Maintaining and Preserving Our Campus

Paul Davies, Vice President for Finance and Administration

Whether you attended, worked here, or simply visited Sweet Briar, you cannot help but be moved by the vastness and beauty of the College. Blessed with 3,250 acres of land, we are fortunate to be living Indiana Fletcher Williams’ dream.

Sweet Briar is much more than classrooms and dorms. We are a vibrant community. Many faculty and staff live on campus year-round: this is our home. We know our students and they know us. This doesn’t change, whether students return as new alumnae immediately following graduation or 20 years later. This is our legacy, but along with this comes great responsibility.

Indiana knew the value of an education when she created Sweet Briar Institute, stipulating that a school be established to “educate girls and young women to be useful members of society.” Having begun our second century, it is fitting that the magazine focus on the use of our land as a resource. Articles featured include everything from Trails and the Community Garden to Girl Scout Programs and a Report on financial operating results.

Working together, we can preserve our natural resources and ensure that the College remains financially sound for the generations to come. Many committees are looking at our resources:

The Land Use Committee was established to study possible uses of our land, increasingly important. With US 29 By-pass completed, Sweet Briar is only 20 minutes away from the Lynchburg airport.

Surrounding communities are growing with developments such as Poplar Grove Golf Community, its course designed by Sam Snead. An example of SBC’s taking advantage of the growth is the partnership between Poplar Grove and the Florence Elston Inn: our “Stay and Play” package. This will be the third year that the Friends of Athletics will host their annual golf fundraiser at Poplar Grove. Also, students can take golf lessons.

The Lake Committee is studying the Upper and Lower lakes to preserve this area as a recreation spot to enjoy. During February 2007 Board meetings, the Buildings and Grounds Committee was treated to a presentation on the Lower Lake by Theresa Jorgensen ’07 and Kelsey Jeffers ’07, students of Dr. Rebecca Ambers, assistant professor, Environmental Studies. Positive note: we learned the lake is cleaner now than it was 20 years ago. The Boat House, still popular, needs renovation.

The Library Committee is updating a 1995 study as we plan to modernize the Mary Helen Cochran Library. We began cosmetic upgrades and repairs over Christmas Break. New carpet was installed and several areas painted. The main library tables were refinished; hardwood flooring was installed in the Browsing Room. New chairs will arrive soon.

The Fitness and Athletic Committee completed the design concept for our new facility. All that remains is funding to begin construction. Renovations for the Williams Gymnasium near completion. The cardiovascular space was tripled, new equipment purchased. The locker room was renovated and converted to five air-conditioned locker rooms: one for general use, four team lockers. We will add a changing room for officials, to bring us into compliance with the ODAC athletic conference.

The Riding Program continues to grow. Twenty-three stalls, two tack rooms added in the last three years. See Director of the Riding Program Shelby French’s article.

Many other improvements around campus:
• Dairy Barn remodeled for printmaking, studio art and photography
• Babcock, renovated to provide Dance and Theatre dedicated space
• Patteson House modernized (air-conditioning, sprinkler system) as alternative living space for upperclasswomen.

If you haven’t been on campus in a while, we hope you will enjoy the articles about use of the land, and the people who take great pride in preserving and maintaining the campus. Plan to visit. Stay at the Elston Inn and Conference Center: recent enhancements include new carpeting and refurbishing of all guest rooms, which now offer free Internet access. It’s a great place to hold a meeting or for a mini vacation—to walk, play tennis, golf, swim—enjoy!

Without the generosity and support of our alumnae, Board members, parents, and friends, it would not be possible to maintain and preserve our campus. Excited about the future, we thank you for your continued support as we look to the next 100 years.
Sweet Briar College: Use of Our Campus as a Resource

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INSIDE BACK COVER: “In the Sweet Briar Tradition”

FRONT COVER: Aerial View of Campus, Courtesy of Virginia Department of Transportation
BACK COVER: Campus Photos © Andrey Suntsev
Imagine a peaceful forest bursting with life, dotted with burrows for groundhogs and foxes, beds for deer, and miles of hiking trails. Add to that a variety of bird species singing in the canopy, a gurgling stream flowing through a verdant wetland, and flowers blooming in a spectrum of colors. On top of all this, picture a couple of lakes and a field of uncut hay waving in the breeze. No, this is not the beginning of a fairy tale; these are the images that come to mind when someone asks me about where I live and what I do.

