Breaking Ground for the Fitness & Athletics Center
Dear Sweet Briar Alumnae and Friends,

I know that you recently received a letter from President Elisabeth Muhlenfeld, announcing that she plans to retire at the end of the next academic year, in June 2009. Betsy made this announcement to the Board of Directors at our April meeting and discussed her decision with the Alumnae Board later that day. There is never a “good” time for an extraordinary person such as President Muhlenfeld to retire. Largely due to her leadership, however, the College is as strong as it has been in many years, with new or updated facilities, outstanding academic programs, nationally known faculty, highly effective, cohesive senior administrators, and sound finances. Her tireless efforts ensured our successful $111 million capital campaign, and her vision has led to the steadily increasing enrollment of vibrant, engaged students. As a result, the College is well positioned to meet the challenges of the future.

The most immediate of those challenges is to find a worthy successor to President Muhlenfeld. This is the single most important responsibility of a Board of Directors; we pledge to you that we will do everything in our power to do so. The Board is currently in the process of appointing a search committee, and as soon as it is finalized, we will let you know by email. Its membership will consist of representatives from important constituencies of the College, including the Board, faculty, students, and alumnae.

During the search we will be eager to solicit your views on the qualities you would like to see in the tenth president of the College. We want you to feel that you are an important part of the process, and we welcome all of your nominations. Of course, we are seeking exceptional individuals whom you feel would be suitable replacements for President Muhlenfeld. Even at this early point in the search, we have developed an email address for your comments. Be assured that any thoughts you send, or any nominations you make, will remain confidential. Please send your ideas to search@sbc.edu.

In keeping with our philosophy of transparency, we will be giving members of the Sweet Briar constituency periodic updates on our progress. We do ask, however, that you not inquire about specific candidates since the majority will need their candidacies to remain confidential.

Our goal as a Board of Directors is to choose a president who will continue Sweet Briar’s upward trajectory toward being one of the very top liberal arts colleges and the premier woman’s college in the country. Fortunately, because of Betsy’s brilliant contributions, that vision is now closer to becoming a reality. I look forward to working with many of you to choose a new president who will take us the rest of the way.

Sincerely,

Virginia K. Collier
Chair, Sweet Briar College Board of Directors
Focus on Research

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INSIDE BACK COVER: In the Sweet Briar Tradition: The Sound of Music
In the Garden

JANET STEVEN, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY

Ever wonder whether that fancy fertilizer is really better for your garden? Or what varieties grow best in your soil? In Biology 107, students are using the scientific method to find out. Biology 107 is the laboratory for Plants and Human Affairs, a biology course for non-majors; students in the course are answering gardening questions by conducting experiments in the Sweet Briar Community Garden. By combining everyday questions with a rigorous scientific approach, the class obtains precise answers to their own gardening questions and practices science in a context that is relevant for non-science majors.

This semester, students in the 15-person class are running experiments on lettuce, peas, and radishes to find out what varieties grow the best in the garden, how soil composition and different kinds of compost affect plant growth, and the best material for trellising peas. Students planned experiments and started lettuce from seed in late February and then set up experiments in the garden in mid-March. The experiments involve control plants that receive no special treatment as well as plants that receive a particular fertilizer or are growing in different garden locations. The students are collecting data on plant growth and success by measuring and counting leaves on lettuce and weighing radishes when they are harvested. The project will run until the last day of class, when students will make final presentations on their findings and eat salad made from the plants they’ve grown.

Providing space for student research in the Sweet Briar Community Garden has been a natural complement to its mission. The garden was founded in 2002 to provide garden space for campus residents and increase the community’s access to and awareness of local organic agriculture. Anyone associated with Sweet Briar is welcome to join, and every member gardens in a plot of their own and also helps to maintain community crops like asparagus and blackberries. The Community Garden uses organic gardening practices and has served as an environment for informal experiments in gardening. Its members use a diversity of approaches in their own plots and have tried organic pest control techniques and methods for growing vegetables throughout the winter. The garden also has a small community-supported agriculture program in which members harvest biweekly baskets of vegetables for subscribers and has served as a model for other local community gardens.

Conducting formal experiments within the garden benefits both the students and the garden members. Biology students get access to the resources and gardening knowledge that the community garden members provide, and the gardeners in turn gain a better understanding of their garden. The results of this spring’s student experiments will be of particular interest to the community gardeners, who are invited to the students’ final presentations. For example, the garden gets composted paper mill waste for use as an organic fertilizer, and gardeners have debated its relative merits for years. This spring, the students are growing lettuce and radishes in soil amended with the paper mill compost, soil fertilized with worm castings, and soil amended with compost from the pile the garden maintains. The results from their experiment will give everyone a better understanding of how the paper mill compost stacks up against other sources of nutrients and may settle some long-running debates among gardeners.

Students in future classes will continue to conduct experiments in the garden and provide practical information for the community. In addition, these experiments might pave the way for student research projects and collaborations with other gardening organizations beyond Sweet Briar’s campus.
DAVE GRIFFITH:  
A Good War is Hard to Find  

JANIKA CAREY '09, ENGLISH MAJOR

Despite the catchy title of Dave Griffith’s most recent book, some reviews about A Good War is Hard to Find: The Art of Violence in America have made it sound like a dry, scholarly discourse. But that’s not the case: “It was my conscious goal to write in a natural and engaging manner,” said Dave, whose book has been selling consistently since its release in October 2006—a sign that it has found appeal beyond academia.

Both The New York Times and The New Yorker were crucial sources of information for Dave when he began his research in 2005. “You can use them as guides when it comes to news because they pay the most attention to the Middle East and other countries,” he explained. His interest was sparked with the release of the scandalous torture photos from Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq. Dave was deeply disturbed by these images, and he decided to get to the bottom of how they made him feel and why. One of his first steps was to read as many news reports about the incident as possible, including international sources, for a well-rounded perspective.

Apart from news stories and reports about state-sponsored torture, Dave read several books that came out shortly after the Abu Ghraib incident. Because of the Freedom of Information Act, he managed to gain insight from Donald Rumsfeld’s memos from the Department of Defense.

Despite all the research that informed the book, Dave described it as “a conversation with myself.” Choosing to write in the genre of the personal essay, he decided that it was important to trace his reaction to the Abu Ghraib pictures back to several teenage encounters with violent images. Consequently, part of the research was to go back and read books he’d read in high school, like John Hersey’s Hiroshima, and watch movies he’d seen years ago, such as A Clockwork Orange and Pulp Fiction.

“We are more often consumers of art than producers,” Dave explained. When he was younger, violence in films and literature did not seem problematic to him, but merely entertaining. While Dave’s personal reaction to such images has become more critical, he agreed that entertainment is a big factor in the way media covers war.

Besides drawing on personal experience, news stories, and official documents, Dave’s book was also influenced by writer Flannery O’Connor and her view on violence in art and literature. Re-reading O’Connor’s work helped him to create the intellectual framework for his book, and it also inspired the title. A Good War is Hard to Find took nine months to write, and about 10 percent of the research material made it into the book. This was a conscious decision, according to Dave, who claims that he was aiming for a personal tone that caused readers to reflect on how their own experiences have shaped their attitudes toward violence. To him, including more research would have shifted the focus too much toward the abstract.

Besides teaching three creative writing classes at Sweet Briar this semester, Dave is engaged in a new project: “My next book is a series of personal essays concerning the divide between poverty and privilege,” he said. “Much of the book draws on my experience growing up in, living in, and spending time in Midwestern cities that used to be thriving industrial centers and now are economically depressed,” he added. Just three blocks away...
“Good writing takes hard work, and it takes a willingness to take risks and an understanding that failure is part of the process.”

This time, Dave’s research methods are slightly different; he plans to travel to some of the places that have undergone such economic transformations. In these cities Dave will be able to talk directly to residents. “For me, research can be many different things,” he noted. “I really like to take an immersion approach when I write.”

Although English was not his favorite subject in high school, Dave said he always had a weak spot for humor writers and investigative journalism. But when his attempts to become a successful columnist for the college paper failed, Dave enrolled in a creative writing class and found his vocation. “I had a great teacher in that class who was a writer himself, which made all the difference to me. He spoke about literature in a way that made it seem alive and vital,” Dave recalled.

Now a teacher himself, Dave wants his students to get involved in their academic experience. “I’m not a writer and a teacher because I think it’s neat or fun—although it is those things—but because I think literacy and an appreciation for the arts is fundamental to leading a more examined, introspective, and productive life,” he explained. “Good writing takes hard work, and it takes a willingness to take risks and an understanding that failure is part of the process.”

At 32, the writer and professor has not only found the perfect professions, he’s also lucky enough to practice them in a great environment: “This is a writer’s paradise,” said Dave. “Sweet Briar is perfect for me and my family. It’s quiet and beautiful and is very close to the VCCA, which makes for a vibrant arts community.”

Lucky for us, it comes as no surprise that Dave plans to stay at Sweet Briar: “In my opinion, this is the best gig out there,” he said.

One of the staple questions in an academic interview is: “How has your research influenced your teaching?” Planning to teach at a liberal arts college, this question was meaningful to me in ways that it was not for my friends who dreamed of a research job that included little to no teaching duties. It was a topic I considered regularly as I taught my first classes, and it remains a recurring question as I am constantly reminded of the value that teaching and research bring to one another. Being active in research not only keeps one up to date on current work in particular fields of study, it also reminds one of the enduring relevance of the fundamental questions regularly explored in the classroom. Additionally, it opens up possibilities to share parts of the research process with students and to demonstrate how the seemingly abstract concepts they read about apply to real life.

My research in environmental sociology, for instance, has taken me in a number of interesting directions—both physically and intellectually. My curiosity about the processes by which social groups develop particular environmental sensibilities has thus far led me into two areas of study: ecovillages (ecologically-focused intentional communities) and environmental behavior. In one recent project I studied the ecovillage movement and conducted field research at a number of ecovillages in the eastern United States. Also, I am currently examining environmental behavior research methods and developing an alternative and novel approach. Finding ways to bring students into the research process in both of these projects has been exciting and rewarding. Two examples that come to mind include the courses Community (SO 220) and Environmental Sociology (SO 370).

In Community we explore the meaning of “community,” its change over time, debates about whether or not community is disappearing in the United States, the phenomenon of intentional community, and the prospect of sustainable

Testing water in the Pedlar River, Environmental Sociology students assess water quality and interview experts to learn about changes in the watershed over time.
Touring an ecovillage: as part of her field research Assistant Professor of Sociology Debbie Kasper visited a number of U.S. ecovillages during summer 2006.

Environmental Sociology students enter respondent data from the Pedlar River Watershed survey.

