As you turn the pages of this issue, you’ll notice charts and graphs, announcements, and finally your eagerly awaited class notes. I do hope you take the time to notice a few articles here that you might not see again as we celebrate Betsy’s tenure at Sweet Briar. One of her accomplishments was including Sweet Briar as part of the Hardwick-Day study, a survey that shows just how remarkable our College is. As one of the many thank-you’s we owe to President Muhlenfeld, we’ve shared the results of this important study with you. Past presidents and our current president of the Alumnae Association have also written in to say thank you to Betsy for all she’s done and to recognize some of her achievements.

In light of the coming weeks and the collaborative effort on campus to celebrate our president, I’d like to raise a toast to Betsy in the form of this short anecdote. I met President Muhlenfeld on the first day that I set foot on campus, a senior in high school looking for the right college. This was about seven years ago. I had signed up to participate in an admissions open house and tour of campus. My mother drove me down from Staunton, Virginia, and we took all of the wrong roads, despite the directions Dad mapped out. The scenery was beautiful, and for a while we were lost in the promise of the open fields around us, talking and dreaming of the future—until we began to panic. I was certainly going to miss my first scheduled appointment at Sweet Briar! We arrived on campus not quite ten minutes late, feeling blurred and frantic, and sat down on the beige chairs in the Boxwood Room of the Conference Center. We took a deep breath as tour guides introduced themselves and handed out programs. Then Betsy came to the front to speak. I remember her enthusiasm vividly. To a girl of 18, she seemed looming and radiant and full of promise. As I listened to her brief speech, I sensed that she believed all of us in the room could excel if we were determined. When it was time to stand up and follow our tour guides, I knew that I was in the right place.

I’ve since graduated from Sweet Briar and have become an employee of the College. In the time that has passed, I’ve been given a glimpse of Sweet Briar as a whole place, not just a place for learning and leaving, or for fun and adventure, but a place for life to find a hold throughout the ups and downs. This is a place for learning and advancement, for friendships and breakups, for nature and science, for change and tradition, for faith and decision, for people of any age. Betsy has not only led Sweet Briar’s community since I’ve known it, but she’s fostered its sense of wholesomeness and competence through giving so much of herself to it and believing in its success.

—Colleen Murray ’06, Editor
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INSIDE BACK COVER: In the Sweet Briar Tradition: Protecting Your Wealth for Future Generations

COVER: 2008 Commencement speaker Anna “Chips” Chao Pai
Photo © Aaron Mahler
This past February, Hardwick-Day, a consulting group dealing exclusively with private colleges and universities, performed a survey of 157 Sweet Briar alumnae who graduated between the years of 1970 and 1997. Sweet Briar’s data was then compared to an earlier study commissioned by the Women’s College Coalition that included alumnae from other women’s colleges, alumni from other four-year liberal arts colleges, and alumni from 110 national “flagship” public universities. The Women’s College Coalition, founded in 1972, is a coalition of women’s colleges and universities dedicated to making the case for women’s education. It collects and disseminates information relating to the education of women and gender equity in education. Currently, President Muhlenfeld serves as the chair of the board and has been intimately involved in the conception and formulation of the Hardwick-Day study. Although the study was just released this past spring, it is already fostering further research in the area of single-sexed education, which has the potential to keep the topic in the general limelight.

The comparative data very clearly shows the superior value of a Sweet Briar education. For example, it is not unusual today for a student to spend longer than four years earning an undergraduate degree. According to this study, Sweet Briar alumnae are more likely than all other alumni to graduate in four years or less. They are also more likely than all other alumni to say that: (1) their professors often challenged them academically and personally helped them meet those challenges; (2) they benefited from personal interaction with professors; (3) their experience often included extensive classroom discussions; and (4) their classroom experience often included student presentations in class as well as essay exams and reports. Sweet Briar graduates are known for holding community leadership roles in organizations spanning the spectrum of Junior League to the arts. Ranking higher than all others in the study, the data revealed that the education of a Sweet Briar graduate helps her to work as part of a team and to think creatively. Her education also fosters the development of moral principles that still guide her actions today. Sweet Briar alumnae are more likely than graduates of other liberal arts colleges and flagship universities to believe it is extremely important to have the authority to make decisions, contribute to communities, become affiliated with organizations that help disadvantaged members of society, and provide direction to others through leadership roles.

Sweet Briar alumnae have traditionally continued to stay connected to and support the College in many ways after they graduate. Comparative results revealed that Sweet Briar alumnae are more likely than alumnae of other women’s colleges to say that their experience often included fun or exciting activities on campus, and that it is important to maintain lifelong friendships made at college as well as to remain connected to their undergraduate college.

The Not So Surprising FACTS
An Alumni Survey of the College Experience by Hardwick-Day and the Women’s College Coalition

DR. LINDA SHANK, VICE PRESIDENT FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES, PROFESSOR OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
We asked several graduates whose class years fall within the range of the study a few questions that relate to some of the statements made in the Hardwick-Day charts. We also interviewed three students about their experience studying at Sweet Briar today. Their candid answers are recorded here.

**1 Why did you choose to attend Sweet Briar College?**

**Dianne Hayes Doss ’93:** Sweet Briar sent me some information after I took the SATs. The pictures in the brochures were beautiful, and I’ve always loved the Blue Ridge Mountains. I was planning to attend Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) to get a degree in mechanical engineering. As I read about Sweet Briar, though, I found out that they had a 3-2 program with Georgia Tech—spend three years at Sweet Briar, two years at Georgia Tech, and get a degree from both schools. My Dad and I were planning a college tour in the spring of my junior year, so we included Sweet Briar on our path up the East Coast. The campus was unbelievably beautiful. What sealed the deal was my prospective student overnight. I don’t remember the name of the girl that I stayed with; however, I do remember seeing a video about a girl calling home to say that she liked the school so much that she was going to stay at Sweet Briar. That was how I felt at the end of my weekend. I wanted to call my mom and tell her that I was going to stay at Sweet Briar, finish high school from the dorms, and then begin college.

**Tracie Allen Webber ’93:** My mother pushed SBC, although I didn’t need much encouragement once I started looking into it. I already wanted to attend a school in Virginia—my mother is from Virginia, but we lived in Memphis, Tennessee, at the time. My grandparents live in Williamsburg and the rest of my family in the D.C. area. Sweet Briar was just far enough from Memphis to say I was going “away” to school, but close enough to my grandparents in case I needed anything. I wanted to attend a smaller school and Sweet Briar’s Junior Year in France program also interested me. I spent a summer in France with a family, and I knew I wanted to travel and study abroad again.

**Kate Owings Hite ’88:** I visited Sweet Briar because they sent me information on the school after taking the SATs. I went for a prospective student weekend and was hooked. It’s the only school I applied to, and I applied early admission.

**Kathryn Ingham Reese ’88:** I was wooed by its beauty and enticed by my sister Sharon Ingham Brown’s praise of Sweet Briar. She was a 1984 graduate.
Kathy Barrett Baker ’83: Sweet Briar was my choice due to my perceived “happiness factor” from many different sources and for many different reasons. From age 13, I babysat for Mary Pat Rankin’s children (Class of ’68). She listened and was kind to me and influenced me in many positive ways. On a prospective weekend trip to SBC, I stepped out of the little blue jitney into the middle of the quad and was instantly smitten. I felt comfortable and settled. I was home. Maybe it was the old red brick or the marvelous motion picture campus. Jane Dure ’82 and Dorinda Davis Trick ’82 were my overnight hostesses. Aileen Laing’s (Class of ’57) Art History 101 class was great. She immediately turned off the lights and flashed fabulous slides of European churches and fine art onto a screen. Rhoda Harris ’82 took me to dinner. We had to wear hose and heels. Possibly provincial and life out of 1952 for some, but I liked looking descent. The dinner was delicious. Then there was my interview with admissions director Nancy Godwin Baldwin ’57. She was cool, warm, and wise. Afterwards, I thought if I was to become half as happy at SBC as Mrs. Baldwin had been as a student, I would be very happy indeed at Sweet Briar. Admission into SBC was the best Christmas present I’ve ever had.

Edith Baird ’78: There were a lot of reasons why I chose Sweet Briar. I wanted to go to school somewhere that my high school buddies were not going. SBC had riding, small classes, and a beautiful campus. It offered liberal arts, which gave me a chance to take history, art, and religion classes. I also felt I would do better at a women’s college.

Kathleen Cochran Schutze ’73: 1. Beauty of campus. 2. Friendliness of staff personnel. 3. College’s strong reputation.

Dianne Doss

Tracie Webber

Kate Hite

2 What is your story? Who were you as a student?

Doss: I wasn’t in any of the really popular social clubs. I was a “Guion geek,” a mathematical physics major, which I described as the closest thing to a mechanical engineering degree. (This is what I pursued at Georgia Tech.) I was the only person known to have started the 3-2 program and gone through with it. I guess most were so drawn to Sweet Briar that they changed their minds and stayed there all four years. I was a member of SWEEP (environmental group) and involved with SGA. I played soccer, softball, basketball, and even tried lacrosse. Since I was on the 3-2 program, I left Sweet Briar after my junior year, though the seniors were gracious enough to let me sit on the senior steps before I left! I greatly missed not being there for my senior year, but I certainly don’t regret my decision to complete the 3-2 program.

Webber: I was a pretty low key student, not in the popular social clubs. I focused on my studies, spending time with friends, tutoring lower classmen, and dating my future husband. I tried to do all sorts of things—even things out of my comfort zone and took advantage of different opportunities at SBC. Once, my roommate convinced me to go with SWEBOP to “camp” at the cabin. When we arrived and settled in for the night, there were bats everywhere inside! Camping and bats were not my things then, but now that I have two boys, I find myself doing all sorts of things I never thought I would!

Hite: I played lacrosse all four years. I was chairman of the Social Violations Hearing Board. I enjoyed weekends at Washington & Lee University.

Reese: I was the classic B (and an occasional C) student. There were so many other things to enjoy on campus and in Lexington, who could be bothered with studying! One class I remember putting my heart and soul into was Mr. Smart’s creative writing class. I would spend hours writing stories about my childhood when I should have been studying for my economics comp! Interestingly, I graduated with a degree in economics, but I now teach English.