TIM KASPER
FOUNDER, INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
DIRECTOR, SWEET BRIAR COMMUNITY GARDEN
I moved here in the fall of 2003 with my wife, Debbie, when she was hired as a sociology professor. With an educational background in physical and environmental geography and a variety of work experiences in wetlands and forestry, finding myself near the Blue Ridge Mountains and on Sweet Briar’s campus was a dream. I wanted to find a way to promote environmental education and contribute to efforts to maintain and preserve out-of-the-way places on campus. I set out to establish the Institute for Sustainability and Environmental Education (ISEE) in the fall of 2005 under the umbrella of the Environmental Studies department. The role of the ISEE is to promote education about and awareness of environmental and sustainability issues on campus through outreach activities, workshops, and projects in conjunction with environmental studies and other relevant programs at SBC.

The ISEE’s first major project was the creation of a series of educational nature trails to showcase the habitats and ecosystems around the vicinity of the two lakes on campus, especially the neighboring wetlands. Informational signs along the trails highlight native wildlife and plants, and describe the important roles that certain features of the landscape play in maintaining the whole. The nature trails not only provide an outdoor setting for hands-on education in SBC college classes, but also learning opportunities for area school groups and recreation for Amherst community members.

One of the trails’ most important features is the boardwalk and observation platform (wheelchair accessible) crossing the flowered, wet meadow between the two lakes. In addition to being fundamental to environmental education of all sorts, this wetland is also one of the most beautiful areas on campus! Throughout the year, colors change from the yellows of wingstem and the reds of cardinal flower to the purple joe-pye weed, and beautiful magenta of new-york ironweed. Hawks, blue jays, cardinals, and chickadees frequent this spot daily, as do various other local critters.

Even before official completion, the trails are being well-used. In the spring of 2006 I led a Field Natural History class through the trails to learn about useful and edible plants in Sweet Briar Woods. Along with a representative from Virginia DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) and the Master Naturalists of Central Virginia, the ISEE sponsored an advanced training wetlands workshop in the fall of 2006. The site was designated ideal for its “variation and relatively unadulterated status.” We do have a treasure here on the campus grounds. Thanks to a grant from the Lynchburg Community Trust, an alumna donation from Katzie Bailey Nager ’53, and the help of a variety of volunteers, the ISEE was able to make it a little bit easier to “share the wealth” with the surrounding community.

Speaking of wealth, the Sweet Briar Community Garden (SBCG) is another wonderful use of a small and little known corner of campus. Since we arrived here, we have been blessed with camaraderie, time well-spent outdoors, and the welcome opportunity to grow and share healthy local food. The SBCG operates just uphill from the old dairy barn, and provides a great place for members to learn the art of gardening, and perhaps a little more about themselves.

SBCG members have been working to expand a sense of community at the garden, and it has been a success. Membership continues to grow, as does the length of our work days and the size of our garden parties! As it turns out, the ISEE’s initiatives overlap with some of recent developments at the garden, and it has become an important place to apply particular strategies. With the combined know-how, generosity, and efforts of garden members, exciting things are happening. For example, the pavilion we built three years ago has recently become fully solar-powered; a geothermal greenhouse is in the works; and a small scale CSA (community supported agriculture) operation is being developed. The SBCG also provides educational opportunities for classes as diverse as biology (Dr. Steven’s “Plants and Human Affairs”), environmental studies (Dr. Ambers’ “Sustainable Agriculture”), and sociology (Dr. Debbie Kasper’s “Community”), to name just a few.