....Bringing Students in on the Conversation

communities. Being able to share my own data, findings, pictures, and experiences with the class has enriched my studies and has brought the subject matter to life for the students. One of the most important lessons they learned was that ecological sustainability is not the only necessary condition for creating a community that is sustainable over the long term. As my research demonstrates, there are a number of social and cultural factors to consider.

With that in mind, the students undertook an analysis of the Sweet Briar College Community using a measure called the “Community Sustainability Assessment,” which looks at three main aspects of sustainability: ecological, social, and spiritual/cultural. The class was divided into three groups, each of which focused on one of these areas. Their findings were derived from careful investigation and observation, interviews with relevant people in each area, and their inside knowledge of SBC. The final report compiled by the students addressed the College’s strengths and weaknesses in each area and concluded that Sweet Briar has “made a good start toward sustainability,” but that specific measures could be taken to improve its overall status. I plan to refine the measurement tool based on what we learned in this pilot study and repeat the study in the next class. One of our goals will be to produce information that the College would find useful in certain planning and decision-making processes.

Another project emerged as a result of my involvement in the DuPont funded PACE program (Promoting Academic and Community Engagement). My Environmental Sociology course partnered with the Pedlar River Institute (PRI), a local watershed preservation organization. The PRI’s goal was to learn more about the Pedlar River watershed residents in order to more effectively provide information about watershed health and maintenance. Ultimately, they hope to influence decisions and behaviors that impact the Pedlar River watershed. Students worked together on the following tasks: formulating and administering surveys to watershed residents; entering and analyzing the response data; testing water and learning about the historical and present health status of the river; and ultimately providing the PRI with a report which includes our findings, conclusions from relevant environmental sociology research, and recommendations for future strategies.

As my research agenda continues to develop, I am looking forward to involving students in additional ways, both in the classroom and as formal research assistants. The Ecofloor (a new housing option for students who want to learn more about ecologically conscious living) will, no doubt, stimulate a variety of questions about student life at SBC as well as provide a core group of students interested in undertaking such research. I feel fortunate to be at a college that not only encourages but supports this synthesis in important ways. Here’s to better understanding our world! … and to the many ways that students can help.

Laura Hanold ’10, chemistry major, will synthesize 3(2H)-furanones and study their photochemical properties. The idea is based on the recent discovery of inotilone, a chemical that has been found to be a selective inhibitor of the enzymes, cyclooxygenase (COX) and xanthine oxidase (XO), which are responsible for inflammatory responses in rheumatoid arthritis and gouty arthritis, respectively.

Faculty sponsor: Dr. Abraham Yousef, assistant professor of chemistry

Katelyn James ’11, engineering major, will work on a new method for increasing the performance and efficiency of turbo-machineries. The method involves the use of an electrostatic boost that is mediated by an electric field internal to the compressor system.

Faculty sponsor: Dr. Dorsa Sanadgol, assistant professor of engineering

Brittany Patterson ’09, anthropology major, will research several of the pieces of African art that are intended for display in a 2008 African art exhibit in the Anne Gary Pannell Gallery. Her research will focus on the interpretation and representation of the religious and mythological significance behind the pieces that were created by the Dogon people of Mali.

Faculty sponsor: Dr. Kimberly Dukes, visiting assistant professor of anthropology

Cynthia Roden ’10, economics major, will use empirical data and economic theory to examine the economics of suicide. The project will need data from different countries or U.S. counties to determine variables that influence the suicide rate. Economic theory will be used to supplement the data and explain relationships.

Faculty sponsor: Dr. Eugene Gotwalt, assistant professor of economics and business
Tucked away in a corner of Sweet Briar College, 250 miles from the nearest ocean, now lives a colony of sharks. Not the toothy, scary, flesh-hungry stereotype of every vacationer’s worst nightmare. Think smaller. Cuter, even.

“She’s smiling, she likes you,” said John Morrissey, as he fished a 6-inch juvenile from a tank and held her up. A marine biologist and associate professor at the College, Morrissey hopes to unlock the mysteries of these little sharks, which arrived at the College in January.

Scientists call them chain catsharks—so named for a pattern of chain-like designs on their bodies and cat-like slits for eyes. It was a relatively unknown species until recent years. That’s when commercial fishermen began catching more of the species in their nets, possibly from probing deeper waters in search of a depleting supply of fish, Morrissey said.

Catsharks live in 50-degree Atlantic waters from Nova Scotia to Nicaragua. In the colder north, they live in waters about 150 feet deep. Near the equator, they’re found at depths of 1,200 feet or so.

“Previously, they just lived too deep to be of any interest,” Morrissey said. “Suddenly, they’re being impacted by us. So should we do anything about that?”

Morrissey began collecting the sharks about four years ago from fishermen who would bring them back to shore along with the rest of their catch. Now, he has a live colony of catsharks, along with another couple hundred that died in the nets and are being kept frozen until they can be dissected.

For the next few months the live adults, which measure up to 2 feet long, will remain at Hofstra University on Long Island, New York, where Morrissey previously taught. But 25 juveniles and another 21 eggs in varying stages of development made the journey to Sweet Briar January 13.

The eggs occupy a tank while their older siblings curl around each other as they swim along the floor in two neighboring tanks.

“This is the one that’s going to be born any day now,” Morrissey said, shining a flashlight into the tank to illuminate an egg with a baby wiggling inside. “That will be the first one hatched here at Sweet Briar.”

His research this semester will center on projects conducted by students Dawn Slekis and Sam Clark, both seniors in biology.

Clark plans to dissect the frozen specimens to research how large the sharks are when they reach maturity.

Morrissey said, “So she’s going to be dissecting about a hundred of these. Then we can tell the fisherman, ‘If you get one of these, and it’s smaller than this, throw it back.’ That’s the best way to keep a population going.”

Slekis will work with both Morrissey and environmental studies professor Dave Orvos to research whether catsharks have mercury or other heavy metals in their bodies.

“Heavy metals are poisonous, so you don’t want them accumulating in any species,” she said. “We’re just looking to see...”
what’s going on. I have no idea what I’m going to find, so it will be very interesting.”

A significant amount of heavy metals present could indicate if the sharks are getting it from a food source or from the environment, she said.

Orvos said the scientific community has conducted much research on how fish get mercury, and how that can be controlled. He hopes data collected from the catsharks can contribute to the larger study.

Morrissey can then apply the research on catsharks to other, less-researched shark species.

“They’re sharks, and everything they do is probably similar to other sharks,” he said. “So they are a great flagship for shark biology.”

Since most other shark species aren’t as hardy as catsharks and are much larger, he said, they are more difficult to study.

“Just taking this catshark out of the water, handling it, they don’t care,” he said, demonstrating how he holds and measures the sharks. Other shark species would likely die from the shock of being removed from water, he said.

“These guys are great. They’re really rugged.”

That’s good for Morrissey, who wants to conduct research at each stage of the species’ life.

“Each semester, there will be someone new bringing something different,” he said. “Come back in seven years—I’ll have all kinds of answers.”

Article courtesy of The News and Advance

Lara Slough ’10, biology major, will study the histology of the deep-sea dwelling elasmobranch, Scyliorhinus retifer—or chain catshark—focusing on the digestive system. She will compare the shark’s digestive system tissues to the results of the few studies published regarding the spiny dogfish.

Faculty sponsor: Dr. John Morrissey, associate professor of biology

Jessie Waitt ’09, biology major, will compare and analyze placoid scales from different areas of a shark’s body, to determine if predicted variation is present. She will examine scales from several Scyliorhinus retifer of different ages (neonate through adult) and both sexes.

Faculty sponsor: Dr. John Morrissey, associate professor of biology

Laurel Watts ’09, sociology major, will complete a sociological study of fundamentalist Christian conservatives and evangelicals as a subculture.

Faculty sponsor: Dr. Debbie Kasper, assistant professor of sociology

Elizabeth Zuckerman ’09, theater and English and creative writing double major, intends to write and revise a novel about Ophelia, the heroine of Hamlet, told as an autobiography from childhood through the events of the play.

Faculty sponsor: Professor Carrie Brown, Banister Writer in Residence

Professor John Morrissey, along with co-author Jim Sumich, recently published the ninth edition of the textbook, Introduction to the Biology of Marine Life. This textbook introduces undergraduate students to life in the sea. First, the ocean as a habitat is introduced with special emphasis on how different the sea is from more familiar, terrestrial habitats. Second, all life in the sea is summarized including seals, dolphins, and whales. Finally, this information is synthesized during a survey of the primary marine habitats, such as coral reefs, intertidal shorelines, the open ocean, the deep sea, and polar waters. The text concludes with a summary of our history of harvesting marine resources and the current plight of our over-exploited oceans.

courtesy of Jones and Bartlett Publishers
SWEET BRIAR DAYS, set forth by the Alumnae Association in 1922, were traditionally held on December 28th. They are a special day for all members of the Sweet Briar family to gather and celebrate the relationships they have with one another and with the College. In recent years, clubs have been encouraged to hold their gatherings during the holiday season when current students are at home and to invite prospective students and their families to join in the festivities. It is wonderful to see the magic when current and prospective students and their families have an opportunity to engage with area alumnae and with members of the College faculty and staff who travel to attend the events.

This year, the Regional Committee of the Alumnae Board selected “Athletics at Sweet Briar” as a focus for Sweet Briar Days. Members of the Sweet Briar College faculty and staff along with student athletes presented brief speeches and personal stories about Sweet Briar athletics at most events. Thirty-five events were held in all, up from 29 in 2006–07. Total attendance increased by over 300, topping 1,000 attendees! While we appreciate the many notes of thanks we received, the kudos go to you, our wonderful volunteers who make it all happen. Sweet Briar Days were a great success because of you. The proof is in the pictures! Enjoy.

We extend heartfelt thanks to the many individuals who planned, hosted, and assisted with the events.

LOUISE SWIECKI ZINGARO ’80,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ALUMNAE AFFAIRS
L–R: Associate director of the Alumnae Association Melissa Coffey ’98 with students Kathryn Bird ’09 and Jasmine Jones ’10 at the Baltimore luncheon.

L–R: Marian Harrison ’48, Ethel Burwell Dowling ’82, Virginia Robinson Harris ’59 at the Asheville afternoon tea.

Alumnae, friends, and representatives of the College gather in the home of Diane Dale Reiling ’73 at the Seattle, Washington, Sweet Briar Day.

L–R: Victoria Rangel ’04, Amanda Atkinson ’00, and Noah Smith at the Beverley Hills, California, Sweet Briar Day gathering.

The annual holiday luncheon in honor of Sweet Briar Days in San Francisco, California.
Sweet Briar Days

A special thanks to alumnae and friends who helped organize and host events in the following club regions.