Baker: As a field hockey jock in high school, I wanted to do things I had never done before. Freshman year, I ran for class president (lost), tried out for Sweet Tones (la, la), stayed up all night writing English papers the night before they were due (whoops), and acquired my first boyfriend (a Hampden-Sydney bad boy banned from campus). As a student, I was normally awkward, more insecure and immature than most, and with my ADHD, always the last to finish every test. Extremely naïve in the “ways of the world,” reading the Romantics’ classic poems and novels about love, I could only imagine what the writers were swooning about. Typically, I studied and typed best late at night and could not spell. Tretorn tennis shoes, turtlenecks, sweatshirts, and pearls by day and long Lanz nightgowns by night were my uniform. I liked participating in SBC life on campus and trying to fit into the lovely, safe SBC community.

Baird: It was the first time I had ever spent that much time away from my family. I’m a slow reader, so I spent a lot of time studying. I was very shy, but I did have a close circle of friends that I spent a lot of time with. I enjoyed my classes and tried to spend as much time out of doors as possible.

Schutze: I came from a large public high school that was not nearly as demanding as Sweet Briar. I was not focused on a career in my early years, which was a mistake, although it worked out well in the end. Let’s say I needed a wakeup call, and Dean Sims was kind enough to provide it after my freshman year. At that time, we didn’t have a business major, so I chose political economy.
How would you describe the campus community during your tenure as student?

Doss: Family. Definitely family. I loved that the professors lived there, and you would see them in Prothro, on the Dairy route, or playing tennis. I loved that the professors cared about the students on an individual basis, something that I definitely did not experience when I left.

Webber: In a word: Family. Everyone was approachable, helpful, and kind. I had friends from all walks of life. The open door policy with professors was wonderful.

Hite: Tight knit. Sure there were tap clubs, but the friendships were stronger than any club.

Reese: So great! Some women may say that Sweet Briar is too small. I found its size to be perfect; it allowed me to create an immediate bond with my classmates and to get involved in areas where I had no previous experience. During orientation, I got to know everyone in my class, not just people in a subset of my class. While Sweet Briar’s student size may be small, the College offered a large number of extra curricular activities. I took a bite out of life at Sweet Briar and this enabled me to broaden my scope of the community. I got to know my classmates beyond the round tables of the classroom and the dining hall! I played volleyball, softball, and lacrosse (yes, at the same time); I was a Ryan Nursing Home volunteer; I worked the radio station a few times; I wrote for and delivered the Sweet Briar News; I was a resident assistant (RA), an Orientation Leader, a QV, a member of Aints and Asses, and a prospective student hostess. I never would have decided to try these activities had I gone to a bigger school, and by participating in these activities, my sense of community grew even stronger.

Baker: Remember, it was the Reagan 80s, so campus was filled with corduroy whale pants, add-a-bead necklaces, penny loafers, Dean sweaters, typewriters with ink cartridges and white out cartridges, L.L. Bean shoes, Mary Mekko prints, the General Hospital soap opera every weekday afternoon, and big Texas hair. Harold Whitman was our president. He was like our own grandfather figure. The Yale Whiffinpoofs also made a yearly appearance. The SBC community is a bit like one’s own family. One loves them, but they sometimes drive you a bit nuts because everyone tends to know (or thinks they know) you and your business.

Baird: As a student at Sweet Briar, the community life was good. SBC seemed more like a small country rather than just a community. It was lively during the week; weekends were usually quiet. The community was small enough that you knew almost everyone even if you didn’t know them well.

Schutze: We tried to keep our focus on the academics, but we were pretty much up for anything that sounded like fun. It’s hard to believe now that a friend and I left with only 15 minutes notice for a weekend trip to Vanderbilt. Guys from UVA and W&L were always calling to set up road trips to Sweet Briar. We’d find dates for each other; it was a good way to get to know each other and the guys. We girls knew everything about each other’s lives. Whenever someone was all weepy from el dumpo, we played Neil Sadaka’s “Breaking up is hard to do” followed, of course, by “Now it’s Judy’s turn to cry” on the record player. We all knew all the words and could sing it LOUDLY. We spent a lot of time in each other’s rooms. It was awesome.

Is there anything about your Sweet Briar experience that had a lasting, positive effect on you after graduation?

Doss: The friends I made and see question six.

Webber: The entire experience had a positive, lasting effect on me after graduation. At graduation, my father said, “Nothing will ever be as simple as life is right now. It only gets more complicated.” Boy, was he right! The friendships I made at SBC have made a lasting impact on my life. Even my children understand after visiting for Reunion. My four-year-old son thinks he’s going to Sweet Briar!

Hite: I still have the same group of friends and that friendship is as strong as ever. We still get together for girls’ weekends each year.

Reese: I can’t put my finger on one thing—there are too many. What comes to mind first is my relationships with my classmates. When I do get together with my former classmates, it’s like we never left college. Our recent reunion was a perfect example!

Baker: In the words of a Nike ad, Sweet Briar taught me to “just do it.” Take that interview, run that mini-marathon, volunteer for causes one believes in, and sing loudly in church. Remembering the wise words of a speaker at SBC, the basis of what she said was that life will be most difficult at times. Always remember, as a Sweet Briar woman, one has one’s good brain and one’s books. One can continue to learn and work one’s way out of and through trying times. You also have a steadfast College to rely on for help. As a single woman with little family for 20 years, I took solace in the knowledge that SBC was a stable place with resources and a familiar refuge. Important lifelong SBC friendships have also had a lasting, positive effect on my life. Twenty-five
years later, these friendships are even more precious to me than ever.

**Baird:** Sweet Briar is a home I can always go back to.

**Schutze:** I learned that the best way to make sure I got to participate in something was to “head it up” rather than sit around and wait for an invitation. Also, the comfortable relationships I had with my professors at Sweet Briar made it easy to establish a similar rapport with my bosses.

### 5 What did you do after graduation?

**Doss:** After graduation, I continued on at Georgia Tech to finish up that degree, which was hard since I “had already graduated.” From there, I went to work for the mother of a friend of mine from high school and took some time to figure out what I “wanted to be when I grew up.” I decided that I liked helping people and working with computers. I took a job at a health care consulting firm, which led to a job with a healthcare software company. This job strangely led to another job, this time with a cable company that is actively involved with its communities and interested in preserving the environment. While at Georgia Tech, I met my husband-to-be. We now have 2 kids, a boy and a girl, and the girl (with no input from her mother) decided to paint her bedroom pink and green! Holla Holla!

**Webber:** I returned to Memphis immediately after graduation and married. I went to work for a cotton brokerage firm until I was hired at the import company that I wanted to work for. I worked for them in all different capacities for seven years. Unfortunately, the U.S. portion of the group filed for bankruptcy, so my boss and I started an import/trading company on a smaller scale. We are still going strong in our eighth year of business. I’ve also had three children, and my husband and I just celebrated our 15th anniversary.

**Hite:** Got married and went to graduate school. I worked for Ernst & Young for 6 years and then worked at the Naval Academy for 6 years. Now I get to enjoy time with my kids while I work from home.

**Reese:** After graduation, I worked for the summer to raise money to travel through Europe. I went on Semester-at-Sea my junior year and developed an insatiable thirst for travel. I traveled through Europe for three months during the fall following graduation. In winter, I came home and began my job search. I was hired at Wilmington Trust as a corporate intern and moved into their Trust Department following the intern program. I left the bank after three years to become a teacher, and I eventually got my masters in education from the University of Pennsylvania.

**Baker:** One week after graduation, I moved to New York City with two suitcases and two other SBC roommates. Blair Redd Barnes and Meg Price Bruno were my very nice and fun roommates. We shared a one-bedroom railroad studio apartment on a fifth floor walk-up on East 88th street. My first job was as a receptionist, order taker, and dress model for the clothing designer Adolfo on 57th Street and Madison Avenue at his Couture Salon. Certainly, the most interesting job I have ever had. Not only did I meet and greet the rich and famous, I had to dress and undress them! After one year, I went on to become a registered representative with Oppenheimer & Co., on Wall Street. After the market downturn of 1987, I became a manager in retail for the next 13 years. All those “all nighters” served me well during my typical 82–100 hour work weeks for many years. Many of my employees were also SBC students. Hired during Career Day at SBC, Katrina Evans Gatti ‘88 and Stephanie Pearson Davis ’95 were my favorite employees!

**Baird:** After graduation, I followed through on my main interests: banking and archeology. My first “real job” was with First Virginia Bank in Falls Church, Virginia. During that time, I belonged to the Great Falls Historical Society and the Archeological Society of Virginia. I
volunteered most weekends, assisting with projects in the field and lab for Fairfax County archeologists. Later, I left banking to work full time doing archeology for pay in the Mid-Atlantic region of the United States. About five years later, I went back to work at First Virginia Bank in Falls Church, then in Mechanicsville, Virginia. I’m now working as a customer service representative for Wachovia Bank in Richmond. I moved to the Richmond area to help out my mom in 2002. I’m involved with my church, the Powhatan County Historical Society, gardening, crafts, nephews, and pets.

Schutze: I went into banking and started as a management trainee. I headed up a multibank ATM program in the 80s and ended up as the retail division manager for a bank in D.C. I stopped working after 13 years when my first of three children was born and we moved to Richmond. I haven’t worked since. Instead, I’ve been the captain of way too many tennis teams, coached girls tennis, developed new programs for our church, held leadership positions on various church committees, PTA boards and, of course, the Sweet Briar Alumnae Association since working full time.

Doss: I think the best thing that Sweet Briar gave to me was the ability to look at people based on their personality, not their title, paycheck, or address. The faculty and staff were always there and approachable and that helped me to develop my approach to communication: no one is too high or too low to talk to, to treat with respect, to treat as a member of your family, to be a friend. I now feel comfortable talking to a wide variety of people in different roles.

Webber: Yes. I think that first and foremost everyone should have a strong foundation in reading, speaking, and writing, which is exactly what a liberal arts education gives you. The ability to communicate effectively is so important in business and in personal matters. More specifically, a liberal arts education lends itself to so many different fields. The experience of internships, practical, real-world projects in business classes coupled with Sweet Briar’s honor system gave me the foundation to pursue any field I wanted. Once I gained a few years of experience in the work force, I came out ahead of colleagues who had spent an additional couple of years working towards an MBA with little or no experience working.

Hite: Absolutely!

Reese: Sweet Briar prepared me for life after college by teaching me to find my voice. The all-women’s campus and the congenial, caring professors created a safe environment where I learned to inquire, listen, and formulate my own opinions. I graduated a confident and determined person.