I am full of ideas about how to use the land for educational ends, and I know that I am not alone. Sweet Briar’s campus is a gem, and I am proud to be part of the efforts to help people recognize the true value of this place, both its beauty and its potential for teaching us all important lessons. No doubt, each student leaves here with special memories and, hopefully, returns to enjoy a favorite spot, riding trail, or mountain view. Many faculty, staff, and students have worked hard over the years to maintain certain characteristics of Sweet Briar’s land. The ISEE hopes to be a continuing part of this tradition by providing education and natural resource protection so that future generations of Sweet Briar students will be able to experience the campus as we know and love it. Whether walking the trails, learning about wetlands, or enjoying locally grown goodies, I hope all who visit Sweet Briar will enjoy their time here as much as I have.
Gardening at Sweet Briar

ALIX INGBER, DIRECTOR OF ACADEMIC ADVISING

In the late fall of 2001, Cliff and Rebecca Ambers and Mark Campbell surveyed faculty and staff to see if there would be any interest in setting up a community garden on campus. There was a great deal of interest, and the hard work began on a small plot of land above the Sweet Briar Dairy. A generous contribution from an anonymous alumna allowed us to surround the garden with a solar-powered electric fence (no electric lines run to the garden).

From an unappetizing field covered with brush to the inaugural season in the spring of 2002, an incredible transformation took place. We even had a vineyard! The garden today continues to grow, both in the number of members and in our community projects. In 2004 we built a pavilion where a rotting shed once stood. Last year, a donated solar-powered lawnmower was used to provide the pavilion with electricity. This year we are building a greenhouse.

The needs of the garden are supported by nominal dues paid by the members and by a number of fundraising activities we have undertaken over the years. We began by making our signature hot sauce available to supporters of the garden. This started as a means of doing something with everybody’s surplus of hot peppers following the first gardening season. Cliff Ambers supplied the recipe and did most of the work that first year. We continued the hot sauce project for several years and still have folks asking when we will have more. Last year, under the leadership of garden director, Tim Kasper, we began a new fundraising venture: a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) that supplies our organic produce to local subscribers. We still are getting the hang of this, but the 2007 season looks promising, and we hope to be able to expand our list of subscribers in 2008.

What is it like to belong to the Community Garden? Although I am not normally given to hyperbole, I would have to say that the garden, at least for me, has been a life-changing experience. The garden is far more than a place to plant vegetables: it is a gathering place where people from across the campus community work, share gardening and cooking tips, and celebrate the seasons. Summer workdays generally include a potluck dinner, and festivities (most notably the Cinco de Mayo party) stretch well into the night with a bonfire and lots of music.

I am convinced that our recent foray into the realm of fall and winter gardening is due as much to our desire to keep things going throughout the year as it is to our desire for homegrown vegetables in the winter. I suspect that the key element of the Sweet Briar Community Garden is as much “Community” as it is “Garden.”

You can learn more about the Sweet Briar Community Garden by visiting our website at http://sbcg.sbc.edu.
Spring Cleaning
Professor’s cheap labor is for the birds

JENNIFER MCMANAMAY
STAFF WRITER, COLLEGE RELATIONS OFFICE

Rebecca Massie Lane peered into a bluebird box and withdrew its furnishings—a pressed square of intertwined twigs and straw with a scoop in the middle. “Look,” she said, extending the nest in her hand. “I love to see that they were used last year.”

Lane, whose day job is director of SBC art galleries, spent part of one day of Spring Break doing a little spring cleaning. She makes an annual pilgrimage, cleaning out last year’s nests from the 30 or so bluebird boxes spaced around the Dairy Loop.

The birds don’t like to return until the old material from the previous season is removed, even if the bird nested there before. “It’s sort of like cleaning an apartment when you move,” Lane said. “You have to clear to get your security deposit back.”

She’s been making the trek long enough to not remember exactly how many years it’s been. It’s been long enough to observe that the nests vary, that different species—others besides bluebirds use the boxes—seem to like pine straw while others don’t. “You [also] can see the topography of the nest,” she said. “There are strata. If they have two nestings in a year, they build the second on top of the last.”

Lane totes along a hammer and spare nails for the job. The box doors are held closed by a loose nail that is easily removed. But they also can fall out and need replacing.

Occasionally the free-standing posts that the boxes are mounted to need a little straightening. The hammer is handy for that, too, but at maybe 5 feet tall Lane frequently relies on a tried-and-true alternate method: Find a bunch of rocks to pile around the post.