**Region 1**
Boston, MA
Lauren MacMannis Huyett '79

**Region 2**
New Jersey
Gertrude “Gigi” Collins ’84, Elizabeth Wyatt ’69
Baltimore/Annapolis, MD
Ann Perkins Gonya ’85
Philadelphia, PA
Cannie Crysler Shafer ’78

**Region 3**
Amherst/Nelson/Lynchburg/
Roanoke/Lexington, VA
Michelle Badger ’06
Charlottesville, VA
Joan Broman Wright ’56
Hampton Roads, VA
Sarah Kingsley Foley ’99
Hunt Country, VA
Julie Hildebrand Nelson ’96
Richmond, VA
Olevia Neary Carothers ’03, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Tripp III
Washington, D.C.
Arney Walker ’02, Ellen Clare Gillespie Dreyer ’83

**Region 4**
Asheville, NC
Gregor Lee ’00
Charlotte, NC
Elizabeth “Betsy” Smith White ’59
Triangle, NC
Catherine “Cady” Thomas ’98
Wilmington, NC
Scarlett Swain ’98
Charleston, SC
Amy Waite Riley ’93
Greenville, SC
Melanie Chriscoe Peters ’97

**Region 5**
Atlanta, GA
Kelly Meredith Iacobelli ’88, Elvira McMillan Tate ’65
Jacksonville, FL
Rushton Haskell Callaghan ’86

**Region 6**
Indianapolis, IN
Jane Taft Walker ’60
Nashville, TN
Dayna Avery Hulme ’86
Knoxville, TN
Meredith Tillery ’99
Cleveland, OH
Kristy Judson ’77
Louisville/Lexington, KY
Mason Bennett Rummel ’83

**Region 7**
Minnesota State
Catherine Flaherty ’80
Chicago
Allison Roberts Greene ’81

**Region 8**
Dallas/Fort Worth, TX
Ann Stuart McKie Kling ’74, Cathy Rasmussen Packard ’73
Houston, TX
Carol Cody Herder ’72

**Region 9**
Washington
Diane Dale Reiling ’73
Sacramento
San Francisco
Penn Fullerton ’66
Arizona
Mary Beth Miller Orson ’86
Oregon
Kate Rinehart Eskew ’98
Los Angeles (2 Events!)
San Diego

Sweet Briar Days in Chicago was held at The Union League Club.
L-R: Sarah Elkins Ince ’99, associate director of admissions; Anne Farrell ’87; and Mary Kelley ’70.
On January 6, 2008, local Sweet Briar prospective and current students and parents, alumnae and representatives from the College gathered for lunch at the Riverside Golf and Country Club in Portland, Oregon. Although I am currently a junior, this was the first time that I had attended a Sweet Briar Day. My mom and I were both impressed with the hospitality of our host, Kate Rinehart Eskew ’98. The event started with unstructured time to mingle. I enjoyed talking with other students from my home state that were interested in coming to Sweet Briar. Several of them had already decided to join Sweet Briar’s Class of 2012, while others were at the event to learn more about the College. As the event progressed, we were seated and served lunch while looking out at the rainy golf course and talking about our Sweet Briar experiences with neighbors. Representatives from the College gave a brief presentation about the new gym and dorm building projects and answered questions. I thought the day was a great chance to connect with the College community located in the Pacific Northwest.

—Kate Beach ’09

The Amherst, Nelson, Lynchburg, Roanoke, Lexington Sweet Briar Day was absolutely wonderful! It was held Sunday, January 13, at Sweet Briar House, and we had a great turn-out. Many prospectives came to show their interest, as well as current students, alumnae, and parents. Meagan Bell ’09 gave a terrific speech about our new Fitness and Athletic Center to be built in the near future. She definitely pumped up the crowd and encouraged alumnae and parents to donate in order to help boost the start of our new project. I think this Sweet Briar Day was very successful in attracting prospectives, parents, alumnae, and current students to come together and get to know one another. I hope that everyone else who attended feels the same way I do!

—Allison Garrison ’10

My wife, our daughter Stacey (Class of 2012!), and I wanted to thank you and the Sweet Briar Alumnae Association for inviting us to attend our first Philadelphia Sweet Briar Day on Saturday, January 12, at the Merion Cricket Club. We all had a wonderful time and it was an excellent opportunity for Stacey to meet a current freshman scholar and athlete, Isabella Formento, along with an incoming early decision freshman, Charlotte, and a current junior. I was most impressed with Isabella’s talk on behalf of the planned athletic building expansion—very poised and clearly a young woman who loves her Sweet Briar choice and experience so far. Dean Green and your staff along with Grace Farnsworth conducted a very professional and informative meeting. My wife and I continue to be impressed with Sweet Briar. We are thrilled at our daughter’s selection of Sweet Briar College to continue her academic and equestrian education. I thought you would appreciate the feedback from a true “third-party” perspective. Thanks again.

—Thomas J. Kerr, Jr.

Allison Garrison ’10 is a member of the Student Relations Committee (SRC) as a part of the publications team. The SRC promotes networking between alumnae and current students.
Where the grass next to Sweet Briar’s 77-year-old Daisy Williams Gymnasium stretches away into fields and trees, a crowd gathered on the evening of Friday, April 25. Pink hard hats handed out for the occasion bobbed against verdant green. Perched atop the heads of giddy Vixens and their supporters, the hats had exactly the desired color-coordinated effect.

Sweet Briar athletes past and present, board members, faculty, staff and administrators were there to break ground on a long-awaited fitness and athletics facility. Many held green gardening trowels, which also were distributed so guests could participate in the ceremony when the time came to start digging.

Actual construction on the 53,000-square-foot structure began in May, with an estimated completion date in August 2009. It will adjoin the existing gymnasium which, it was pointed out in one of several short speeches, is one of the oldest and smallest in the NCAA.

In addition to providing athletes a modern facility that equals or surpasses those at peer institutions, the building will serve as a social and wellness center for the entire Sweet Briar community.

“We are standing on what will become one of the hearts of the campus,” President Elisabeth Muhlenfeld told the gathering, referring to plans for the facility to also include a restaurant, a venue for campus events and other amenities.

Dr. Virginia Upchurch Collier ’72, chair of the board of directors which gave the go ahead for the new construction last February, took a turn at the podium. To those who wear pink and green Vixen uniforms today, she noted that she had played freshman basketball in the Williams Gym.

“And I thought it was outdated in 1968,” she said.

She said being able to move forward on the project—which has been talked about and planned for years—is an affirmation of the College’s accomplishments over the past few years and shows commitment to everyone on campus. Collier, a medical doctor, noted the center will cultivate holistic wellness habits that last a lifetime.

Collier’s sister, Katherine Upchurch Takvorian ’72, who heads the committee raising money to pay for the $10 million building, also spoke briefly. The fundraising is not over, she cautioned.

“So don’t be surprised if I call you again.”
L–R: Chair of the Board Ginger Upchurch Collier ’72, Board Member Sally Old Kitchin ’76, Board of Trustees Emeriti Mildred “Bee” Newman Thayer ’61 and Kathy Upchurch Takvorian ’72 don their pink hardhats, ready to break ground for the new Fitness and Athletics Center.

Gray clouds didn’t dim the excitement shared by the crowd at the groundbreaking of the FAC.

“We are standing on what will become one of the hearts of the campus.”

President Elisabeth Muhlenfeld
American Philological Association Recognizes Sweet Briar Classics Professor Eric Casey

SUZANNE RAMSEY, STAFF WRITER

For the second time in as many years, Eric Casey, associate professor of classics at Sweet Briar, has been recognized for “Excellence in Teaching.”

The first time, the honor was bestowed by the Class of 2006. Voted on by the student body, the “Excellence in Teaching” and “Excellence in Service” awards are presented each spring at Commencement.

The most recent distinction was made by the American Philological Association (APA). On January 5, 2008, the APA presented Casey with its “Excellence in Teaching” award at its annual convention in Chicago.

The award is presented each year to one to three U.S. and/or Canadian college teachers. Winners receive a cash prize, an invitation to the group’s annual meeting, and a plaque, appropriately inscribed in Latin.

According to its Web site, the APA, “founded in 1869 by ‘professors, friends, and patrons of linguistic science,’ is now the principal learned society in North America for the study of ancient Greek and Roman languages, literatures, and civilizations.”

Casey, who has taught at Sweet Briar for more than eight years, was nominated by Jonathan Green, dean of the College. In his letter of recommendation, Green wrote in part, “Eric has revitalized classics at the College. Enrollments in all of the department’s classes have steadily grown since he arrived on campus, especially his classes.”

Although Green wrote the initial letter to the APA, Mindy Wolfrom '05, a former student of Casey’s, started the ball rolling. Last spring, Wolfrom, now a graduate student in Greek and Latin at Boston College, contacted Sweet Briar’s dean’s office, suggesting Casey be nominated for the award.

“To me, it seemed pretty obvious that Eric would stand a really good chance of winning the award,” she said. “He’s such a well-known presence on campus and has really revived enthusiasm among students for classical studies.”

On a personal note, Wolfrom said Casey was influential in her decision to study classics at the graduate level. “I think I started asking him about grad school my second year [of] taking ancient Greek with him,” she said. “He’s spent countless hours offering advice about grad school and helping me with Greek grammar.”

Wolfrom said the “Greek hotline”—Casey’s home phone number—still comes in handy. “I’m just happy he got the recognition he deserves,” she said. “I’ve been at Boston College now almost three years, and I haven’t met another Eric Casey yet!”

After receiving the award, Casey said, “I feel very honored to have received this award, and I know it would never have happened without the wonderful students at Sweet Briar, both those who specifically wrote recommendations for me and all the students over the years who have contributed to making all our classes here a success.”

Sweet Briar director of riding Shelby French received a big surprise from the U.S. Hunter Jumper Association. She was named the USHJA’s 2007 Volunteer of the Year at its Evening of Equestrians Dinner awards ceremony on December 13 at the Hilton Pointe Tapatio Cliffs Resort in Phoenix.

According to an announcement in the December 19 issue of the association’s
Sweet Briar Riding Coach Recognized for Achievements in Collegiate Riding

JENNIFER MCMANAMAY, STAFF WRITER

During the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) Zone 4, Region 2 finals at Sweet Briar College on Friday, February 29, riders and judges paused while SBC’s IHSA head coach Jon Conyers was presented with the association’s most distinguished honor.

Before a sizable crowd, including Conyers’ friends, family, and colleagues, he accepted the IHSA’s Lifetime Achievement Award from last year’s recipient, Hollins University riding director Nancy Peterson. Flanking Conyers during the ceremony in the Robin S. Cramer arena was Bob Cacchione, executive director and founder of the IHSA.

The award is one of the most prestigious in collegiate riding. Past winners select each year’s recipient. “Jon was chosen this year based on his lifetime of service and success in the IHSA,” said Jim Arrigon, a previous winner and IHSA officer.

