-846-5722.
2008 Princeton Review Ranks Sweet Briar the No. 1 Most Beautiful College.

Your College Also Ranked
No. 5: Best Career/Job Placement Services
No. 8: Professors Make Themselves Available
No. 10: Professors Get High Marks
No. 13: Class Discussions Encouraged