Bringing Science and English Together

MARCIA ROBERTSON, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

Ever since I came to Sweet Briar and participated in bird banding with Buck Edwards, Professor of Biology Emeritus, it was clear that the campus is a rich curricular resource that I wanted to incorporate in some of my courses. In teaching “Reading and Writing about the Natural World” in spring 2006, I found a way to make the journey back and forth between the classroom and the fields, woods, streams and lakes that surround us.

The class was an Honors course that required students to write essays based on observations of the animals, plants, and topography of Sweet Briar. Students developed the habit of careful, accurate observation of the natural world, an activity often associated with “science.” They incorporated the resulting knowledge into essays using storytelling techniques: the creation of narrative structure, perspective, and voice. Informal labs during which we interacted with aspects of the campus ecology were an essential part of this undertaking. Rebecca Penny ’08, a SWEBOP staff member, took the class on a hike to her favorite oak tree and gave an informal lecture on climax vegetation. Jeff Janovetz, former assistant professor of Biology, helped us collect and identify salamanders from the pond below Guion and let us handle his snake collection, an activity in which class members participated with remarkable aplomb. Rebecca Ambers, assistant professor of Environmental Sciences, showed us how to inventory a campus stream and how to analyze soil samples. Joe Malloy, associate professor and reference librarian, taught the basic principles of fly casting. Linda Fink, professor of Biology, graciously invited us to her home to look for wild flowers and examine larvae in her pond. These interactions were the most successful aspects of the course. Because we literally got our hands dirty, aspects of the natural world became less abstract to us than before; we got a taste of how biologists and environmental scientists look at the world. Science and humanities students alike explored, observed, and wrote about these processes. I’m scheming to create even more systematic ways to incorporate the landscape into future versions of this course.
The Campus: An Extended Classroom

JANET STEVEN, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY

As an assistant professor of biology and the instructor for “Plants and Human Affairs”, “The Plant Kingdom”, and “Plant Physiology”, I use the campus as an extended classroom quite a bit. I’ve had students in intro lab counting the invasive species in the woods behind Guion, measuring leaves on trees, and monitoring the Monarch population as it migrates through in the fall. I’ve taken “Plant Kingdom” students out to look at the various vegetation types we have on campus and to make observations of pollinator activity. Next fall I’m planning a number of outdoor labs for “The Plant Kingdom” that focus on plant diversity and identification, and students in the “Plants and Human Affairs” lab will be spending time in the Sweet Briar Community Garden.

We also have a number of interesting conifers on campus that are useful in teaching, plus nature preserves and wildflower gardens. Spring semester I have my “Plant Physiology” class outside measuring photosynthetic rates. I’ve had students utilize plants on campus in independent research, and Doreen McVeigh ’09 and I will be studying a plant that grows around the lake this summer in a Summer Honors Research project. In addition, I’ll be setting up an experimental garden on campus to study a rare plant species, piedmont meadow-rue, that has separate male and female individuals (an uncommon arrangement in plants). The garden will allow me to test the importance of light and nutrients in determining size differences between the two sexes.

The size of the campus and the amount of natural area we have was one of the things that attracted me when I applied for a position at Sweet Briar two years ago; we really are spoiled to have the campus as a resource in teaching biology. And I enjoy the campus as a resident as well. I like to hike the trails, and the Community Garden is a wonderful group of people to work with, as well as an ongoing source of fantastic fruits and vegetables.
Sharing the Outdoors

Associate Professor Joe Malloy uses SBC campus in outreach activities and outdoor classes. Students, children, and others look forward to these programs each season and use them as a time to nurture the land and learn from it.

**Hiking in the Blue Ridge Class - PHED 125 (Fall and Spring).** Students hike trails and participate in the SBC Annual Trail Day.

**Trail Day.** Students work with Joe to clear and cut brush, mark routes, pick up litter along the trails.

**SWEBOP SBC-HSC Fly Fishing Clinic & Picnic.** The Boat House and lake are used for fly fishing instruction and a picnic. Hampden-Sydney’s FlyFishing Club assists. SBC has hosted the event for three years. Traditionally a fall activity; also held in the spring last year.