Conyers, a coach and riding instructor at Sweet Briar since 2003, has been an active director and committee chairman for the IHSA board of directors for more than a decade. He has been an advocate of several affiliated programs, including the IHSA Alumni Association. Recently he has served as chair of the association’s marketing committee, which promotes collegiate riding and the IHSA to the horse industry.

“For such a young man, Jon’s influence has been amazingly far reaching because of the number of programs, coaches, and riders with whom he has had the opportunity to share his passion for horses, quality riding, and the IHSA,” said Shelby French, Cronin Chair of the Riding Program at Sweet Briar.
Dr. Cecilia Moore ’88, professor of religion at the University of Dayton, has been researching the history of black Catholics in the United States for nearly two decades. “Black Catholics have been a part of the American story since the Spanish came over and started their explorations of the new world,” says Cecilia. “For a significant part of their history, they were not given the respect they deserved, even in the Catholic Church.” She remarked that many would tell of racism within the Church and that she, as a historian, deals with this issue.

“In many ways,” she went on to say, “a white and a black Catholic are not different at all. All see themselves as Catholic. When I think about what it means to be a black Catholic, it means to be a full Catholic, to know what the Church teaches, to know who you are as an African American with your history and your culture, and to say to your church that you believe that who you are as an African American is essential to your being Catholic.”

In a chapter that Cecilia wrote for U.S. Catholic Historian, (Vol. 24, No. 1), she concentrates specifically on the history of black Catholics in the town in which she was born and raised, not too far from Sweet Briar, in Danville, Virginia. Cecilia interviewed Sister Leona of the Society of Christ Our King from Danville, someone who Cecilia remembers from her childhood and admires for the impact she had on her life. Sister Leona and her Mother Superior took part in civil rights demonstrations, and their participation generated support from the bishop in their cause and raised awareness for civil rights in an area where African Americans were historically discriminated. “The Catholic sisters of Danville were instrumental. They stood up and people were astonished. They supported Martin Luther King, Jr. because they believed it was right. Sister Leona thinks that all kinds of Catholics felt proud [of the Danville sisters],” said Cecilia.

Cecilia’s interest in the black Catholic community stems from deep personal ties. The daughter of two Roman Catholic converts and one of six children, she has many memories and strong bonds that link her to the Church and to the American history of black Catholics. “One of my greatest memories growing up was going with my mother

Butterfly
The caterpillar slows down, stops moving about, knowing it must make a change: Metamorphoses.
out of the cocoon comes the butterfly: God’s liberation of beauty.
sit still so that God can make the change in you, then fly and share God’s beauty.

from, Songs of Our Hearts, Meditations of Our Souls
courtesy of St. Anthony Messenger Press
to Mass after dinner every week. My mother was a daily communicant. [Each day] from about grade two through grade five, I went with my mom to Mass. I remember loving being in the church, loving being with my mother. [Daily Mass] was a true spiritual anchor for her. My father had died when I was five … most of the memories I have of my Dad … are of [him] getting ready to usher at Mass on Sunday mornings.”

Even Cecilia’s college decision involved her faith. When she went to a college fair and stopped at the Sweet Briar table, Cecilia remembers her mother’s first question of admissions director Nancy Church, “Will Cecilia be able to go to Mass?”

Perhaps it was Cecilia’s own history coupled with the story of a long heritage of trials and renewals that inspired her to co-author Songs of Our Hearts, Meditations of Our Souls, a prayer book for black Catholics and for anyone seeking spiritual strength. Each section of the book uses an African American spiritual as a theme under which related prayers fall. I Know there’s a God Somewhere is the spiritual for the first section, which is full of prayers for choirs, ministry workers, addicts, vocations, and other “need” prayers.

Cecilia never thought she’d write a prayer book. “I’m trained in church history,” she commented, “but I didn’t want to pass up an opportunity to make a contribution to the black Catholic community.”

Cecilia has been working on a book about the conversion of African Americans to Catholicism in the 20th Century, a growing segment in the U.S. Church. In the meantime, she continues to teach and write articles for scholarly journals.

—C. Murray, editor
Alaskan Adventures

Nicki Brandt ’06, an aviculturist for the Alaska SeaLife Center (ASLC) in Seward, Alaska, has started her career at one of the top marine research facilities in the nation. Nicki says that it is rare to find a center that offers wildlife rehabilitation, education, conservation, and research under one roof. As an aviculturist, her main duties lie with the birds—feeding, cleaning, helping with the Center’s breeding program, and most of all, with public education. Nicki takes Alaskan bird species to classrooms to educate young children about the birds and their environment. “My favorite moments,” said Nicki, “are when I get to introduce the birds to little children and see their eyes light up.”

The Seward Association for Advancement of Marine Science opened the doors to the ASLC in 1998, founded as a non-profit marine research and rehabilitation facility. The vision of a cold-water research facility began in 1988, but the Exxon Valdez oil spill one year later spotlighted the dire need for increased North Pacific research and a permanent rehabilitation facility. Due to the limited research on the North Pacific environment and its species available at the time, the full impact of the oil spill was difficult to quantify. While Exxon’s fine still stands as the largest fine ever issued for an environmental crime, if the same spill happened today, they would be liable for much more due to our increased knowledge of the species and ecosystem of the North Pacific, Nicki explained. Today, the outcome might not be as disastrous to the marine wildlife due in part to the ASLC and the establishment of a strong rehabilitation network. Even now, many species are struggling to recover from the oil spill and additional contaminants combined with fisheries competition. New pressures, like global climate change, make recovery difficult for historically plentiful species. Though Nicki largely deals with birds, the Center looks at any species living in the North Pacific to the Arctic Ocean. “Some of our researchers head all the way over to Russia,” Nicki said, “and down to Antarctica since some of the ecosystems and problems are comparable.”

Aside from leading educational outreach programs, Nicki also gets the chance to help with wildlife research. “I help out with observations, taking fecal samples, and maintaining special diets for diet studies,” she said. “Since we have captive animals, we are able to change their diets and see how the changes affect factors like fat storage. Eventually this can lead to valuable comparisons between the captive birds and the wild ones. I’ve learned a lot about not just gathering data, but also about how the methods of gathering it might affect the animals. For instance, taking blood samples can be very stressful on some animals, but animal training can help minimize that stress. Finding the best way to collect data is very important.”

A native of Yorktown, Virginia, Nicki didn’t end up in Alaska by coincidence alone. “I interned at ASLC between my junior and senior year at Sweet Briar,” said Nicki. “I tried to shove a foot in anywhere they’d let me. I volunteered in the bird department and the rehab department; I helped out with events. At Sweet Briar, I was enrolled in the B.S. program for Environmental Science, which is really interdisciplinary.” Nicki went on to say that “the science world is no longer a place where you can study a single aspect. An understanding of how various sciences, and even economics and law, work together is essential. Research experiences my freshman and sophomore years were invaluable.” As was her senior research project in Mexico.

Nicki clarified what life in Alaska is really like: “I don’t live in an igloo. It’s not dark all the time. And believe it or not, it actually gets warm. Seward is a small town, but has wine tastings, intramural sports, auctions and events, and volunteer opportunities.” And on the flip side, “It’s exciting when you’re walking to the post office and you have to change your route because a huge moose is blocking your way. Bears can get a little more dangerous.”

To anyone interested in studying marine life, Nicki says to “get as much experience as you can, any way that you can! If there’s not an ocean nearby, volunteer at a zoo or at an aquarium. You’ll have to pay some dues before you get to do the cool stuff. You might have to take an unpaid internship and do a lot of scrubbing fishy, scaly buckets!” she commented. “My job is not a regular nine to five. You may have to go in at midnight to take care of a chick or an injured seal. If you’re doing field research, you definitely don’t have a stop time of five p.m. Experience is the most valuable in discerning whether you’re passionate enough to accomplish this kind of work.”

One of the rewards about living in Alaska and working for the ASLC for Nicki is the knowledge that “there’s still a lot of wild out there.”—C. Murray, editor
Pamela Weekes ’83 Bakes Manhattan’s Best Cookies

“It came about by accident, really,” said Pamela Weekes ’83, co-owner of Levain Bakery, home to delicious scones, breads, pizzas, brioches, and Manhattan’s favorite cookies. “After Sweet Briar, I thought I would go for my MBA. I took the GRE, but never went,” said Pam. “I thought my parents were going to murder me when I started the bakery!”

After working in NYC’s fashion industry, Pam’s vision of someday starting her own business fell into place. Good friend Connie McDonald, a graduate of the Institute of Culinary Education, worked as a chef for a NYC restaurant that closed its doors. The restaurant kitchen opened up a coveted, essential space for the two to begin a bakery of their own. They began by baking quality, wholesale bread for restaurants and exchanging goods for the space. At the same time, Pam still held her day job with designer Norma Kamali. When the time came to expand, Pam and Connie found a neighborhood spot for all of their new recipes. Their location in the Upper West Side is quite cozy and features an open kitchen; customers can watch the delightful goods being made start to finish.

“We wanted to do something that gave back to the community and society,” Pam said. “We needed a location on a great block; we’re a neighborhood place. This is the first place a lot of kids are allowed to come to on their own. And what we don’t sell at the end of the day, we donate to charity.”

The work is much harder than most imagine. “It’s a lot of physical work,” said Pam. “You don’t have any product until you make it. One of the biggest challenges is to find and keep good people for a long period of time. Everyone always thinks they want to work in a bakery, but they don’t realize that … it’s a labor of love.”

Though Levain Bakery sells a variety of delicious baked goods, its chunky cookies have received the most press. They sell four kinds: dark chocolate chip, oatmeal raisin, chocolate chip walnut, and dark chocolate peanut butter chip. Recently, Pam and Connie were guests on the popular Food Network show, *Throwdown* with iron chef Bobby Flay. “That was the fifth or sixth time we’ve done something for Food Network, but that was the first time it was all about us!” said Pam. This time, Pam and Connie thought that they were going to be part of a show called “Creative Classics.” While giving what they thought was a charity baking show at a bicycling shop, Bobby Flay and his team walked in and the spontaneous competition began. “What you saw was not edited!” said Pam. In the end, Bobby Flay’s thin, buttery chocolate chip cookies didn’t hold a candle to Levain’s six-ounce, chocolate-chip mountain-size cookies.

Most of Pam’s training as a baker came from her family. “I’ve always loved to bake,” she said. “My mom was a great cook; she was ahead of her time! We ate very well, and I always really loved it, I had a natural affinity for baking and a very large sweet tooth.”

Pam’s experience at Sweet Briar made her believe that women can do anything they want to do. “It’s wonderful that it’s still all women; [this] gives you a chance to focus on your learning experience.” Sweet Briar gave her the self-confidence she needed to start her own business.

“Don’t be afraid to try anything,” advised Pam. “Follow your dreams. Even if you’re doing something you love, there are days when it’s still just work. Nothing is ever perfect. Find a way to make it fun and learn from your experience.”