Baker: My father always said, “Business prepares one for business their way, but a liberal arts degree prepares one for life.” It is true. Helen Gurley Brown, the editor at Cosmopolitan Magazine, was waiting for the elevator next to my desk one day at Adolfo. Being the consummate reporter and nice woman she is, she once asked me how my experience was attending a woman’s college. I answered that it was great because we did not even concern ourselves about competing with men at that “young adult” stage of life, thus just got out in the world and did our own thing. Whether it be simply studying and getting through school or running for editor of the yearbook or newspaper, joining SWEBOP, becoming captain of the riding team or swim team, being an overnight hostess, or running for student body president, everyone has hidden talents. Sometimes, it just takes your SBC friends to tell you what yours are!

Baird: SBC gave me a safe home away from home to transition from a high school kid that had never been on her own to a more independent young woman that would be joining the work force and following her dreams. In the end, I learned to never stop.
learning and that is what I think does matter.

Schutze: Yes, not only was I prepared for bank management from all of my social events and academic experience (I could LEAD a meeting), all of my “jobs,” paid or volunteer, called for skills I first developed at Sweet Briar.

What is your favorite Sweet Briar memory?

Doss: Sledding on the hill across from the chapel, mist across the fields in the mornings, staying up all night talking in Reid Parlor as we got to know each other, Dr. Judith Elkins, pushing the bus when we ran out of gas on the way to a soccer game, sitting in Prothro with our feet propped up on a chair, Junior Banquet (I think I still have confetti in some boxes), attending the weddings of my friends from Sweet Briar, seeing our kids play together, and all the mini- and full reunions since then.

Webber: There are so many! Walks on the Dairy route, the first “meeting” in Reid after everyone moved in, eating dinner at a professor’s house, Professor Hostetler, feeling like I was home when returning after a break, formal weekends, the leaves turning in the fall, losing electricity after a huge snowfall, homemade yogurt, parties at the Bistro, late night study sessions, graduation, going home with friends, sitting on the junior bench and then finally the senior stairs, Lantern Bearing, Junior Banquet, getting our rings, studying in Paris, being an admissions tour guide, returning for reunions...

Hite: Junior Banquet.

Reese: It’s too hard to pick one favorite memory; however, the story I find myself telling most is a QV story. Katie Keogh Weidner and I hid from the Bum Chums in the ceiling of Benedict for 18 hours. This was a challenge since we only had a 12-inch clearance between the bridge we constructed above the drop ceiling and below the structural ceiling. We were required to go to one class, so we went to Mr. Miller’s economics class … in the ceiling! I took more notes during that class than ever just to prove I really attended. Maybe I should have attended every class in the ceiling! Mr. Miller knew we were there and covered for us beautifully when the Bums came knocking. We were never caught, and it was an intensely fun time! Holla! Holla!

Baker: I relish the memory of the quiet quad in the middle of the night. During many QV drops and meetings, or just staying up all night to write various English papers, I remember the silent sounds of the night noise across the quad. The magical mist rising up from the grass somehow squelched the worries of the day, yet cooled the stresses of student life. A good life indeed, if one is lucky enough to have it at SBC.

Baird: My favorite memories of SBC would be the Big Island salvage archeology dig we did in anthropological archaeology class, Founders’ Day parades up to Daisy’s grave, the 75th anniversary celebration, and my favorite horse, Roger, from riding classes.

Schutze: Walking around the campus at night with my first boyfriend from UVA as he identified the constellations, so romantic. Later that evening, my tummy started hurting so I went to visit some friends in their dorm room and sat on the floor until they marched me down to the infirmary. The next morning Dr. Whitehead took me into Virginia Baptist Hospital where she stayed in the OR with me as they removed my appendix since I was scared to have surgery in an unknown place. So typical of Sweet Briar, romantic and beautiful strolls at night, caring friends, supportive faculty that go above and beyond what’s expected for their girls.
**Student Interviews**

1. **Why did you choose to attend Sweet Briar College?**

   Zerha Rebab Asghar ’09: I transferred to Sweet Briar from a very large university because I wanted a more intimate college experience. While it was fun to go to school in a metropolis, it certainly didn’t do me any good college-wise. At a university so big, in a city so big, it’s easy to get lost because no one cares about what you are doing and what you should be doing. Trying to find counsel is near impossible as college offices are marked with red tape and everyone in authority (registrar, dean, professors, advisors) is unapproachable, intimidating, and uninterested. During my second year, I realized that this wasn’t the college experience I had imagined! I wasn’t expanding as a person in any dimension, and there was no one at the university who cared or was willing to help. That’s when I started looking at smaller schools and found Sweet Briar.

   Melissa Ann Simpson ’11: I chose to attend SBC because of the small campus and the small class sizes. The atmosphere of the campus was so friendly and warm, and it made me feel liked I belonged. The swim team had a major influence on my decision because I was looking for a division III college to participate in swimming.

   Brooke Dolan Agee ’09: I will never forget the first day I drove up through the old Sweet Briar gates, I felt like I was coming home. I had been home schooled and, at that point, had been attending a community college. I knew I needed to go to a four-year institution and was instantly drawn to the classic beauty of Sweet Briar. I was greeted graciously in the Admissions Office with small details such as my name in the welcome frame. During my tour, my mother (who attended Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts) and I were struck by the breadth of academic disciplines and extracurricular activities offered at this small liberal arts women’s college. The small class sizes that allowed the development of relationships between the students and faculty were particularly attractive.

   My original plan was to graduate from community college and transfer to a larger four-year institution. However, I discovered that one of the requirements for graduation was a traditional math credit, with no accommodation made for people with learning challenges. After doing some investigation I found that Sweet Briar’s requirement for math credit was course work with math components rather than specific math courses. This flexibility addressed my learning style and needs.

2. **What has your experience been like so far?**

   Asghar: I can sincerely say that my experience has been wonderful. I’m expanding as a person at many different levels, and it makes me happy and proud. I feel like everyone at Sweet Briar is teaching me something, with or without realizing...
The most obvious teachers are the professors themselves, but other faculty and staff members and my peers have also been instrumental in transforming my outlook, capabilities, and self-confidence.

Simpson: My experience has been great. I have made lots of new friends and have taken wonderful courses. My friends and I have had lots of crazy experiences that have made attending SBC so much fun.

Agee: At the beginning, just like any new student, I was nervous about being able to meet Sweet Briar’s academic standards. However, I found the faculty to be supportive and understanding. The transfer of my credits was seamless; I could have entered as a second semester sophomore, but I chose to enter as a first semester sophomore to gain as much of the Sweet Briar experience as possible.

3 Are you glad that you chose SBC?

Asghar: I wanted a school that cares, and Sweet Briar cares. The feeling is mutual.

Simpson: I am extremely glad I chose SBC. At first, I was a little hesitant because I live so close by, and my mother is a professor here—being so close to home was a little unappealing. But everything worked out and living on campus really helps.

Agee: I don’t think I could have found a better fit for my personality and learning style! I know that my choice as a German major and theater minor will provide me with a strong foundation for future careers.

4 Comment on your professors, peers, and the community of SBC.

Asghar: See question two.

Simpson: The professors are very friendly and supportive. They will help the students in any way possible and teach the courses with enthusiasm. The community is very close and supportive of everyone. My peers are very friendly and always know how to cheer someone up when they’re feeling bad; they’re also extremely supportive of everything you choose to do.

5 Do you think you will stay involved with the College after graduation?

Asghar: Yes: the privileged opportunities I’ve had to work at the Alumnae Office and with the Development Office as a Phonathon caller have given me a greater appreciation for our alumnae and the importance of a strong alumnae network. I hope to one day become a part of that.

Simpson: I believe that I will stay involved because being an active alumna is very important and helps keep you updated on changes at the College.

Agee: Absolutely! Sweet Briar has become a small family and community for me. With a strong alumnae network I feel that I will share with other alumnae a special and rich connection that will last a lifetime. I couldn’t imagine not staying involved; I will always be a part of the Pink Bubble.
Betsy became president of our College in 1996, and I still remember meeting her that September in Williamsburg at an event designed to introduce her to the alumnae of central Virginia. There was quite a buzz of excitement in the room that evening; after all, it had been five years since Sweet Briar had installed a new president, and we felt honored that Betsy had come to our area. More than that, we felt a sense of promise.

Our excitement has not waned a bit over these last 12 years, not only because Betsy has handled with conviction and grace the challenges faced by the College during her tenure, but also because of the strong connection she has forged with alumnae...
across the country. Over the years, it has been evident that Betsy so thoroughly understands the essence of a Sweet Briar alumna, you would have thought she was a graduate herself.

Not only has Betsy shown her avid support for alumnae off campus by attending local club events across the nation, but she has also ensured that alumnae visiting campus enjoy the experience. She takes every opportunity to update alumnae of news at the College, whether through speeches or panel discussions; she hosts cocktail parties, garden party luncheons, and seated dinners at Sweet Briar house; she hikes with students and alumnae to Monument Hill after convocation ceremonies; she attends events hosted by the Alumnae Association during Homecoming in the fall and meetings in the spring. I am tired just writing about it, but Betsy is always smiling and seemingly indefatigable.

Betsy has long understood the importance our alumnae play in the financial health of the College and personally has provided volunteer and donor recognition. Working with the Alumnae Office and the Development Office has been a priority for Betsy. Most recently, she has been instrumental in garnering support for a new Fitness and Athletic Center—for which ground was broken this spring—funding for the library project, and for new student housing.

This year Betsy will be traveling across the country visiting many alumnae clubs on her final tour. Show her the same support she has shown us; attend an event in your area, thank her for her devotion, and wish her a fond farewell. Our College is as strong and healthy as it is because of her fine stewardship.

**ETHEL OGDEN BURWELL ’58, ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT 1995–1998**

Thirteen years ago, in a small room on campus, I waited with high hopes and baited breath to hear the answer to the Board of Directors’ request that Elisabeth S. Muhlenfeld become the ninth President of Sweet Briar College. Betsy’s “Yes!” to that question set in motion a wonderful era of growth and accomplishment for my beloved alma mater.

In Betsy’s vision for Sweet Briar, she recognized that changing times made it essential that every aspect of the College should be examined and the necessary moves be made to ensure its future as a premiere, educational institution in the twenty-first century. Her leadership and guidance in fulfilling that vision have served Sweet Briar well.