**Reunion Fly Fishing**
(Individual & Group Instruction)

**Kids in College** groups participated in a Fly Fishing Class with Joe in 2006.

**Learning on the Land.**
Formerly, Joe has taken groups on trails and to the lake for this part of first-year orientation, helping students find and identify flora and fauna. Before Learning on the Land changed to an evening event, students also swam in the lake.

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:**
Students take a rest during their hiking class in the Blue Ridge Mountains.
Blanch de Franqueville ’05 overlooks Goshen Pass.
Students are prepared for clearing the trails on Trail Day.
Professor Joe Malloy and students clean up Sweet Briar trails.
Students from local grade school are ready for fly fishing.
The Butterfly Research Garden: Way Station for Monarchs

LINDA FINK, PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY

From August through October, Research Professor of Biology Lincoln Brower and I conduct daily censuses of nectaring monarch butterflies at the Butterfly Research Garden near the Train Station. It takes us just 10–20 minutes to walk around the hundred buddleias, recording the number of monarch butterflies, the weather conditions, and the state of the flowers. In conjunction with scientists, naturalists, teachers, and volunteers all over eastern North America, we are monitoring the health of the monarch population; we have been censusing on campus since 1997 seeking answers to how monarchs are faring under the stress of climate change, logging of the Mexican forests where they overwinter, and alteration of their summer breeding habitats. Insect numbers fluctuate widely from year to year, but long-term surveys can reveal trends.

The Butterfly Research Garden is a wonderful resource for research and teaching. We recently published a paper examining seasonal changes in monarchs’ fat storage, incorporating four years of our Sweet Briar data (Brower, L.P.,...

Students in “Introductory Biology,” “General Ecology” and “Insect Biology” all make observations in the garden. Director of the Arts Management Program Rebecca Massie Lane and I have brought new-student-orientation groups here during the fall “Learning on the Land” sessions and every year I offer at least one Insect Workshop for teachers.

The garden is lovely on sunny afternoons and visitors are always welcome. The peak of the monarch migration is from late September to the first week in October, but even when monarchs are scarce, the buddleias hum with birds, hawkmoths, praying mantids and swallowtail butterflies. A bench is situated to give views over the garden and hayfield toward Kentucky Ridge.

Sweet Briar’s Grounds Crew helps to maintain the garden by keeping a path mowed and cutting back the plants every winter. To keep the plants flowering, we rely on volunteers who help us deadhead the faded blooms.

If you are a gardener visiting campus between June and October, we’ll welcome your help. We’ll provide the pruners!

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:**
Monarch butterfly feeding at a buddleia flower at the Sweet Briar butterfly garden, September 2001.
Ecology students, Christie Michaels and Jennifer Bragg, looking for monarch butterfly caterpillars on milkweeds, with the butterfly research garden and Train Station visible in the background, September 2003.
When monarchs are scarce, the buddleias hum with swallowtail butterflies.
Under cloak of darkness, they cross dangerous terrain. Up and down hills, around logs and rocks. Predators—Barred owls, skunks and unwitting size-9 Nikes—threaten their survival as they crawl over wet leaves and, hopefully, finally make their way to the breeding pool.

It was the March of the Salamanders, and although Morgan Freeman did not narrate their slithery trek, the journey of the spotted salamander from the underground burrows of Guion Woods to the man-made Guion Pond was no less dramatic.

For the first time at Sweet Briar College, March 1 and 2, the breeding ritual was documented by a research team of students and professors. Students have studied the local salamanders for decades, but a few years ago someone threw a curve ball at the little critters, necessitating a more in-depth study.

In 2002, predatory mosquito fish were released into the pond, possibly by a well-intentioned fisherman or someone afraid of the spread of West Nile Virus. “We are concerned that these fish and other predators may be eating so many juveniles that the population will decline,” Biology Professor Linda Fink said.

“The study we’re starting [and] hoping to continue for years will give much information about the population. The specific question is whether our population has a healthy mix of individuals of all ages, or is it an aging population because few or no juveniles escape from pond predators.”