—C. Murray, editor

Find out more about Levain Bakery at www.levainbakery.com.

Levain Bakery Oatmeal Raisin Scones courtesy of Levain Bakery

**Ingredients:**

- 3 cups all-purpose flour, plus more for the counter
- 2 1/2 cups rolled oats
- 1/4 cup white sugar
- 2 tablespoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 12 ounces sweet butter —cold and diced small
- 1 cup golden raisins
- 1 1/2 cups half-and-half

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.

Combine everything except the half-and-half until just combined. Do not over mix. Mixture will not be creamed, just mixed together. Quickly pour in 1 1/4 cups of the half-and-half while mixing quickly. If the dough appears at all dry add the remaining 1/4 cup of half-and-half until just combined. Again, do not over mix.

Turn the dough out onto a very well floured surface. If the dough is very sticky, flour the top of the dough also. Pat the mixture into a layer 3/4 to 1 inch thick. Using a 2-inch diameter round cutter, cut out the scones, dipping the cutter into flour each time between cuts. Place each scone, as cut, onto a parchment paper covered sheet pan leaving 2 to 3 inches between each scone. This should make 12 round scones. (You can also form dough into rectangular shape and cut with a knife into 12 square or triangle scones.)

Bake for about 18 minutes or until golden brown on both the top and bottom of scones.
Anita Poleski
HEDI HANSEN McCORRY, VICE PRESIDENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

Anita Poleski moved from the Development Office to the Office of the Dean, where she is now an administrative assistant.

Anita came to the department in November of 2000 as a direct mail specialist and has occupied several chairs in her time there including that of the major and planned gifts secretary, development secretary, and most recently executive secretary to the vice president. She has been an extraordinary and accomplished colleague in every one of those positions. Her positive attitude, boundless energy, and commitment to getting the work done are unmatched. We wish her the best as she pursues new adventures in the Dean’s Office.

Debra Stinnett
SUZANNE RAMSEY, STAFF WRITER

Debra Stinnett is the new part-time secretary to vice president for communications and strategic initiatives Linda Shank.

She lives in Amherst with her husband, Chris, and their six daughters, ages 13 months to 14 years. Prior to coming to Sweet Briar, she was a stay-at-home mom.

Stinnett grew up in Lynchburg, but went to high school in Keller, Texas, near Fort Worth. She is a certified emergency medical technician, volunteers with Relay For Life and enjoys shopping.

Dinah H. Watson
CONNOR FORREN, DIRECTOR OF DONOR RELATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONS

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Dinah H. Watson to the position of Stewardship Coordinator. Dinah graduated Summa Cum Laude from Lynchburg College in 2007 with a B.A. in European History and a minor in Business Administration.

She received the Mary C. Scudder Award for best senior thesis in the Humanities and Social Sciences Departments at Lynchburg College, and she was recognized for her excellent presentation skills at the 2007 Phi Alpha Theta Virginia Conference. Her extensive business and event planning experience, outstanding communication skills, and professionalism make her a wonderful addition to the Donor Relations and Development Operations team and to the Office of Development. Dinah’s first day will be Thursday, May 1, 2008. Please join me in congratulating Dinah on her new position and welcoming her to Sweet Briar.

Stephen Edwards
SUZANNE RAMSEY, STAFF WRITER

Stephen Edwards was recently hired as director of auxiliary services. He reports to Paul Davies, vice president of finance and administration, and oversees the managers of the Book Shop, Florence Elston Inn & Conference Center, dining services and catering.

He brings more than 20 years of experience in public and private higher education settings involving high-level catering events, special programs, conference planning, contract administration and strategic planning.

He is a member of the National Association of College and University Food Services, where he has held offices on the regional and national level. In July 2007, he was named NACUFS 2011 National Conference chair.

Edwards has a bachelor’s degree in business economics from Wofford College. He and his family relocated to the area from Corpus Christi, Texas.

Dawn Gatewood
SUZANNE RAMSEY, STAFF WRITER

Dawn Gatewood is the new executive secretary to development vice president Heidi McCrory. She is a former employee of Sweet Briar, having worked as an annual fund secretary from 2002–2004.

Before coming back to the College, Dawn operated her own business, The Personal Assistant. She provided services—shopping, bill paying, office help, etc.—to small businesses and individuals, mostly in the Charlottesville area.

Dawn lives in western Amherst County with her husband, John, and two dogs. She also has three grandchildren. When she’s not working, she enjoys volunteer work, gardening, reading and renovating her house.
Rebecca Massie Lane
Director of museums and art galleries and
director of the arts management program

The College wishes all the best to director of museums and art
galleries and director of the arts management program Rebecca
Massie Lane who will be leaving at the end of this academic year.
Rebecca will become the new director of the Washington County
Museum of Fine Arts in Hagerstown, Maryland.

Rebecca has given 18 years of service to Sweet Briar as a
professor and manager of the galleries. She leaves a remarkable
legacy of engaged alumnae, an invigorated Friends of Art
organization, numerous inventive exhibitions, informative and
beautiful exhibition catalogues, and a host of innovative programs
for local school children as well as our neighboring adult population.

The College is very grateful for her dedication and enthusiasm
for the arts that she has brought to this campus.
Lisa DuCharme ’97 and Tristan Elwell • September 15, 2007 • Grosse Pointe, MI • L–R: Ethel Ogden Burwell ’58, Kara Vlasaty Smith ’97, Katie Cameron Abshuler ’97, Lisa DuCharme Elwell ’97, Lindsey Rubenstein Zook ’97, and Margaret Jenkins ’97. Katy Seder ’97 (not pictured) also attended the ceremony. Lisa writes: “Tristan and I live in London, and I work for Fidelity International. We’d love to hear from anyone else living in England or visiting!”

Meg Caulk ’90 and Karl Stephens • September 15, 2007 • St. Michaels, Maryland.

Stephanie A. Scherer ’06 and William R. McCallister III • September 2, 2007 • Stoneridge Inn • Lexington, Virginia.

Christine Vazquez ’07 and Sean Kearney • June 16, 2007 • United States Naval Academy Chapel • Annapolis, Maryland.

Photo © Vivian Smith, Sapphire Studios

Casey Knapp ’05 and John-Michael Fleming • May 19, 2007 • House Mountain Inn • Lexington, Virginia • Bridesmaids, L–R: Liz Eager Marvel ’05, Mary Godwin, Kristin Pollick ’06, Erin Gibbs ’05, Mandy Fleming, Katie Lucas, and Lauren Sherman.
Christine Pamela Bump ’00 and Elias Papasavvas • March 8, 2008 • St. Sophia’s Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Washington D.C. • L-R: Dr. Jonathan Green, dean of the College; Lucy Brooks Thomas ’00, Kim Harden Felix ’00, Virginia Smith Gilbert ’00, Christine Bump Papasavvas ’00, Lindsay Perkins ’00, Devan Vasconcellos Bijansky ’99, Evangeline Easterly Taylor ’00.

Hilary Cooper ’05 and Matthew Cook • August 25, 2007 • Deryshire Baptist Church Chapel • Richmond, Virginia • SBC alumnae attending: Ashley Forehand ’05, Kimberly Gibson ’05, Lori Giguere. Photo © John and Kimberly Sanderson

Erica Thomson ’92 and her father, David Thomson, just before her wedding ceremony. Erica married Nathaniel Lynch on St. Patrick’s Day of 2007. Photo by Leo Lam

Holly Trent ’97 and Jason James • June 2, 2007 • The Boat House • Sweet Briar, Virginia.

Imogen Slade ’96 married Chip Rex (VMI ’95) on December 1, 2007. Photo © Sunshine Pictures

Michelle Clark ’06 and Thomas Bowe • November 17, 2007 • Sand Key Park • Clearwater, Florida.

Virginia Uchello and Daniel Lyon • April 26, 2008 • Alexandria, Virginia.
Walking to Books in the Cold

CARINA FINN ’10

At the corner of evening I walk
To the edge of the concrete and stand just
Where the sky touches the grass.
They stand in a row, trees like phoenix,
Bursting into flames just before the moment of death.

They have a quiet sort of indifference,
Shooting saffron and cinnamon into the blue November sky.
I mention this and you tell me I am a visual person,
As if this was an affliction, something I should be taking
Sticky sweet syrup to cure.

I devour beauty as if it had a flavor,
Sampling each image, leaving nothing on the table.
I am on a constant binge.
My hunger is insatiable. On the days when I am pretty
I sit for hours, indulging my vanity.

I examine myself from every angle.
My skin is stretched taut over bones
And my cheeks are red. I am a phoenix.
I am a tree just before the moment of death
And these apples on my face will fall any day now.

When the beauty is gone I think my appetite will cease.

The Violinist

SARAH ANSANI ’08

The violinist,
he squints
his eyes,
extends
his arm,
and places
his chin
on the rest,
aiming
the hair
of the bow
at the string
of his instrument
as...

men sit in bars and drink lager with shots of silence
the oil from their fingers spells names on the countertops
and birds stop the flap of their wings mid flight
and land on the electric wires lining quieted streets
lit by a humming glow from lamps that flicker and fade like clouds after sunset
and mothers are upset and screaming names of children with eyes
that dilate after lighting a second blunt that is passed around
oh reciprocity
oh cat sitting in the window and yawning at the moon after a day outside
among impatiens and violets that die without diagnosis
among sidewalks where men play chess and spit exaggerations
until dinner is ready is it spaghetti or dogs on the grill
yes chopped up onions and mustard dripping onto the chin and all the wives ask
how the day has been as if time was something that happened behind their back
like children and blunts parched impatiens and violets mustard stains on collars
fights between men dim streets of violence wayward bullets vomiting cats that smell like dead birds
that perch on power lines and sing louder than men in bars drinking lager with shots of silence
because they are just waiting for...

the violinist,
he plays.
Night Hunting

by John Casteen, Sweet Briar instructor of English

Because we wanted things the way they were in our minds’ black eyes we waited. The beaver raising ripples in a vee behind his head the thing we wanted. A weed is what might grow where you don’t want it; a dahlia could be a weed, or love, or other notions. The heart can’t choose to find itself enchanted; the hand can’t choose to change the shape of water. How strange, to hope to see the signs of motion, to make an end to Peter’s old refrain: He’ll be along, son of a bitch, and then you best be ready. So sure, and so sure that when he shines the light the thing will show along the other shore. What next? Well, you’ve killed animals before. Invited here for company in the cold night, and because ever handy with rifles. What next is wait and see, what next may be the lone report, the ever-widening circles, blood-blossom, the spirit rising slow like oily smoke above still waters. We wanted a pond to look like a pond: standing poplars, shallows unsullied, fish and frogs and salamanders. The gleaming back of fur and fat may not belong, or may: God of varmints, God of will, forgive us our trespasses. We know precisely what we do.