I have watched with awe as she encouraged and listened to ideas and views from every constituency, synthesized what was offered, found the heart of the matter and stated it coherently, then set forth a plan of action that all could follow even when it may not have been their first choice. Such is her credibility.

Betsy’s engaging personality and her ability to speak easily with individuals or to any size group with candor and humor convey her wisdom and knowledge. She always leaves her audience with the knowledge that she speaks from her heart and her own love for this College.
Her role as president has seemed not just a job, but a passion. She has set Sweet Briar on a course of educational excellence for young women who want to make a real difference in the world. Her tenure stands as a springboard for a triumphant future for the College. She is leaving it better than she found it, and I am exceedingly grateful for her hard work and service on behalf of my Sweet Briar. I will miss you, Betsy!

KATHY GARCIA PEGUES '71, 
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION 
PRESIDENT 1998–2001

I remember the first time I met Betsy Muhlenfeld. It was immediately after she had given her inauguration speech—and I was totally blown away! How did she, coming from a huge co-ed institution, Florida State University, understand so completely the culture and essence of our Sweet Briar College? She spoke as if she had been raised in “Daisy’s Garden.” Clearly, she had done her homework.

Betsy and our daughter, Emily, began their first year at Sweet Briar at the same time. Then, all entering freshmen were put into reading and writing groups during orientation with the assignment of writing a paper that discussed the history and philosophy of women’s education. As a teacher, I remember being very impressed that students were being given the opportunity to write on a college level and have their work assessed without a grade penalty assigned to it. It was a warm-up for what would be expected in the classroom.

From that first week of orientation, the tone was set: immersion in substantive topics and thoughtful, cogent writing were valued here. Sweet Briar was a place that expected one to do her homework.

During Betsy’s tenure, Sweet Briar faced some significant challenges: attracting and retaining talented faculty during a difficult economy; an endowment that needed shoring up; deferred and major repairs to the physical plant; the ongoing need to convey Sweet Briar’s relevance to prospective students while meeting the desires of the current ones. At every board meeting, a very prepared Betsy laid out the current and long-term concerns, invited all to come to the table, and expected everyone to join in the effort to find creative solutions while keeping the essence of Sweet Briar intact.

Together, we did our homework, and tended Daisy’s Garden. That Garden is now larger, more beautiful, and more fruitful than when she arrived. Thank you, Betsy, for your unflagging preparation and thoughtful, inspiring stewardship of this most treasured and special place.

DIANE DALTON '67, 
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION 
PRESIDENT 2001–2004

When Betsy arrived on Sweet Briar’s campus embracing its history, traditions, and values, she won my support, and when she sat on stage during Founders’ Day Convocation in her academic regalia and
Betsy’s engaging personality and her ability to speak easily with individuals or to any size group with candor and humor convey her wisdom and knowledge.

bright white athletic shoes ready for the walk to Monument Hill, she won my heart.

Betsy’s work with the Shape of the Future Committee (SOF) is possibly her greatest gift to SBC. Throughout the process, she actively sought input from the full SBC community, thoughtfully responded to that input, and updated the community on the progress of the committee. With the help of her senior staff, Betsy guided Sweet Briar through a much-needed transformation. The College had been perhaps too lady-like and reserved about her identity. With Betsy’s help, Sweet Briar became proud to be a women’s college and proud to be pink and green. The committee’s and Betsy’s work made the Pink Bubble more relevant to the education of women in the twenty-first century.

The SOF initiatives brought focus to SBC’s mission and positive attitudes to the community. Betsy led Sweet Briar through this major change with care and grace. In her inauguration address she spoke of “revisioning and reinventing ourselves because we will be a twenty-first century college.” Like Miss Indie, Betsy is looking forward and has positioned SBC to be at the forefront of women’s education. Reaching this goal has been hard work, a lot of fun, and a privilege to be a part of during my term as Alumnae Association President. Thank you Betsy for embracing us and making us better.

LINDA DEVOGT ’86, ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT 2004–2007

It was truly an honor to work with Betsy and to experience her passion for Sweet Briar, a passion that could only come from someone who understands all the gifts that our alma mater has to offer.

During my term as president of the Alumnae Association, many new and exciting initiatives were implemented to engage the student and alumnae populations. Among the initial programs were Advisory Councils, the Leadership Certificate Program, the Sweet Briar Promise, the introduction of MAT, M. Ed. and BFA degrees, and a host of other initiatives that enrich the lives of our students and community.

Betsy was a great supporter of my quest to bridge the gap between the student body and the Alumnae Association. Through her support, we were able to create a successful Student Relations Committee program. The work of the committee continues to strengthen relationships between students and alumnae and helps to graduate students who are prepared to be active alumnae and ambassadors for the College.

Thinking back on Betsy’s accomplishments, one incident stands out in my memory as to Betsy’s mettle. In 2006, Commencement Speaker Judith Martin, better known as Miss Manners, arrived on campus. Many of us are familiar with her eloquent speech, impeccable tact, and expert knowledge of social graces from her thrice-weekly column distributed to 200 newspapers across the United States and beyond, and from her highly regarded etiquette books. Recipient of the National Humanities Medal in 2005, Sweet Briar was prepared to receive a lady of great respect. When Miss Manners arrived at Sweet Briar, a cocktail hour and buffet dinner were served at Sweet Briar House, which must have put everyone involved under considerable pressure. The following morning, Betsy, on her own, served a home-cooked breakfast for Judith and her husband with seamless ease. To me, this provided a glimpse of Betsy’s character, which is marked by total grace and self-confidence.

Thank you, Betsy. Your legacy will be long lasting, and Sweet Briar will continue to be a leading learning institution for years to come because of your passion and belief in the College.
On Saturday, May 10, 2008, 141 degrees were awarded at the 99th Commencement of Sweet Briar College. Ten graduate degrees were conferred—two Master of Education and eight Master of Arts in Teaching—and 131 undergraduate, one of which was awarded posthumously.

In some ways, the ceremony was everything one would expect in a college graduation—“Pomp and Circumstance,” fond memories recalled to a chuckling audience, admonitions to “never stop learning,” and challenges to be leaders and change the world.

But there also were some atypical things. Dark skies loomed, blustery winds threatened to carry off mortarboards, and the graduates wore pink ribbons pinned to their black robes in honor of Laura Jahnke, a beloved classmate who died of cancer in 2007.

A particularly touching moment was when Laura’s parents, Doug and Merilee Jahnke, accepted an honorary diploma on their daughter’s behalf. As faculty and students rose, clapping, to their feet and her father pointed toward Heaven, some in the crowd were driven to tears.

Speakers from the Class of 2008 included Katie Whitmire, Kristin Barnes, and Mary Dance. Whitmire talked about College traditions—step singing, lantern bearing, and junior banquet, among others—and said when her friends at home don’t get it, she just “gives up and says, ‘It’s a Sweet Briar thing.’ ”

In that vein, Sweet Briar College President Elisabeth Muhlenfeld later called leadership “the Sweet Briar thing.” The day before, she said, the College awarded its first certificates in its new Leadership Certificate Program.

“When I think about the future, I look at you … five, ten, twenty years down the road,” she said. “What I see is leaders.”
Kristin Barnes, student government association president, talked about college experiences, including study abroad, athletics, music, and other pursuits. “My charge to you is to continue this path of adventure you’ve begun,” she said. “Never stop exploring. Never stop learning. Embrace your path but remember this: You may not change the world, but you can always make a difference to those around you.” Kristin also presented the Shirley P. Reid Excellence in Service Award to Cheryl Steele, dean of co-curricular life. Voted on by the student body, the award recognizes a staff member for going beyond the call of duty and for enriching the College community.

Mary Dance, chairman of the academic affairs committee, presented the Connie Burwell White Excellence in Teaching Award to associate professor of psychology Tim Loboschefski. The award is given by the student body as a tribute to a professor’s dedication to his or her students. Before presenting the award, Mary talked about “this beloved professor.” She cited his degrees, honors and publications, and said, “In his spare time, he has made a lasting impression on the Sweet Briar students, performing as Shakespeare in the faculty show and as a scathing critic in the latest ‘So you think you can dance? Sweet Briar Edition.’ ”

The keynote speaker for commencement was Anna Chao Pai, a 1957 graduate of Sweet Briar and a charter member of the College’s Athletics Hall of Fame. Anna, better known as “Chips,” is professor emerita at Montclair State University in New Jersey.

Chips immigrated to the United States with her parents, who had fled the Japanese invasion of Manchuria in 1931. Her family traveled first to Beijing, where she was born, and then on to America. Chips has lived in this country since 1940.

In a speech entitled, “Challenges, Privileges and Obligations,” she talked, among other things, about her experiences as an immigrant—learning to speak English, dealing with discrimination, and the “generational and cultural gap” between her siblings and her parents.

“Being an immigrant is never easy, especially to a child who could not understand discrimination,” Chips said. “My life was full of challenges, but they gave my life meaning and direction. Challenges are a part of everyone’s lives. The most daunting ones can actually be an opportunity to achieve goals and become what we wish to be.”

On that line, Chips told the graduates they would continue to face “glass ceilings” and other obstacles because they were women—particularly the women of color. “But make no mistake,” she said. “You can be whatever you wish to be because of your education, and in part because of the lessening of sexual and racial discrimination in our society.

“But you will still need more—the determination to work as hard as necessary to succeed in your goals, the willingness to make mistakes along the way and learn from them instead of being beaten down by them, the courage to overcome the fear of failure and to try something daunting, balanced by the self awareness to go as far as you can.”