Black with neon yellow spots, the salamanders are about eight inches long, including the tail. Native to SBC, the eastern United States and southern Canada, the Guion Woods salamanders are the only group that Fink is aware of on campus.

Mike Hayslett, SBC adjunct professor of environmental science, has studied wetlands and their inhabitants for 20 years. He believes this “family” of salamanders has been breeding in Guion Pond for 50 years or more. Unlike most amphibians that live two or three years, spotted salamanders can live to be 20 or 30.

Spending about 360 days a year underground, they eat earthworms and bugs, and emerge on the first warm, rainy day of the year—the “salamander rain”—to breed. Hayslett defined salamander rain as a “cyclical event,” with three conditions—rain, near-50-degree temperatures and thunder—usually present.

“Some say it’s an auditory cue,” he said of the thunder. “The rumbles and vibration might be a cue to wake them up.”

Above ground, the salamanders’ objective is equally primal. Biology Professor Fink put it simply: “Once a year, they doodle over to the pond, have sex for a week and come back.”

“March of the Salamanders” Documented by Students

SUZANNE RAMSEY, STAFF WRITER, COLLEGE RELATIONS OFFICE
**READY, SET, WHOA**

Unfortunately, when dealing with Mother Nature, you’re on her time clock. The team, made up mostly of ecology students, had hoped to begin research on Feb. 20. The timing was right. In this area, salamander movement usually begins mid-February to early March, and a chance of rain was forecast.

“[They have] porous skin and are very susceptible to drying out. They need a high moisture content in the air,” Hayslett said, adding that some might travel as far as a half mile to the pond, making dehydration a viable threat. Add to that the fact that spotted salamanders aren’t exactly speedy. “They’re very slow,” he said. “Not like skinks.”

It was after 6 p.m. in the Guion biology lab when Fink gave the students, many clad in rain gear and rubber boots, their assignments. Some would be on “pit crews,” gathering salamanders from around sheet metal fences the team had erected in various woodland locations.

According to Hayslett, salamanders aren’t keen on climbing over large objects. When they reach a solid fence or log, they turn left or right. In this case, after making the turn, they would fall into buried coffee cans full of leaf matter.

Pit crew staffers would scoop up the salamanders, deposit them in plastic baggies, and label the bags with time and location. Other students would be “runners,” transporting the creatures back and forth between pit crews and the lab. Some would be “spotters,” scanning the woodland trail for action and marking salamander sightings with surveyor’s flags.

In the lab, students and professors would process the salamanders, measuring, weighing, photographing, and using the “Twitty” method to remove one of the animals’ toes for future identification and chronology purposes.

“You can tell the age of a salamander, like tree rings,” Hayslett said. “We have the specific goal to obtain [and] preserve how stable this population of salamanders might be. If it’s composed mostly of old adults with little apparent recruitment, as evidenced by younger adults, then we have a population of critters that needs help.”

After processing, the runners would take salamanders back to where they were found and point them toward the pond. “Kiss them on the head and wish them fond farewell,” Fink said, eliciting a groan from Hayslett. “No,” he said. “Don’t kiss them on the head.”

Assignments made, the students waited in the lab, headlamps in place. But there was no rain. So Fink and Hayslett suspended the study and led the group on a brief tour of Guion Woods, pointing out the fences and demonstrating collection methods. As for the postponement, Hayslett just shrugged. “If we hit it, it’s one of the coolest phenomena,” he said.

**RAINING SALAMANDERS**

The salamander rain began March 1, first as a misty morning drizzle and progressing to a soaking rain by midnight. By 10 p.m. the woods around Guion Pond were slicker than a spotted salamander.

The team met in the lab at 6:30 p.m., and within an hour the first salamanders were spotted. By 7:30, Jenny Walkiewicz ’09 said the sunken coffee cans at one fence line had halted the progression of about 50 specimens. “They were exciting,” she said, adding what had become a common opinion: “They are very cute.”

At 9:30, Doreen McVeigh ’09 was on the trail as a spotter. She estimates she found one every three minutes. “They were scurrying along the path pretty quickly,” she said, countering Hayslett’s claim that salamanders are slow. “They’re pretty quick when they want to be.”