Copyright © John Casteen
First printed in Ploughshares,
the literary journal at Emerson College
Disney Studio between 1937 and 2001, she attempts to establish the extent to which these characterizations were shaped by wider popular stereotypes. Davis argues that it is within the most constructed of all moving images of the female form—the heroine of the animated film—that the most telling aspects of Woman as the subject of Hollywood iconography and cultural ideas of American womanhood are to be found.

A Soul on Trial is the true story of an Oregon mother’s crusade to save her son’s soul from the stigma of suicide. Her spiritual battle soon became a political one. Part murder mystery, part ghost story, and part courtroom drama, the book follows the stories of Rosa Sutton, her daughter Rose, and three Marine Corps lieutenants whose futures were at stake as a second naval investigation unfolded in 1909. Splashed across the front pages of newspapers nationwide, the Sutton case intrigued members of Congress, high-ranking military officials, renowned attorneys, the Cardinal of the American Catholic Church, and America’s foremost psychical researcher. Touching on lives great and small, A Soul on Trial is a rich portrait of Progressive Era America and of the lives of young officers whose private battles were often as difficult as their professional ones.

Passport to Abundance is intended to inspire, challenge, motivate and affirm the reader in a lifelong journey of generosity. The book is a collection of quotes that reflect the simple, yet miraculous truths of giving and receiving. The abundance (health, love, happiness, wealth) that we receive is far more than that which we gave and shared! When we apply these principles of giving and sharing freely, unconditionally and with a cheerful heart, the giving returns to us in blessings and prosperity—multiplied!

Lynchburg 100: An Illustrated Guide to Lynchburg Landmarks is a beautifully rendered little guidebook. With text by S. Allen Chambers and photographs by Nancy Blackwell Marion you can follow Lynchburg history from the Langley Fountain to the Quaker Meeting House. In between you have directions to drive or walk through the pages of this City’s history. The landmarks chosen are all described with dates and names, and the reason for their significance. The photographs are so vivid and clear, many look to have been shot on the most beautiful sunny Virginia day. The sepia toned chapter dividers offer additional history along with some interesting old photos that help to link
one section of town to another. The front and back covers open to reveal comprehensive maps giving the location of all 100 landmarks. Excellent maps are becoming a trademark of Blackwell Press.

There are guidebooks that do just that, guide you around a place. But the text in the Lynchburg 100 elevates the reader to another level. It is really a mini history of Lynchburg and its architecture. Lynchburg 100 is the perfect book for both residents and visitors. www.lynhburghistory.com

Cool Road Trips in Central Florida, Kim Cool ’62, Historic Venice Press 2007. Long-time travel writer and award-winning journalist Kim Cool did the road work, clocking thousands of miles on Central Florida’s highways and byways. She rode the rails and soared up, up, and away, walked the beaches and visited the state’s largest collection of alligators. Fully indexed and illustrated, Cool Road Trips in Central Florida includes lists of sport and live entertainment venues in each of five sections of Central Florida. Directions from the interstates, phone numbers and Web sites are included, making the book a useful tool for residents and visitors.

Like Trees Walking: In the Second Half of Life, Reverend Jane Sigloh ’56, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc. 2007. Many of us are fast approaching the “golden years” of retirement, wondering with fear—and hope—what the future holds for us. And you won’t find a better companion for the journey of aging than Jane Sigloh. She’s witty, perceptive, and wise. A retired Episcopal priest, she is possessed of both reverent awe and irreverent honesty about the facts and fantasies of growing old. She interweaves the insights of Scripture, poetry, fiction, and philosophy into her memories and reflections on the challenges and opportunities that maturity brings. Dip into any of these chapters and find a refreshing perspective, a humorous anecdote, or an intimate confession that will ring true to your own experience.

Faculty Publications


Essential for all biology and biomathematics courses, this textbook provides students with a fresh perspective of quantitative techniques in biology in a field where virtually any advance in the life sciences requires a sophisticated mathematical approach. An Invitation to Biomathematics, expertly written by a team of experienced educators, offers students a solid understanding of solving biological problems with mathematical applications. This text succeeds in enabling students to truly experience advancements made in biology through mathematical models by containing computer-based, hands-on laboratory projects with emphasis on model development, model validation, and model refinement. The supplementary work, Laboratory Manual of Biomathematics is available separately.


Each section begins with a brief biographical sketch, including a selected bibliography, then lists the composer’s works. Green presents important details of each work, including the approximate duration, text sources, the voices and instruments required for the performance, editions currently available, and locations of manuscript materials. Green also provides notes and comments on performance issues, and he evaluates the solo roles and the level of difficulty of each piece. The sections conclude with a selective discography and bibliography. The information is vital for aiding conductors in choosing repertoire.
appropriate to their needs and the abilities of their ensembles and can help scholars with further research.

courtesy of Scarecrow Press, Inc. www.scarecrowpress.com

Generations and Globalization: Youth, Age, and Family in the New World Economy, Deborah Durham, associate professor of anthropology and Jennifer Cole, editors, Indiana University Press 2006. Globalization is not only a large-scale phenomenon: it is also inextricably bound up with intimate aspects of personhood, care, and the daily decisions through which we make our lives. Looking at sub-Saharan Africa, Madagascar, Mexico, the United States, Europe, India, and China, Generations and Globalization investigates the impact of globalization in the context of families, age groups, and intergenerational relations. The contributors offer an innovative approach that focuses on the changing dynamics between generations, rather than treating changes in childhood, youth, or old age as discrete categories. They argue that new economies and global flows do not just transform contemporary family life, but are in important ways shaped and constituted by it.

courtesy of Indiana University Press, www.iupress.indiana.edu

The Rope Walk, Carrie Brown, Banister Writer in Residence, Pantheon 2007. The Rope Walk brings us the dazzling story of a pivotal summer in the life of Alice, a redheaded tomboy and motherless girl who is beloved and protected by her five older brothers and her widower father, a professor of Shakespeare. On Memorial Day, at her tenth birthday party in the garden of her Vermont village home, Alice meets two people unlike any she’s known before. Theo is a mixed-race New York City kid visiting his white grandparents for the summer. Kenneth is a cosmopolitan artist with AIDS who has come home to convalesce with his middle-aged sister. Alice and Theo form an instant bond and, almost as quickly, find themselves drawn into the orbit of the magisterial Kenneth. When the children begin a daily routine of reading aloud to the artist, who is losing his eyesight, they discover the journals of Lewis and Clark and decide to embark on their own wilderness adventure: they plan and secretly build a “rope walk” through the woods for Kenneth and in the process learn the first of many hard truths about the way adults see the world, no matter that they are often wrong.

The great gift of The Rope Walk is its exquisitely poised writing. Alice’s narrative is a profound experience of innocence, of perception balanced between childhood and adulthood. The flying spark of new friendship, the firstintimation of adult love, the consolation of devotion, which allow Alice and Theo to shed light in the midst of darkness and to find joy in mutual understanding: these glistening threads are drawn together in a timeless story—profound, seductive, wise, and moving, from first to last.


Gothic Returns in Collins, Dickens, Zola, and Hitchcock, associate professor of English, Eleanor Salotto, Ph.D., Palgrave MacMillan 2006. Taking a new approach to the study of the gothic in Victorian fiction, the development of the cinema, and Alfred Hitchcock’s Vertigo, Salotto explores the contained or repressed desires of characters and plots that defy direct representation. Gothic Returns is “a timely and tonic account,” writes John Bown of the University of York, “of the weird mutations of gothic matter and form in 19th-century fiction and modern film.”

courtesy of Palgrave MacMillan, www.palgravemacmillan.com

To have your recently published books included in our files, please send details and a review copy to cmurray@sbc.edu or Boxwood Alumnae House, P.O. Box E, Sweet Briar, VA 24595.
During the week of February 18–22, the campus was aflutter with posters on wire stands. These brightly colored flyers touted Annual Fund statistics, offered philanthropy quotes, and shared the benefits and rewards of giving where your passion lies. Working hard behind the scenes on all things Philanthropy Week were a number of students led by Aimee Savage ’10 and Mariah Hoelz ’11 and assisted by Megan Behrle ’09, Melissa Carron ’10, and Britt Schneider ’10.

This was the beginning of the first SBC Community Campaign: Philanthropy Week. The campaign was created by the Annual Fund to educate the campus family about the joy and vital importance of giving. The College relies on gifts to help offset 40 percent of the cost of education for each student, and the Annual Fund is a large component of that support system.

The third week of February marks the critical transition point in the year when tuition dollars are exhausted and gifts to the College take over to power the campus community. Completing a whole academic year would not be possible without the generous support from alumnae, families, students, faculty, and staff.

Philanthropy Week included a number of special events providing thought-provoking entertainment for all. Candy and a poem kicked off the week as each student was invited to attend the diverse events. Faculty, staff, and students were encouraged to participate throughout the week and to show their support of the College with a gift to the Annual Fund.

On Monday, a current of enthusiasm flowed through campus as students attended a career panel event. Panelists included an active group of alumnae and community members who volunteered to answer questions and share insight about their love of working and volunteering in non-profit and philanthropy-based organizations.

Tuesday and Wednesday kept the vibe as students sent email thank-you messages to recently graduated alumnae who had given to the Annual Fund. The students enjoyed the opportunity to thank these outstanding members of the young alumnae community who help support their Sweet Briar experience.

On Wednesday night students, faculty, and staff came to the Tyson Auditorium, which had been turned into a movie theater complete with candy, brownies, and a popcorn machine. Everyone enjoyed seeing Pay It Forward and students continued to write thank-you notes to those who had given, this time to the Fitness and Athletics Center or Tusculum.

The voltage spiked on Thursday night with another fun event. The Vixen Den was the site for Community Karaoke, and was it a sight! Faculty, staff, and students crooned and lampooned popular tunes and enjoyed a few hours of singing together.

By Philanthropy Week’s end the SBC Community was fully charged and events culminated with members of senior staff putting their time and talents to work by serving lunch in Prothro. Students were delighted to see President Muhlenfeld and Louise Swiecki Zingaro ’80 posted at the sandwich station and Linda Shank and Cheryl Steele cleaning and restocking Prothro. Heidi McCrory and Ken Huus flipped burgers and Dean Green and Paul Davies made specialty quesadillas.

Many students mentioned that you wouldn’t find this at most other colleges, and the close relationship with faculty and staff is why they chose to attend Sweet Briar. They see how it takes all members of the community to make our College a success.

Philanthropy Week is a great new tradition in keeping with the history of the College since Sweet Briar began as a gift to all community members. Today we invite all community members, both local and far away, to stay “plugged in” and be rewarded by the joy of giving.
At a mini-reunion of sorts, Judy Wilson Grant ’66 and Newell bought a reserve champion hog at the National Western Stock Show Auction of Junior Livestock Champions on January 25, 2008. They were accompanied by three young alumnae living in the Denver, Colorado, area. A portion of all auction proceeds was donated to support the Western Scholarship Trust. L–R, back row: Scott Mitchell, Margaret Grant Mitchell, Melissa Massey ’06, Blythe Lloyd ’07, Newell Grant, and Judy Wilson Grant ’66. Front row: Cameron Aaron and Kerri Faust ’06.