In closing, Chips said, “I give you one of my favorite lines that I heard once in a talk. A child wrote to his father serving in the Vietnam War, ‘I hope you live your whole life.’ I can’t think of a more wonderful wish for every one of you.”
COMMENCEMENT HONORS

The Alpha Lambda Delta Award
Mary Spears Dance

American Association of University Women
Theron Diana McLeod

The Anthropology and Archeology Department Book Prize
Kelsey Marie Dellaporte

The Marcia Capron Award for Excellence in French
Nicole Marie Levesque

The Crysler Award
Caroline Elizabeth Byrd

The Juliet Halliburton Davis Environmental Science Award
Erica Brett Franklin

The Juliet Halliburton Davis Environmental Studies Award
Megan Cathreen Maloney

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Outstanding Scholar Education Award
Shanna Patricia Ryan

The German Embassy Book Prize
Julie Elizabeth Midgley

The Goethe-Institut Buchpreis
Tiffany Nicole Meadows

The Kathryn Haw Prize in Art History
Celeste Caroline Lucie Wackenhut

The James Lewis Howe Award in Chemistry
Adlyn Marie Perez-Figueroa

L’Alliance Française de Lynchburg
Elizabeth Joan Killiam
Lisa Michelle Ruffle

The George H. Lenz Excellence in Physics Award
Christian Ann Johnson

The Mathematical Sciences Award
Rachel E. Gotwalt
Kathryn Elisabeth Whittemore

The Jessica Steinbrenner Molloy Award in Theater Arts
Jacqueline Renee Tusing

The Helen K. Mull Graduate Fellowship in Psychology
Alexandra Gold DiFeliceantonio
Alison Elizabeth Carr
Adlyn Marie Perez-Figueroa

The Lawrence G. Nelson Award for Excellence in English
Leslie Marie Lewis
Barbara J. Payne

The Pauline Roberts Otis Award in French
Elizabeth Joan Killiam

The W. Edward Overly Award in Spanish
Alexandra Gold DiFeliceantonio

The Presidential Medalists
Mary Spears Dance
Natalie Ann Batman

The Lucile Barrow Turner Award
Erin Lynn Rogers

The Wall Street Journal Student Achievement Award
Allison Michelle Hancock

2nd Annual English Essay Awards: Critical/Experimental Essay 1st Place
Barbara J. Payne

2nd Annual English Essay Awards: Critical/Experimental Essay Runner Up
Leslie Marie Lewis

2nd Annual English Essay Awards: Personal Essay 1st Place
Jessica Anne Joiner

2nd Annual English Essay Awards: Personal Essay Runner Up
Sarah Elizabeth Ansani

SGA Service in Excellence Award
Catherine Elizabeth Cox
Diana Kaye Simpson

The Connie M. Guion Award
Theron Diana McLeod

The Emily Watts McVea Scholar
Mary Spears Dance

The Judith Molinar Elkins Prize
Elizabeth Ashley Anderson

The Penelope Lane Czarra Award
Margaret Elizabeth Barnes
Anne Marie Lojek

The Walker Family Award
Kristin Marie Chapdelaine
Jennifer Paige Milby
Master of Arts in Teaching graduates, L-R: Margaret Howell, Angela Bennett, Anne Barrow, David McDonald, Hollie Jennings, Jessica Wooten, Jennifer Lowrey, and Danielle Dionne.

Master of Education graduates: Julie McAndrews and Kimberly Gibson.

Turning Point Students, Barbara Payne, Mary Nash, and Theron McLeod.
This year, two students were named as Presidential Medalists, Mary Dance and Natalie Batman. The Presidential Medal is given to a senior or seniors who have demonstrated exemplary intellectual achievement in addition to distinction in some or all of the following areas: service to the community, contributions to the arts, enlargement of the College’s global perspective, athletic fitness and achievement, leadership and contributions to the community discourse. Natalie graduated with a degree in economics and was the Senior Class Campaign Chair. She was also on the Campus Christian Fellowship Leadership Team, a Commonwealth Scholar, and an Honors Scholar. Mary graduated with degrees in both Government and Classics. She served as chairwoman of the Academic Affairs Committee, the fashion columnist for *The Voice*, and chairwoman of the Admissions Hostess Program.
Betty’s devotion to Sweet Briar is evident through the many ways in which she has served the College. Often called “a one-woman committee,” Betty is known for her “encyclopedic knowledge” of alumnae relationships and “unparalleled enthusiasm” for Sweet Briar.

It is my great pleasure and privilege, as Second Vice President of the Alumnae Association, to introduce Betty Stanly Cates of the Class of 1963, recipient of the 2008 Outstanding Alumna Award. This award, a high honor in the Sweet Briar community and beyond, recognizes alumnae who have given outstanding service to the College in a volunteer capacity.

Those of you who knew Betty as a student at Sweet Briar and who know her today as a friend, family member, fellow professional, and volunteer would describe her as one of the kindest people you’ve ever known, courteous, tons of fun, considerate, gracious, spiritual, and loyal. It’s a known fact that once you’re Betty’s friend, you’re Betty’s friend for life.

Betty’s devotion to Sweet Briar is evident through the many ways in which she has served the College. Often called “a one-woman committee,” Betty is known for her “encyclopedic knowledge” of alumnae relationships and “unparalleled enthusiasm” for Sweet Briar. Those of you who have had the privilege to meet and work with Betty have experienced her outgoing personality and her attention to cultivating important relationships with sincerity, curiosity, and warmth.

A great part of Betty’s loyalty to Sweet Briar comes from the experiences she had as a student. Betty majored in religion and became a baptized Episcopalian right here on campus. Through the loss of her mother during her sophomore year, the support group she found at Sweet Briar gave her hope. To this day, Betty says that Former Sweet Briar Chaplain Frank McClain saved her soul. He baptized her in what many of you remember as the Manson Chapel, which today has been converted into a dormitory.

Betty recognizes three classmates as her godmothers: Meta Bond Magevney, Elizabeth “Lisa” Wood Hancock, and Ruth “Penny” Pamplin Reeves.

From 1968–1973 Betty was the 1963 Class Secretary, taking on the sometimes difficult task of gathering class notes; and from 1994–1998 she was Class President. During the latter years of her term, she became a member of the Alumnae Association Board and the College Board of Directors. Betty served on the Board of Directors for seven years, filling roles on various committees including Buildings and Grounds, Development, and the Ad Hoc Centennial Committee. Through her commissions, she played a key role in College fundraising, in helping to facilitate our celebration of the College’s heritage at the centennial, and in increasing the College’s publicity in several areas of the nation. As a member of the Board, Betty’s penetrating questions and excellent sense of alumnae concerns have been invaluable.

Betty has served as co-chair for the Reunion Gifts Committee, and, with the help of her classmate Allison Stemmons Simon, helped to establish the 1963 50th Reunion Fund in preparation for that special reunion. She was an early leader and donor in the recent Our Campaign For Her World, which was successfully concluded in 2006 and had a tremendous impact on the future of SBC through the construction of new facilities such as the Student Commons and Arts Barn, the establishment of new scholarships and academic funds, and an increase in unrestricted giving to the College.

Betty has been instrumental in the vitality of the Florida Alumnae Club, which includes some of our most generous donors and most active alumnae. For 13 years and counting, Betty has arranged for a Sweet Briar professor to lecture at the Vero Beach Distinguished Professor Series held at the Vero Beach Museum of Art. She has invited faculty, staff, and alumnae to her home and to local venues for receptions. She has unfailingly received these College guests with grace and kindness. Her efforts have built a long-standing relationship between the College, alumnae, and current and prospective
Elizabeth “Betty” Stanly Cates ’63 Accepts the Outstanding Alumna Award

My standing here today as an Outstanding Alumna is living proof that “Miracles never cease!” Thank you Betsy, Louise, Nancy, and everyone! Especially Meta, Lisa, and Penny who were willing to stand up for me in Manson Chapel in 1961! And, Frank McClain, I hope you are watching.

I am truly overwhelmed by this honor, especially when I review the list of those who have received it before me. I am pleased to see three recipients from my hometown of Jacksonville, Florida: Jacquelyn Strickland Dwelle, Preston Hodges Hill, and Helen Murchison Lane. I also have a special salute for Julia Sadler de Coligny, who was my faculty advisor here at Sweet Briar, to my classmate Allison Stemmons Simon, and to Nancy Godwin Baldwin ’57 who literally admitted me to Sweet Briar! I can assure you that I am the least accomplished of all these women, but none of them could be more grateful to Sweet Briar than I am.

I am connected to Sweet Briar today because I am the liaison between the College and the Vero Beach Museum of Art. Eleanor Barton taught me Art History my freshman year and gave me a D warning—and she would be astounded by this news! As a newly elected Board Member of the Vero Beach Museum of Art in 1994, I was “in the right place at the right time” to arrange for Sweet Briar to have one of their professors speak every year in the Distinguished Professor Series at the Vero Beach Museum of Art. I wish each and every one of you could attend one of these lectures. I can’t begin to describe the pride in Sweet Briar that these professors bring to my community and to my heart! We have now had 14 speakers—including our President Betsy and our Dean Jonathan Green. Rebecca Massie Lane literally danced across the stage when she spoke about the Sensations Exhibit at the Brooklyn museum in New York! Barbara Perry’s specialty is the Justices of the Supreme Court. Not long after her lecture I was invited to a small dinner party in Vero Beach in honor of Sandra Day O’Connor and her husband John. I called Barbara Perry and she prepared me so well for the evening that my hostess was stunned! Our speaker this year was Dr. Tracy Hamilton, and we can all hear her lecture “Pilgrimage Across Cultures” this afternoon at 4:15.

I was privileged to serve on the Alumnae Association Board for four years, beginning in 1997, followed by three years on the Board of Directors of the College. I gained a new respect for Sweet Briar in those years and made some very meaningful friendships. My tenure was at an optimum time because I came on the Board at the same time that Betsy was installed as President of Sweet Briar. I have also had the good fortune to be on two Sweet Briar trips hosted by Betsy and Larry. I think we all know that Betsy has given her heart, her mind, and her life to Sweet Briar for over 12 years now and her retirement in 2009 is well won. She has certainly been a true friend, a mentor, and an inspiration to me.

In closing, I’m going to quote from Betsy’s Inaugural Address in 1997: “We are re-envisioning and reinventing ourselves because we will be a 21st-century college and, if we do our work well, it will be hard to match us.” You’ve done it well, Betsy, and we thank you!!! Need I say more?
11 members of the Class of 1948 returned to Sweet Briar to celebrate their 60th Reunion! RG: $31,240; PART: 58%; TG: $362,611.

12 members of the Class of 1953 along with 8 of their husbands celebrated their 55th Reunion. The post-50th Classes were welcomed with a dinner on Friday night hosted by Dean Jonathan Green and his wife Lynn Buck at the Conference Center. RG: $31,447; PART: 41%; TG: 628,787.

This year during Reunion Weekend, Sweet Briar honored the Class of 1958 as 44 of them attended this special event. Rebecca Gardner and her beautiful 10-mo.-old baby, Shirley, were present in celebration of Rebecca’s mother, the late Shirley McCallum Davis. RG: $263,116; PART: 74%; TG: $707,182.