By 10:00, the team had counted more than 200. In the lab, baggies of yellow polka-dotted amphibians monopolized the end of one table as students and professors measured, weighed and documented salamanders. Mud was everywhere, on boots, clothes, and trailing down the tiled hallway.

Hayslett, dressed in a pink and green SBC T-shirt and matching green hat, said the results were exceptional. “Tonight’s success, I attribute to the pink T-shirt,” he joked. “I put on the T-shirt and got the call.”

By morning, some 575 salamanders had been encountered, with 470 hand-examined in the lab. The male-to-female ratio was 3-to-1. The largest recorded was a 42.5-gram female.

“We saw some extremely large individuals, suggesting a very stable, old population,” Hayslett said. “But we were delighted to see many smaller, younger adults, suggesting that sufficient recruitment is occurring. This is, of course, prior to number crunching and summer investigations.”
There were other surprises during the night, including spotless salamanders and animals with bifurcated and trifurcated toes. Salamander No. 201 had a thin, deformed tail. Hayslett attributed the abnormality to malnutrition, prompting one thoughtful student to ask, “Can I give him a cricket?”

The team also was taken aback to see many salamanders emerge from burrows adjacent to the pond, not from deeper in the forest as predicted. Standing in ankle-deep mud around midnight, Hayslett pointed to an area near the pond’s spillway where the creek bed sunk underground.

He’d seen salamanders pouring from the hole like water from a well: “dozens and dozens” of them. “It’s humbling to be outsmarted by eight-inch amphibians,” he said later.

Equally surprising, some salamanders didn’t go to Guion Pond at all, opting to breed in a cove on the eastern side of the Upper Lake. “I had a hunch that some might go to the Upper Lake,” Hayslett said, adding that he’d set a few basket traps just in case.

“Possibly another two dozen salamanders are residing in that northern extreme of Guion Woods and instead of hiking to the pond saturated with animals, they go down the slope to the lake.”

After laying eggs, adult salamanders returned home with the next rain. It will be mid-summer before babies emerge from the pond to make their way into Guion Woods. Meanwhile, Hayslett, Fink and their team have much work to do, analyzing data, planning future studies and forming a conservation plan.

“It was exhausting,” Hayslett said later. “But it was a sensational experience and greatly exceeded my expectations. [It was] the best ‘big night’ experience I’ve seen since 1998. I was delighted that the students got to experience this natural phenomenon, especially after we built up their anticipation so. Whew, [I’m] relieved.”

Since 1993, once a year I have organized and directed a German Immersion Weekend for German teachers in Virginia. The beauty of our campus and our facilities draw them back every year; many have told me about how important it is for them to get back here again and again. There is no place like Sweet Briar for a program of this sort.

We also have held a week-long Summer Workshop for German Teachers for the last four years; a fifth is scheduled for this summer. This brings German teachers from all over the USA and from other countries. It is the only seminar offered for teachers interested in the TPRS (Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling) teaching approach. I have suggested that the program be sponsored on campuses in other parts of the country, but they insist on coming back here year after year.
There are many ways in which Sweet Briar College excels in bringing the arts to the surrounding community. Through gallery exhibits, student organizations, organized tours, and workshops, Sweet Briar continually fills its role in the development of artistic education and creativity. For over two years, Sweet Briar students from various disciplines have worked with Associate Professor Rebecca Massie Lane, Director of Museums and Galleries and the Arts Management Program, to develop the African Masks Workshop.

This educational workshop includes an exhibition of masks from the College’s permanent art collection. Objects in the collection of African tribal masks were a gift of Mr. and Mrs. Richard (Jacqueline Lowe ’58) Young that originated from her mother’s collection. The masks come from the Sudan, the Congo, and Nigeria, and represent the Senufo, the Congo, and the Dan people.