Middle row, L–R: Anne Corbitt Little ’34, Mary Elizabeth Barge Schroeder ’39, Sue Lawton Mobley ’55, Mia Hecht Owens ’45, Anne Sheffield Hale ’54, Newell Bryan Tozzer ’55.

Continuing a tradition that Anne Sheffield Hale ’54 began 38 years ago, the Sweet Briar Alumnae Club of Atlanta once again sponsored Living Room Learning during January and February of 2008. Fifty participants met in the living rooms of Anne Hale and Ann Pegram Howington ’59. Participants include friends of Sweet Briar and alumnae. The course, which focused on southern women writers, was led by Dr. Thomas McHaney, a retired professor of southern literature at Georgia State University and friend of Sweet Briar President Elisabeth Muhlenfeld. Though Living Room Learning is not a fundraiser, the Atlanta club donated $2,500 last year from profits to the Atlanta scholarship fund for Sweet Briar students.
**SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION TOURS 2008-2009**

**July 28-August 11, 2008**
Waterways of the Tsars: St. Petersburg to Moscow aboard the M.S. Volga Dream
Sharing with Washington & Lee and the National Trust for Historic Preservation

**July 29-August 6, 2008**
Village Life in Ireland: Dublin and Killarney

**October 22-30, 2008**
Alumni Campus Abroad in Tuscany
Sharing with Northeastern

**February 10-18, 2009**
A Million Monarchs: The Butterfly Kingdom of Highland Mexico with Dr. Lincoln Brower, Research Professor of Biology at Sweet Briar and a leading expert on Monarch migration
Sharing with Princeton

**March 4-14, 2009**
Coastal Life in Thailand and the Malay Peninsula
Sharing with Columbia University, Johns Hopkins University, and Smith College

**May 29-June 11, 2009**
South Africa: Three Kingdoms
(with an optional extension to Cape Town)

**June 28-July 6, 2009**
Alumni Campus Abroad in the Swiss Alps & Italian Lakes
Sharing with University of Iowa

**July 26-August 3, 2009**
Village Life in the Cotswolds

*Dates, destinations, prices and itineraries are subject to change*

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**Dear Alumnae Authors:**
The Helen Cochran Library keeps a collection of alumnae publications. Each year during Reunion Weekend, the alumnae publications 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.

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**Architectural Literacy for Everybody**
What You’ve Wondered about Classical Architecture but Were Afraid to Ask

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. 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, and is open to Sweet Briar College alumnae, students, and faculty, as well as to interested members of the public.

For registration information, contact Bob Carter: bob.carter@dhr.virginia.gov; 434–381–6321.
Every November, The Friends of Art (FOA) Board combines their fall meeting with an art-buying trip to New York City. We scour the galleries and the International Federated Print Dealers Association (IFPDA) New York Print Fair for works of art to add to Sweet Briar’s collection. FOA provides the only funding for Gallery art purchases, which are important educational resources for students, faculty, and the greater community.

We were welcomed with a social and educational evening at the loft apartment of Magda Salvesen ’65, celebrating the relationship between The Virginia Center for the Creative Arts (VCCA) and Sweet Briar. The evening’s feature exhibit, Public Art Works, sponsored by the New York Transit Authority, showcased the artwork of two prominent artists and VCCA fellows, Andra Samelson and Danny Haueben, whose work has been inspired by Sweet Briar’s campus.

The next morning, the FOA board voted to purchase a large scale photograph by Moroccan-born artist Lalla Essaydi (born 1956), Les Femmes du Maroc #17, 2005. Essaydi’s art historical influences are Delacroix and other nineteenth-century Orientalizing painters, mostly of French descent. Our collection has a painting by Delacroix from the women of Algiers series; the Essaydi photography will be a serve as an excellent complement to it for student and faculty study. We also discussed the accreditation process for the Sweet Briar Collection and the Anne Gary Pannell Art Gallery. Such accreditation will attract important exhibitions to SBC and ensure continuing care of the College’s collection.

Allyson Napier ’08 reported on the activities of the junior FOA. At present, students are raising money to return the dormitory parlors to a more pleasant state.

From start to finish, the fall meeting in New York was productive, educational and inspiring. It yielded wonderful fruits in friendships renewed or begun and offered us the chance to meet artists and view many works of art. It also gave us much needed time to purchase a new thought-provoking photograph for our students and faculty to use in their studies.
Special Thanks

The Admissions Office would like to thank the following Alumnae Admission Representatives for taking the time to represent Sweet Briar at one or more college fairs in their local area and for those who contacted prospective students during the 2007–2008 academic year:

Mary Ann Albright ’83
Joelle Andrews ’06
Michelle Badger ’06
Chantel Bartlett ’98
Kristen Bergquist ’06
Kimberly Bolz-Andolshak ’99
Elizabeth Rogers Boyd ’84
Sarah Betz Bucciero ’97
Ethel Ogden Burwell ’58
Victoria Campo Byrd ’91
Cara Cherry ’06
Erin Coleman ’04
Gertrude Collins ’84
Shannon Callison Cotsonadis ’95
Carolyn Eney ’03
Beth Farnsworth ’05
V.M. Del Greco Galgano ’64
Courtney Yerdon Gleason ’03
Patsy Roby Gottfredson ’84
Meghan Gregory ’02
Mary Healy ’96
Pamela McDonnell Hindsley ’76
Jessica Hiveley ’97
Karen Hott ’91
Sara Hoverson ’06
Kelly Meredith Iacobelli ’88
Salley Old Kitchin ’76
Ann Stuart McKie Kling ’74
Nancy Kleinhans ’06
Amy Campbell Lamphere ’80
Dick Leslie (Board of Directors)
Elizabeth Lindsey ’86
Gillian Long ’03
Diana Marshall ’04
Dawn Martin ’01
Gwen McKinney ’03
Carson Freeman Meinen ’80
Julie Hildebrand Nelson ’96
Natasha Nickodem ’01
Elizabeth Conner Pace ’86
Amanda Palmore ’05
Emma Kate Payne ’03
Kathryn Taylor Paine ’99
Darelle Pfieffer ’98
Nancy Mortensen Piper ’74
Ann Faircloth Porter ’86
Michelle Poore ’04
Serena Putnegat ’98
Tara Putnegat ’00
Victoria Rangel ’04
Alicia Renfrow ’06
Gwen Reyes ’06
Katie Clarkson Robertson ’97
Ashley Rogers ’05
Catherine Callender Sauls ’86
Vikki Schroeder ’87
Julia Schmitz ’03
Jessica Shannon ’03
Andrea Sharretts ’99
Courtney Arnott Silverthorn ’03
Stacy McKimm Stevens ’97
Jessica Brandrup Smith ’98
Katie Leeming Sparkman ’99
Genie Stark Thomas ’95
Evangeline Easterly Taylor ’00
Meredith Tillery ’99
Erin Keck Walsh ’03
Amanda Watts ’05
Lynsie Watkins ’05
Ariana Wolynez-Werner ’01
Katie Vaughan ’06

Because of the effort of the people listed above, Sweet Briar was able to have a recruiting presence at 43 events that we wouldn’t have otherwise been able to attend. AARs represented the College in 18 states and covered seven more events than last year. With this momentum, we are hopeful that the AAR program will continue to provide much-needed support of our recruitment efforts, ultimately growing back to our record high for AAR-covered events of 74 during the 2003–2004 academic year. If you are not an AAR and would like to learn more about how you can help, please contact Paula Kirkland Ledbetter ’06 in the Admissions Office (pkirkland@sbc.edu or 800.381.6142). Thank you all for your continued support!

—Ken Huus, Dean of Admissions
After review of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, the Sweet Briar Board of Directors was pleased to note that the College continues to improve its financial position. For the second year in a row, the College has finished favorable to budget. Our endowment finished with an 18.3% return. Thanks to the generous support of our alumnae, board, parents, faculty, staff, and friends of the College, the Annual Fund set a record of $2.4 million. The College continued to reduce its tuition discount rate and finished the year at 44%. The discount rate is a percentage produced by dividing institutional financial aid grants by total tuition and fees, exclusive of room and board. Our reliance on the endowment has been reduced from a high of $12.1 million in FY 2003 to $7.7 million in FY 2007 for a decrease of $4.4 million or 36%. A combination of increasing enrollment, reducing our discount rate, implementing cost containment, and increasing income from the Annual Fund and auxiliaries has helped us to achieve this goal. Next year’s budget reflects an additional drop in reliance of our endowment by $900,000 as the College works to reduce endowment spending to a rate of 5%.

Looking to the future, the morale of the College remains high. The entering class of 2011 was the largest since 1983 and included 202 first-year students and 15 transfers. In addition, our graduate program enrolled 15 students. For the second year in a row our entering class will be admitted at a 40% tuition discount rate. By the time you read this, the College will have started construction on the new Fitness and Athletic Center with a scheduled completion date of August 2009. We are working on plans to add new apartment-style housing, available in fall 2009, for our students and to renovate and add to the Mary Helen Cochran Library.

To ensure Sweet Briar remains affordable and strong for the generations to come we must continue to increase our enrollment, grow our endowment, and be prudent in our financial decisions. Our success depends upon the collective support of our alumnae, Board, parents, faculty, staff, and students. The College thanks you for your continued support whether it be recruiting prospective students and promoting Sweet Briar to friends and family, giving to the Annual Fund or Endowment. Your financial support is critical as the College works to increase faculty salary, financial aid, and fund such critical projects as the Library and Fitness and Athletic Center. Working together we can make a difference and continue to provide an excellent education and facilities for our students.