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 by Aaron Mahler.
15 members of the Class of 1968, returning for their 40th reunion, enjoyed a great weekend, filled with picnics, tours of campus, and time to reminisce. RG: $50,672; PART: 39%; TG: $242,573.

The Class of 1973 celebrated Reunion Weekend with 26 members back on campus. At Reunion Convocation on Saturday morning, President Muhlenfeld announced that the Participation Award for Annual Giving, which recognizes the highest percentage of participation in the Annual Fund during the reunion year for classes celebrating their 25th–50th reunions, would be given to two classes! The Class of 1973 and 1983 tied for this impressive award. Congratulations! RG: $59,125; PART: 81%; TG: $409,170.

The Class of 1978 boasted 45 members in attendance for their 30th reunion! This class enjoyed the weekend’s activities, including: picnics, alumnae colleges, campus tours, and more. RG: $37,176; PART: 62%; TG: $204,147.

29 members of the Class of 1983 attended their 25th reunion. In celebration of this special reunion year, the class met for a Mexican-themed dinner party at the boat-house on Friday night. At Reunion Convocation, President Muhlenfeld announced that the Participation Award for Annual Giving, which recognizes the highest percentage of participation in the Annual Fund during the reunion year for classes celebrating their 25th–50th reunions, would be given to two classes! The Class of 1973 and 1983 tied for this award. Congratulations! RG: $37,221; PART: 81%; TG: $106,634.

The Class of 1963 had their photo taken at the Farm House, home of Louise Swierciki Zingaro ’80, executive director of alumnae affairs. Enjoying the beautiful spring weather in the backyard, the Class had a delicious dinner in honor of classmate Betty Stanly Cates, the 2008 Outstanding Alumna Award recipient. 35 members of the class were present. RG: $77,130; PART: 66%; TG: $624,055.

The Class of 1973 celebrated Reunion Weekend with 26 members back on campus. At Reunion Convocation on Saturday morning, President Muhlenfeld announced that the Participation Award for Annual Giving, which recognizes the highest percentage of participation in the Annual Fund during the reunion year for classes celebrating their 25th–50th reunions, would be given to two classes! The Class of 1973 and 1983 tied for this impressive award. Congratulations! RG: $59,125; PART: 81%; TG: $409,170.

The Class of 1968, returning for their 40th reunion, enjoyed a great weekend, filled with picnics, tours of campus, and time to reminisce. RG: $50,672; PART: 39%; TG: $242,573.
25 members of the Class of 1988, accompanied by 7 children and 8 husbands, returned to campus for their 20th reunion. The Class of 1988 gave an adorable skit at Convocation on Saturday; they sang a tribute to Prothro Dining Hall’s “Cheese Betty,” a treat that holds a lot of great, and possibly humorous, memories for them. RG: $14,940; PART: 35%; TG: $72,748.

13 members of the Class of 1993 returned to campus for their 15th reunion. Mimi Davies Wroten hosted a welcome party for her classmates at her nearby home. RG: $6,588; PART: 51%; TG: $46,450.

The Class of 2003 celebrated their very first reunion at Sweet Briar, five years after their graduation date. 15 classmates attended the weekend. RG: $7,848; PART: 23%; TG: $45,101.

56 members of the enthusiastic Class of 1998 attended their 10-year Reunion Weekend. This class worked diligently throughout the year to stir up the reunion excitement. At Convocation, President Muhlenfeld announced that this class won the well-deserved Participation Award for Annual Giving, which recognizes the highest percentage of participation in the Annual Fund during the reunion year for the classes celebrating their 5th-20th reunions. The class achieved 65% participation, setting a new all-time record for the largest unrestricted class gift in a 10th reunion. Congratulations! RG: $29,081; PART: 65%; TG: $176,741.

President Muhlenfeld, Betty Stanly Cates, and Dean Green welcomed a beautiful day for Saturday’s festivities.
The Participation Award for Annual Giving was given to two classes this year: 1973 and 1983. Here, the Class of 1973 stands proudly with the award.

Class of 1998 gather around their Participation Award for Annual Giving, announced during Convocation.
On Saturday night, the Prothro Dining Hall offered several delicious dining options for the Reunion celebration. A favorite for many was the pasta station.

Olevia Neary Carothers ’03 and husband Durell at Saturday night’s dinner and dance. Olevia is the Richmond, Virginia, Alumnae Club President.

Lynn Buck, Tom Ballard, and Mary Fran Ballard ’49 enjoy cocktails before the meal to celebrate the post-50th classes.

Judges and friends enjoy Saturday night’s dinner and dance. L-R: Mr. David Ludwick, Mr. Edward Harris, Jr. and his wife The Honorable Dale Hutter Harris ’53, Katie Tucker Clarkson ’53 and her husband The Honorable Jack Clarkson.

Rick Lianne, husband of Alice Cutting Laimbeer ’83, and daughter Margot cut-a-rug on the dance floor.

Alumnae QVs gathered in Reid Pit for a photo on Saturday night.

Ethel Ogden Burwell announces awards and goals for 1958.

1958 ladies perform a rap song in honor of their class accomplishments.

Recipients of the Outstanding Alumna Award

1968  SBC’s First Graduates, Class of 1910:
- Anne Cumnock Miller*
- Eugenia Griffin Burnett*
- Louise Hooper Ewell*
- Frances Murrell Rickards*
- Annie Powell Hodges*

1969  Edna Lee Gilchrist ’26*

1970  Gladys Wester Horton ’30*

1971  Mary Huntington Harrison ’30*

1972  Phoebe Rowe Peters ’31*

1973  Edith Durrell Marshall ’21*

1974  Florence Freeman Fowler ’19*
- Helen H. McMahon ’23*

1975  Elizabeth Prescott Balch ’28*

1976  Juliet Halliburton Burnett Davis ’35*
- Martha von Briesen ’31*

1977  Jacqueline Strickland Dwelle ’35*

1978  Dorothy Nicholson Tate ’38*

1979  Martha Lou Lemmon Stohlman ’34

1980  Dale Hutter Harris ’53

1981  Ann Marshall Whitley ’47

1982  Preston Hodges Hill ’49

1983  Mary Elizabeth Doucett Neill ’41

1984  Nancy Dowd Burton ’46*
- Jane Roseberry Ewald Tolleson ’52

1985  Julia Sadler de Coligny ’34*

1986  Adelaide Boze Glasscock ’40*
- Sarah Adams Bush ’43*

1987  Julia Gray Saunders Michaux ’39

1988  Evelyn Dillard Grones ’45*

1989  Anne ‘Noyes Lewis ’43*
- Catharine Fitzgerald Booker ’47*

1990  Margaret Sheffield Martin ’48

1991  Sara Shallenberger Brown ’32

1992  Catherine Barnett Brown ’49

1993  Ann Samford Upchurch ’48*

1994  Clare Newman Blanchard ’60*
- Mildred Newman Thayer ’61

1995  Helen Murchison Lane ’46*
- Adeline Jones Voorhees ’46

1996  Alice Cary Farmer Brown ’59

1997  Julia Mills Jacobsen ’45

1998  Elizabeth Trueheart Harris ’49

1999  Allison “Allie” Stemmons Simon ’63

2000  Sara Finnegan Lecy ’61

2001  Nannette McBurney Crowdus ’57

2002  Elizabeth Bond Wood ’34*
- Jane Morrison Reams ’42

2003  Ethel Ogden Burwell ’58

2004  Elizabeth “Betsy” Smith White ’59

2005  Norma Patterson Mills ’60

2006  Martha Mansfield Clement ’48

2007  Nancy Godwin Baldwin ’57

2008  Elizabeth “Betty” Stanly Cates ’63

The Class of 1998 is awarded the Participation Award for Annual Giving.

On stage are President Muhlenfeld, Class Secretary Cynthia Bumgardner Puckett ’98, and Class President Charlotte Rognmoe Gilbar ’98.

Sweet Briar College Alumnae Magazine • www.alumnae.sbc.edu
Sweet Briar is stepping into the future at warp speed with increased enrollment, new construction, and rigorous academic and internship programs. The College needs you to step up and keep pace through your giving to the Annual Fund.

This fall, Sweet Briar welcomed 226 new students. This is yet another record-breaking year for the College! Enrollment has continued to increase 20% over the past five years, bringing even more success and exciting new initiatives to campus.

With growth comes change, and Sweet Briar is experiencing both. Last April, board members, faculty, staff, and students wearing pink hard hats participated in the groundbreaking for the new 53,000-square-foot Fitness and Athletics Center. This environmentally sound addition to the campus provides a wellness resource that students and the community want and need to maintain an active and engaged lifestyle. In September, Sweet Briar broke ground yet again. The new residence hall now in progress is the first the College has built since 1960. It allows students to live independently in apartment-style housing and, like the Fitness and Athletics Center, has been built with the environment in mind.

While Sweet Briar continues to raise the bar, students are eagerly stepping up as well. The College is not only growing through enrollment and new buildings, but also through increasing academic and internship programs. This past May saw the graduation of the first engineering students. Sweet Briar added the engineering program three years ago and became the second women’s college to offer engineering programs. Students are participating in high quality, résumé-building internships around the world. The College has seen a 42% increase in student internships over the past four years. Sweet Briar is outpacing similar institutions by 12%, according to the National Survey of Student Engagement. Engineering students stayed on campus this summer to participate in an energy audit, while others traveled to places such as Dublin, the Caribbean, and Afghanistan to complete their internships.

This impressive growth is sustained through giving. Careful planning and vision for resources is a hallmark of the Annual Fund. Each year the Annual Fund provides critical support to current programs and makes planning for new initiatives possible. Giving to Sweet Briar’s Annual Fund is the most effective way to support the vision for women’s education that you share with the College. Your gifts are valued treasures that change the lives of young women who benefit directly from your financial commitment.

Sweet Briar students are leading the charge in increased giving. This year’s Senior Class Campaign had unprecedented 93% participation and raised a class gift totaling over $20,000 for the Annual Fund.

On top of the success of the Senior Class, Sweet Briar increased the awareness and knowledge of philanthropy to all members of the community. In true Sweet Briar style, seven academic departments on campus reached 100% Annual Fund participation this year.

Now is the time for you to make your best gift to Sweet Briar College. If you have never given, now is the time to start. Don’t miss out on Sweet Briar’s bright future. If you traditionally only give at Reunion, now is the time for you to commit to giving every year. If you give to the Annual Fund every year, now is the time to increase your giving and move to the next giving society level.