**Sweet Briar Institute Statements of Activities**

**Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2007 and 2006**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVENUES AND GAINS:</th>
<th>2007 Total</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>2006 Total</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net Tuition and Fees</td>
<td>12,008,187</td>
<td>26.19%</td>
<td>11,706,444</td>
<td>29.96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income [1]</td>
<td>18,244,665</td>
<td>39.79%</td>
<td>9,160,415</td>
<td>23.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gifts</td>
<td>5,368,617</td>
<td>11.71%</td>
<td>8,816,574</td>
<td>22.57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auxiliary Sales and Services</td>
<td>8,284,262</td>
<td>18.07%</td>
<td>7,581,851</td>
<td>19.41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Grants &amp; Contracts</td>
<td>93,213</td>
<td>0.20%</td>
<td>100,644</td>
<td>0.26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Grants &amp; Contracts</td>
<td>779,683</td>
<td>1.70%</td>
<td>661,882</td>
<td>1.69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Sources</td>
<td>767,425</td>
<td>1.67%</td>
<td>676,359</td>
<td>1.73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>45,856,947</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>39,068,346</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES AND LOSSES:</th>
<th>2007 Total</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>2006 Total</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instruction</td>
<td>13,250,925</td>
<td>36.00%</td>
<td>13,051,346</td>
<td>36.69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>511,058</td>
<td>1.39%</td>
<td>623,052</td>
<td>1.69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Support</td>
<td>3,350,728</td>
<td>9.10%</td>
<td>3,362,404</td>
<td>9.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Services</td>
<td>3,538,976</td>
<td>9.61%</td>
<td>3,231,598</td>
<td>9.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional Support</td>
<td>7,604,885</td>
<td>20.66%</td>
<td>7,355,456</td>
<td>20.68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarship and Fellowship</td>
<td>973,600</td>
<td>2.64%</td>
<td>814,242</td>
<td>2.29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auxiliary Enterprises</td>
<td>7,579,505</td>
<td>20.59%</td>
<td>7,136,818</td>
<td>20.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses and Losses</td>
<td>36,809,677</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>35,574,916</td>
<td>91.06%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Change in Net Assets before adoption of FASB 158 | 9,047,270 | 3,493,430|
| Effect of adoption of FASB 158 | 2,769,725|
| Net Assets at the beginning of the Year | 142,057,668 | 138,564,238|
| Net Assets at end of Year | 153,874,663 | 142,057,668|

[1] Includes investment income and Realized gain and Unrealized loss on long & short term investments.
Sweet Briar Institute Consolidated Statements of Financial Position  
*as of 30 June 2007*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>as of 6/30/07</th>
<th>as of 6/30/06</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
<td>3,784,768</td>
<td>2,525,009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
<td>714,856</td>
<td>603,469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans to Students</td>
<td>1,518,607</td>
<td>1,488,088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dividends &amp; Interest Receivable</td>
<td>326,466</td>
<td>379,528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions Receivable</td>
<td>1,594,594</td>
<td>1,959,718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pledges Receivable</td>
<td>4,148,338</td>
<td>4,604,099</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventories</td>
<td>315,850</td>
<td>338,754</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid Expenses and Deferred Chgs</td>
<td>160,516</td>
<td>145,106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>103,178,568</td>
<td>94,834,933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beneficial Int Perpetual Trust</td>
<td>7,847,024</td>
<td>7,128,492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assets restricted to investment in land, building and equipment</td>
<td>8,255,464</td>
<td>7,955,163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land, Buildings and Equipment</td>
<td>47,238,338</td>
<td>48,765,763</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred Bond Issuance Costs</td>
<td>365,964</td>
<td>388,767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funds held by trustee under bond indenture</td>
<td>18,055,364</td>
<td>19,491,982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>197,504,717</strong></td>
<td><strong>190,608,871</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts and Other Payables</td>
<td>1,147,123</td>
<td>1,511,219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued Interest</td>
<td>610,885</td>
<td>656,433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Deposits and Advance Fees</td>
<td>1,226,106</td>
<td>970,862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Government Grants Refundable</td>
<td>1,138,818</td>
<td>1,135,303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annuity Obligations</td>
<td>733,364</td>
<td>895,112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asset Retirement Obligation</td>
<td>55,795</td>
<td>53,088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post Retirement Benefit Obligations</td>
<td>254,341</td>
<td>2,994,065</td>
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<tr>
<td>Self Insurance Liability</td>
<td>113,000</td>
<td>164,887</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonds Payable</td>
<td>38,350,622</td>
<td>40,170,234</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>43,630,054</strong></td>
<td><strong>48,551,203</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET ASSETS:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>94,128</td>
<td>84,915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted-designated</td>
<td>76,784,304</td>
<td>67,851,636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily Restricted</td>
<td>21,356,847</td>
<td>20,672,708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanently Restricted</td>
<td>55,639,384</td>
<td>53,448,409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>153,874,663</strong></td>
<td><strong>142,057,668</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities and net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>197,504,717</strong></td>
<td><strong>190,608,871</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
Mary Rich
Mrs. Robert E. Robertson, Jr.
Date unknown

Sara Callison
Mrs. John R. Jamison
May 3, 2008

1929
Margaret Weisiger
Mrs. Harry E. Proctor
February 27, 2008

1930
Mary Carroll
Miss Mary A. Carroll
Date unknown

1932
Jean Hathaway
Mrs. Allan B. Temple
Date unknown

1933
Lillian Allison
Mrs. John L. Redman, Jr.
Date unknown

Doris Crane
Mrs. Samuel C. Loveland, Jr.
December 29, 2007

1934
Mary Higgins
Mrs. Gilbert L. Porsche
December 20, 2007

Elizabeth Mayfield
Mrs. Peter R. W. Roughton
January 22, 2008

Sara Merritt
Mrs. Sara M. Brentnall
April 28, 2008

1935
Suzanne Wilson
Mrs. Evan M. Rutherford
January 14, 2008

Dorothy Young
Mrs. Robert A. Patneau
October 1, 1993

1936
Adela Elizabeth “Betty” Cocke
Mrs. Peyton B. Winfree, Jr.
February 14, 2008

1937
Margaret Kirk
Mrs. J. L. Virden
March 24, 2008

1939
Ethel Hauber
Mrs. Joseph J. Crowe, Jr.
April 12, 2008

1940
Helen Patton
Mrs. J. Skelly Wright
December 9, 2007

1941
Patricia Potter
Mrs. Patricia P. Duncan
April 14, 2008

1942
Mary Geyer
Mrs. John P. Sawyer
August 8, 2007

1943
Nancy Bean
Mrs. Louis J. Hector
August 24, 2007

Elaine Brimberg
Ms. Elaine Dundy
May 1, 2008

Judith Agnes Colcord
Mrs. Henry D. Jeffries
March 1, 2008

1945
Harriet Hazen
Mrs. E. Reed Harnack
December 26, 2007

1946
Margaret Carmichael
Mrs. Robert M. Lester, Jr.
March 3, 2008

Elizabeth Ryland
Mrs. Donald Cecil
March 10, 2008

1947
Katharine Weisiger
Mrs. Katharine W. Osborne
April 3, 2008

1948
Betty Leffel
Mrs. Walter M. Wingate
January 5, 2008

Virginia “Jackie” Speppstrom
Mrs. John W. Cline
January 29, 2008

1949
Eugenia Rose
Mrs. Joel T. Cheatham
April 18, 2005

1952
Susan Otis
Dr. Susan Otis Thompson
March 5, 2008

1953
Caroline Moody
Mrs. William D. Roberts
March 21, 2008

1954
Faith Aldrich
Mrs. Faith A. Wykoff
March 28, 2008

1955
Mary Louise Kelley
Mrs. Mary Louise Dame
December 8, 2007

1958
Barbara McClancy
Miss Barbara McClancy
Date unknown

1962
Julia Carter
Ms. Julia Carter Baker
March 29, 2008

1998
Heather Reynolds
Mrs. Heather L. Cecil
February 18, 2008

2001
Stephanie Ladd
Miss Stephanie Eugenia Ladd
November 21, 2006

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.
Soft chords of music resonate clearly through the soaring chapel at Sweet Briar College. This is not an unusual occurrence, but the new hand-built Schimmel concert grand piano offers an exceptional sound, even to those without a trained ear.

Nick Ross, assistant professor of music, spoke at the development office staff meeting last year about the College’s pressing need for a new concert grand piano. During a visit to Sweet Briar by a loyal donor, and after meeting with Dean Jonathan Green and the development office, the acquisition was proposed.

Robert and Nellie Gipson were considering an appropriate way to memorialize the 75th anniversary of the graduation from Sweet Briar of his mother, Madeliene LePine Gipson, a member of the Class of 1933. Mr. Gipson has always been surrounded by Sweet Briar women as both of his sisters are also graduates. Mr. Gipson has been generous to Sweet Briar over the years, providing a scholarship for study in Bulgaria for the international studies department; funding the Gerritsen Collection for the library, a world-wide database on women’s history from 1543–1945; gifts to the French department; and giving an unrestricted reunion gift in his sister’s honor last year. This piano is a beautiful gift in memory of Mrs. Gipson.

“A gift of this magnitude to the department and the College is gratefully received,” says Rebecca McCord, professor of music. “It boosts our appeal to potential students and faculty.” She is reverent when she speaks about this piano. “This instrument, this Schimmel grand, has an even tone from bass to treble, with a lot of resonance in each register, making it easy to handle and a joy to play.”

Nick Ross has taught two students on the new Schimmel. “You can’t teach students to play really well on a piano that is in poor technical shape,” he explains. “The things I’ve been able to teach them about tone, I couldn’t do before. There are a lot of technical innovations in this piano that make it easier to play. It is as beautiful as any I’ve played on.” The professors shopped at two dealers in New York and Richmond including Steinway, and played six instruments before making their decision. They did not specifically require a Schimmel, but as they narrowed their search, it became clear that it was the best choice.

Dean Green describes the success of the buying trip: “They went to New York to buy a Cadillac, and they came back with a top-of-the-line Mercedes.”

These professors appreciate the importance of having an exceptional piano on which students can learn, but it is also necessary in drawing top concert artists for guest recitals. “You need a good instrument available for them to be willing to come to your venue and perform,” Nick explains. “It expands the musical life of the College.”

An inaugural faculty recital was held on Reunion Weekend on Saturday, May 17, at 8:30 p.m. in the Chapel. Scheduled musicians were Dean Jonathan Green, Professor Rebecca McCord, Assistant Professor Nick Ross, and Instructor of Music Jana Ross.
SEPTEMBER 18, 2008

OCTOBER 8, 2008
Yiyun Li is the author of the story collection A Thousand Years of Good Prayers, which received the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award, the PEN/Hemingway Award, the Guardian First Book Award, and the California Book Award for first edition.

NOVEMBER 12, 2008

FEBRUARY 11, 2009
Zhang Er is the author of poetry collections Seen, Unseen, Water Words, and Because of Mountain. She has six chapbooks in translation: Winter Garden, Verses on Bird, The Autumn of Gu Yao, Pick Lotus, Carved Water, and Sight Progress. She has read and lectured at international festivals, conferences, reading series and universities in the U.S., China, France, Portugal, Russia, Peru, Argentina, Canada, Singapore, and Hong Kong.

MARCH 11, 2009
Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, recipient of the O Henry prize, is the author of Purple Hibiscus, which received the Commonwealth Writers’ Prize and the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award, and Half of A Yellow Sun, which received the Orange Broadband Prize.

APRIL 15, 2009
Manil Suri is the author of The Death of Vishnu, which received the Barnes & Noble Discover Award, and The Age of Shiva.