Don’t be left behind! Sweet Briar has picked up the pace and the College’s growth and excellence cannot be sustained without your dedicated support. Review your plan for philanthropic giving and ensure that you are making your best gift to support the College you value. Step up your giving and experience the joy and power that comes from making a difference. Invest. Increase. Inspire!

Save regularly and budget a gift for Sweet Briar to promote excellence in women’s education.

Talk about your commitment to support Sweet Briar with those around you.

Explore ways that you can give, and expand your impact by becoming an Annual Fund volunteer.

Pick up the pace this year by increasing your gift and moving to the next giving society level.

Use your gift to make a difference in the lives of others by making your best gift to the Annual Fund.

Participate in the College’s growth and success by committing to give EVERY YEAR!
Architectural Literacy for Everybody
What You’ve Wondered about Classical Architecture but Were Afraid to Ask

Discover the fascination of the architecture we see around us every day. The Tusculum Institute of Sweet Briar College and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources will jointly present an introductory course on Classical Architecture in the Tyson Auditorium of Benedict Hall on Saturday, November 15, 2008, beginning at 9:30 a.m. In four extensively illustrated lectures, Calder Loth, senior architectural historian for the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, will discuss the essence of the classical language of architecture and show how it has enriched our cultural landscape. Learn how to “read,” our visually rich surroundings just like a book. The course is intended for those who know little about architecture, but love buildings and want to learn the special meaning of their many details.

Registration, box lunches, and reception following in Sweet Briar House are offered at no charge to Sweet Briar College alumnae, students, and faculty. Members of the general public are welcome to attend for a fee of $25.00, which includes the four lectures, box lunch, and afternoon reception at Sweet Briar House.

To register, contact Bob Carter at bob.carter@dhr.virginia.gov or call 434-381-6321. Registration deadline is November 7.

SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

MORNING

Lecture I
BASIC ARCHITECTURAL LITERACY: An exploration of the basic vocabulary and grammar of the Classical architecture and its application to familiar landmarks both in Virginia and afar.

Lecture II
GREEK ACCENT: An explanation of the differences between Greek and Roman Classicism and the importance of distinguishing between the two.

BREAK
Box lunches will be served in Tyson Auditorium.

AFTERNOON

Lecture III
ARCHITECTURAL DNA: A heavily illustrated examination of the ancient origins and rationale of numerous architectural details seen everyday in Virginia.

Lecture IV
VIRGINIA TRADITIONAL: An analysis of the inspiration for many typical works of Virginia traditional architecture. The discussion will be highlighted with both literate and illiterate examples of traditional design.

WINE AND CHEESE RECEPTION WILL FOLLOW IN SWEET BRIAR HOUSE

SBC FLAGS
You will be proud to display this custom made, nylon Sweet Briar College flag with the College seal. It measures 28x43 and is hand sewn on both sides. (Pole not included.) Price: $39.99, plus shipping cost of $10.25.

The Book Shop at Sweet Briar College
www.bookshop.sbc.edu
800.381.6106

Dear Alumnae Authors:
The Helen Cochran Library keeps a collection of alumnae publications. Each year during Reunion Weekend, the reuniting classes’ books from the collection are on display for all attendees. If you’d like to be a part of this collection, your books may be donated directly to: The Helen Cochran Library, c/o Joyce Kramar, P.O. Box 1200, Sweet Briar, VA 24595.
I am pleased to announce that the Admissions Office has hired two new assistant directors of admissions.

Lacy Rourke comes to us from Cottey College (2-year women’s college in Missouri), where she was working as an admissions counselor for the past year. Lacy graduated from Cottey in 2005 and enrolled at Ripon College (Wisconsin) that fall, graduating Magna Cum Laude in 2007 with a double major in history and politics and government. She participated in the Washington Semester at American University in the fall of 2006, and was active in both the admissions offices and student development offices as an undergraduate at both Cottey and Ripon.

Mary Dance ’08 graduated from Sweet Briar with a double major in government and classical studies. She worked in the admissions office as a tour guide for 3 years and this year as the Hostess Program Chairwoman. She has served on the instruction and general education committees for the last two academic years, the Academic Affairs Committee for the last 3 years (the most recent year as Chairwoman), and the Classics, Philosophy, and Religion Department Advisory Committee. She has also written a column for Sweet Briar’s student newspaper, The Voice, for the last two years.

Alison Malloy is the new director of residence life. She started in mid-June. Prior to coming to Sweet Briar, Alison spent three years as an area coordinator in the residence life department at Virginia Tech. She has a bachelor’s degree in political science from Hollins University and a Master of Education from Virginia Tech.

Alison lives on Faculty Row with her dog, Lady. When she’s not working, the Timberville, VA., native likes to spend time with her family, travel—her favorite place is Disney World—and do crafts.

It is my pleasure to announce that beginning this summer, Dr. Lynn Rainville, who has served Sweet Briar as assistant professor of anthropology and archeology since 2001, took on an exciting challenge as the founding director of the Tusculum Institute. As many of you know, the idea for a Tusculum Institute was born from the confluence of two events: the acquisition by the College of Tusculum, the mid-eighteenth century home of Indiana Fletcher Williams’ mother Maria Antoinette Crawford Fletcher, and the commitment of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources to enter into a public/private partnership to establish a satellite office at Sweet Briar College, assist with the rebuilding of Tusculum, and provide outreach to the Central Virginia area.

The College envisions the Tusculum Institute as a resource both for the campus and for the Central Virginia region. Its mission will incorporate the work of the satellite operation of the Department of Historic Resources as well as other educational outreach to the broader community in matters dealing with education, history (particularly the use of historic resources to teach history and social studies), historic preservation, sustainability, and related areas. In her new role, Lynn will report directly to me for the year, and will be responsible for helping to shape the scope and mission of the Tusculum Institute, create an advisory committee, develop a strategic plan for the Institute, and generate inaugural programming that supports its strategic mission. Her work with the social and physical history of Sweet Briar’s campus, and with plantation burial grounds and African American communities throughout the Central Virginia region, has led Lynn to establish ties to a number of local communities including the Monacan Indians in Amherst County, and has fueled her long-standing interest in public history. Together, these research interests make her an ideal leader for this new enterprise. Lynn’s appointment is a half-time commitment and will carry an appointment as Research Professor in the Humanities. Please join me in thanking Lynn for taking on this important challenge that has so much potential for Sweet Briar.
Retire?
Spirited ‘Ms. Pat’ Redefines the Word
Chaplain’s assistant will remain familiar presence on campus.
JENNIFER MCMANAMAY, STAFF WRITER

Emily Vermilya ’08
Emily Vermilya ’08 joined Sweet Briar’s Annual Giving team as assistant director of annual giving at the beginning of June after graduating with a major in psychology and a minor in art history from Sweet Briar. Her areas of responsibility include the Senior Class Campaign, Young Alumnae Giving, Phonathon, and 5th and 10th Year Reunion Class Giving. She is excited to get to work and to help these programs grow further. Emily is thrilled to be staying at Sweet Briar, a place she loves. She has great plans for the Senior Class Campaign.

“My class reached 93% participation this past year, and I’m excited to see what the Class of 2009 can do,” she says. Emily is also looking forward to Phonathon. “The Phonathon has performed impressively in the past several years and I’d like to grow it even more. I also look forward to working closely with the students and teaching them what I know about the importance of philanthropy,” she explains. Emily brings enthusiasm and a hard-working attitude to her job, and we’re excited to have her on staff.

Patience “Pat” Caldwell Richeson, an assistant to three different Sweet Briar chaplains over 17 years, made a promise before she retired on May 9. She was reflecting on, among other things, how her beloved peer mentoring group, the Sweet Spirits, has flourished since it was founded by former chaplain Guy “Chap” Brewer.

To the Rev. Adam White, her boss of the past two years, she said, “And it better keep going after I’m gone, or I’ll come back and haunt you. I’ll ride right through here on my broom stick.”

White was unfazed. He will safeguard the Sweet Spirits, to whom Richeson is known as “Ms. Pat.” When they were not planning a Habitat for Humanity project or other good works, the Spirits helped Richeson in the chaplain’s office, witness to both her genuine mentoring and her puckish humor.

Madeline Davis ’10 says she set an example by “working hard and being open,” but she was something of an instigator, too.

White, Sweet Briar’s genial, guitar-playing and somewhat famously distracted chaplain, bore the brunt of Richeson’s teasing, but it wasn’t all just for laughs. “She calls him ‘son,’ ” Davis said. “She’ll say, ‘Come here, sonny, you need to do this.’ ”

Brewer wasn’t immune to Richeson’s maneuverings, either. He recalled one of her “quirkier” feats was talking him into an office cat. He likes cats, he explained, just not at work.

But after a bunch of mice leaped from Richeson’s desk drawer one day, Callie reported for duty over Brewer’s protestations of allergic students and fur on his good clothes. Callie ensured the latter by sleeping on his chair every night, but he conceded the students loved the little calico—even if they had to wear masks to pet her.

“Students would come by on the pretext of seeing me, but it was really to see the cat,” he said by phone from his new post at the Anderson University School of Theology. “Pat enjoyed the torture that cat brought my life.”

Richeson, a former dancer and avid photographer, earned a bachelor’s in studio arts as a Turning Point student at Sweet Briar in 1991. She began working at the College the same year.

In 1986, she was running the Clifford School of Dance with her mother when she decided to go back to college. She had attended then-Mary Washington College in 1958, but was lured away by a young U.S. airman. She and Tom Richeson, who celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary this year, were seniors at Amherst County High School when they began dating.

“The plan was he’d do his four-year hitch [in the air force] and I’d do my four-year hitch, but we decided we couldn’t wait,” Richeson said.

Not wanting to disappoint their parents, they married in secret. Richeson wore her wedding ring only when she was alone until baby sister Ella—well known to Sweet Briar as professor of dance Ella Magruder—caught her wearing it one day.

Richeson recalls the youngster bolting for the door, yelling, “Oh Mama, Patsy’s got a ring!”

Though she grabbed Ella, who was at the time “old enough to be aggravating,” and extracted a promise of silence, her mother eventually caught on. With the cat out of the bag, she left a year later to join her husband who was then stationed in Germany.

Richeson, who once taught dance to the future Professor Magruder, said their mother encouraged in her four children an interest in the arts. While dance was a wonderful outlet, in retirement she is ready to immerse herself in collage, photography, sculpture, and painting.

“I love doing it. I absolutely love losing myself in it,” Richeson said. “So you know where to find me if I’m lost.”
Sweet Briar Ballet Instructor
Petrus Bosman
JENNIFER MCMANAMAY, STAFF WRITER

The Sweet Briar community was saddened to learn of the death of Petrus Bosman, choreographer, dancer, and adjunct instructor of ballet at the College since 1994. Bosman died suddenly July 19, 2008, while engaged as guest choreographer with Jordan Academy in Indianapolis, according to the News and Advance. He was 80 years old.

Bosman had been the artistic director of the Virginia School of the Arts for 17 years until his retirement at the end of 2006 when he was given the title of artistic director emeritus.

A native of South Africa, Bosman began an 18-year association with the Royal Ballet at Covent Garden in 1959. Under the direction of Sir Frederick Ashton, he partnered with Merle Park in “Les Rendezvous,” was featured as Kastchei in “Firebird,” and performed in the Florestan pas de trois in “Sleeping Beauty.” Noted for his classical roles in “Giselle,” “Romeo and Juliet,” “The Nutcracker,” and “Les Sylphides,” Bosman also created witty character portrayals as the widow Simone in “La Fille Mal Gardée,” an ugly sister (opposite Ashton).

During his years in London, Bosman produced a series of charity galas sponsored by members of the Royal Family, working closely with Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret. The events featured Margot Fonteyn, Rudolph Nureyev, Merle Park, Antoinette Sibley, Ashton, and Bosman.

“The fount of knowledge that Petrus possessed on the history of dance was truly amazing,” said Mark Magruder, director of the College’s dance program. “We were so lucky to have in our presence at Sweet Briar a person who actually danced with and knew some of the greatest names in dance history. Petrus Bosman partnered with Margot Fonteyn, who was regarded as one of greatest ballerinas of all time.”

His knowledge of dance and extraordinary résumé might not be what his students remember him for most, however. Bosman’s verbal one-liners were non-stop, Magruder said, an observation borne out on a Facebook page created in his memory.

“The students who took classes with Petrus were often treated to his wonderful witticisms and ingenious banter, but whether they knew it or not, they were in the presence of true mastery.”

Magruder knows Sweet Briar can find an instructor to teach ballet as well as Bosman, but there will be no replacing him.

“It’s going to be tough,” he said of missing his longtime friend and colleague. “You’re never going to have an entity who is Petrus.”

Bosman is survived by his sister, Joyce Basson of Capetown, South Africa. A memorial celebration in his honor was held August 2 in Murchison Lane Auditorium at the Babcock Fine Arts Center.

Katie Frances White Henson

Katie Frances White Henson died on June 15, 2008 at the age of 95. Katie was a retired employee of Sweet Briar College, having worked in the Physical Education Department from 1940–1948. She was rehired as the laundry manager and worked from 1956–1974. Katie was the wife of the late Carroll Eugene Henson.

Born September 22, 1912, in Amherst County, she was a daughter of the late George Henry and Alice Brown White. She is survived by her sisters-in-law, Annie Smoot, Bessie Wood, and Joan White, and a number of nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her twin sister, Emma White Harris, and brothers, George Henry White, Woodroe White, and Ernest White.

A service honoring her life was celebrated on Saturday, June 21, 2008, at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Amherst with the Rev. M. Dwayne Martin officiating. Katie was buried in the Amherst Cemetery.
February 10–18, 2009
Monarch Migration in Mexico with Dr.
Lincoln Brower, Research Professor of
Biology at Sweet Briar and a leading
expert on Monarch migration
Sharing with Princeton

February 18–28, 2009
Coastal Life: Thailand and the Malay
Peninsula aboard the S.Y. Star Clipper
Sharing departure

May 29–June 11, 2009
South Africa: Three Kingdoms (with an
optional extension to Cape Town)
Sweet Briar only departure

June 28–July 6, 2009
Swiss Alps & Italian Lakes
Sharing with University of Iowa

July 26–August 3, 2009
Village Life in the Cotswolds
Sharing departure

October 12–27, 2009
Turkey & the Turquoise Coast
Sweet Briar only departure

Contact Melissa Coffey ‘98, tour
coordinator, for more information at
800-381-6131 or mcoffey@sbc.edu

*Dates, destinations, prices and itineraries are subject to change. Photo © Ron Magill
recent deaths

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

1924
Elsie Wood
Mrs. Richard Von Maur
May 12, 2008

1929
Mary Marshall
Mrs. William C. Franklin
Date Unknown

Josephine Tatman
Mrs. Marcus Mason
May 12, 2008

1930
Elizabeth Cather
Mrs. Paul B. Lansing
Date unknown

1932
Helen Hoffecker
Mrs. Frank F. Roehm
April 14, 2001

Mildred Larimer
Miss Mildred Larimer
April 15, 2008

1934
Connie Burwell
Mrs. William W. White
June 3, 2008

Eleanor Trimble
Mrs. Raymond F. Moss
March 9, 1999

1936
Margaret Huxley
Mrs. Robert L. Dick
July 4, 2008

Lucille Scott
Mrs. C. Elliot Knocke
June 11, 2008

Eleanor Weller
Mrs. J. R. Westendorf
May 22, 2008

1937
Maren Dobson
Mrs. Raymonde A. McConnell Jr.
November 28, 1994

1938
Dorothy Gilbert
Mrs. Bitner Browne
May 31, 2008

1939
Eleanor Claflin
Eleanor Williams Ladd
April 19, 2008

Helen Klinger
Mrs. Robert E. Gleeson
Date Unknown

Henriette Minor
Mrs. Harrie E. Hart
Date Unknown

Marie Pels
Mrs. William L. Stuart
Date Unknown

Jean Riley
Mrs. Joseph Dockman
November 25, 1992

1940
Jane Bush
Mrs. Eugene M. Long
May 22, 2008

1941
Margaret Gilchrist
Mrs. Lorton S. Livingston
June 6, 2008

1942
Barbara Ripley
Mrs. W. Todd Furniss
July 14, 2008

1943
Louise (Weezie) Woodruff
Mrs. John E. Angst
May 22, 2008

1945
Betty Cocke
Mrs. David A. Wright
April 8, 2008

Ellen Gilliam
Mrs. Marvin B. Perry, Jr.
June 19, 2008

1946
Leila Fellner
Mrs. Thomas Lenagh
July 17, 2008

1947
Agnes Jeffers
Mrs. Robert E. Sonntag
June 16, 2008

1948
Carolyn Irvine
Mrs. J. Wendell Forbes
June 13, 2008

Mary Jane Luke
Dr. Mary Jane Luke
June 26, 2008

1949
Lucie Wood
Mrs. John C. Saunders
July 26, 2008

1953
Eleanor Farnham
Mrs. Eleanor Farnham James
January 29, 2007

Jean Hill
Mrs. Charles Chapple
April 23, 2007

1954
Camilla Brewer
Mrs. Camilla B. Klos
June 26, 2008

Anne Forsyth
Mrs. Anne F. Timbrel
January 1, 1997

Kay McLaughlin
Mrs. James S. Patrick
July 19, 2008

Betsy Nunn
Mrs. Edward C. Kennedy
November 28, 2004

1956
Ann Irvin
Miss Ann M. Irvin
April 18, 2008

1960
Barbara Bell
Mrs. Edward H. Peterson, Jr.
May 6, 2008

1961
Julia Johnson
Mrs. William D. Chapin
May 30, 2008

1963
Irwin Leatherman
Mrs. Philip Zanone
July 23, 2008

1964
Pape (Pemmie) Mercur
Mrs. John L. Cleveland
June 10, 2008

Bonnie Mount
Mrs. Turner E. Grimsley
March 19, 2008

1966
Linn Rumsey
Mrs. Linn Rumsey Vincent
May 2, 2008

1968
Ann Peterson
Mrs. Ann Peterson Griffin
July 9, 2008

1972
Celia Clark
Miss Celia Clark
July 2, 2008

1975
Cary Fox
Mrs. Peter R. Fisher
July 22, 2008

The Sweet Briar Alumnae Association appreciates notifications of deaths. Please relay information to the Alumnae Office, P.O. Box E, Sweet Briar, VA 24595 or alumnae@sbc.edu.
In the Sweet Briar Tradition discusses different ways to manage your funds and provides examples of planned giving techniques. This month, we want you to set the example after you learn how to reduce your tax burden while still providing an inheritance for family members.

A Charitable Lead Trust (CLT) is attractive right now due to low interest rates. Estate and gift taxes can consume up to 70% of an estate, reducing the inheritance for children or grandchildren by a heartbreaking amount. You can overcome this with a Charitable Lead Trust, which provides a way to make a philanthropic gift while protecting your wealth for future generations. The Lead Trust is especially beneficial if you are in a high gift or estate tax bracket. It can:

- protect your property for heirs
- save gift, estate, and inheritance taxes
- save generation-skipping transfer tax
- provide a major philanthropic gift.

The Lead Trust is also beneficial if your charitable deductions exceed the allowed percentage of adjusted gross income. By using a Charitable Lead Trust, you can give a gift to Sweet Briar that is not subject to the giving limits that apply to the income tax charitable deduction.

You can create a Charitable Lead Trust in your will and avoid some or all estate and generation-skipping taxes when making an eventual gift to family members. The gift, estate, and generation-skipping tax deductions are based upon the term of years, the payout to Sweet Briar, and the federal mid-term rate of the month.

If you are in a high gift or estate tax bracket, the Charitable Lead Trust may be the best way for you to protect and preserve your wealth for your children and grandchildren as well as provide the opportunity to make exceptional current philanthropic gifts.

The information in this article is provided by Winton Smith, Jr., Esquire. Winton Smith & Associates is retained by Sweet Briar College to provide general gift planning advice. Contact the Office of Development on 888-846-5722 if you would like more information about the best way to plan a gift for Sweet Briar College.
Sweet Briar College
Annual Fund

Step Up to Give

If you have never given before ~
Start investing in SBC NOW.

If you usually give only at Reunion ~
Commit to give EVERY YEAR.

If you give every year ~
Increase your GIVING, and
Move to the NEXT LEVEL.

TO STEP UP and make your gift using VISA or MasterCard, go online to www.giving.sbc.edu or call toll-free 1.888.846.5722. By mail, send your check to Sweet Briar College · Box G · Sweet Briar, VA · 24595.