Originally designed and created for the month-long Saturday Enrichment Program for Amherst County fourth- and fifth-graders, the African Masks Workshop has expanded and now offers workshops each year to Girl Scouts and participants of Cultural Arts Day. The workshop owes its creation and success to recent graduates Denva Jackson ’05 and Kate Feiss ’06, for their program and research design and to Rebecca Massie Lane for her active role in the delivery, research, and growth of the program.

Anne Gary Pannell Art Gallery education assistants Erin Rogers ’08, Alyson Napier ’08, and Jadrienne Brown ’09 currently lead the workshop. The presentation begins with a slideshow illustrating how and why masks have been used with dance, costume, and festival. Next, participants are shown the imposing, authentic masks for a sense of their actual size, shape, and texture. As a conclusion to the workshop, the children use arts and craft supplies to design their own masks. This final hands-on project helps the children to retain what they learned at Sweet Briar.

“Our goal,” Rebecca Massie Lane says, “is to educate regional children about the traditional art and culture of Africa and to do this in a lively way.” The workshop is a fun learning experience for children, as well as a wonderful way for college students to become teachers for a day.
Art Gallery Docents Bring the Classics to Life

REBECCA MASSIE LANE, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
DIRECTOR OF MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES AND ARTS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Anne Gary Pannell Art Gallery docents embrace the mission of educational programming with projects such as the “Classical World in Virginia” tour for Amherst County third-graders, the annual Cultural Arts Day for Amherst fifth-graders (both official programs of the Sweet Briar-Amherst County Schools’ “Partners in Learning” agreement), and the African Masks workshop for Girl Scouts. Serving some 400 children, and contributing over 130 hours of volunteer time this year in training, in planning, and in presenting tours, the docents are a vital campus organization. For the past two years, Professor of Classical Studies Anna Moore has offered a guest lecture as part of the docents’ training, and I lead numerous groups and individual-training sessions in advance of the children’s visits.

The third-grade program, “The Classical World in Virginia,” includes three components. The first, “Akalypta,” is a study of the classical Greek, Etruscan, and Roman antiquities in our collection, and includes lessons on how the lives of ancient Greeks and Romans were similar and dissimilar to our own. Using objects of everyday life, we compare our things to theirs: drinking cups, animal figurines, lamps, funerary objects, and portraits, as well as objects of personal hygiene. Our tour, for example, includes a Roman bronze ear spoon, the equivalent of our Q-tips. This prompts the question: “Would you rather live now or then?”

At Sweet Briar, our campus architecture is a treasure. As students, Mary Lea Martin ’98 and later Brienna McLaughlin ’04 developed the third-grade tour and its curriculum materials, including a souvenir cut-and-tape replica of Academic/Benedict Hall for each child. The tour surveys Sweet Briar’s architecture and teaches children to identify Classical architectural components such as pediments, entablatures, mouldings, arcades, domes, spires, and orders of columns. The tour sheet is oriented toward a child’s perspective. Did you know, for example, that many Sweet Briar building exteriors are decorated with daisies and roses to reference Daisy Williams and the Sweet Briar rose?

The third element of this tour is a rollicking outdoor activity, part theatre, part story-reenacting, and part recess, called the Odyssey Game. The children love this! They divide into two groups: one group plays the part of Odysseus and his crew and the other group plays the part of the monsters and enticing women who attempt to prevent Odysseus from returning home to Ithaca. Theatre major/Arts Management student Lindsay Keller ’02 developed masks and Emily Poore ’99 stitched costumes for this tour, so the children can become Circe and her pigs/men, the Cyclops and his fuzzy sheep, the melodious Sirens and the dreaded Scylla and Carybdis.

Docent Club President Erin Rogers ’08, who has led tours since the fall of her freshman year, says that the Art Gallery Docent Club “provides SBC students with an excellent volunteer opportunity to personally learn about the SBC campus and its art collections, but is also a wonderful instrument for sharing knowledge and educating visitors, especially school-aged children.”

In addition to leading tours for the schools, the Docent Club raises funds to help support the costs of bussing the children to Sweet Briar, providing each docent with a manual, and renewing and replenishing the stock of curriculum handouts. To support the cause, they recently created T-shirts featuring a third century B.C. Sweet Briar lekythos, which are available at the Anne Gary Pannell Art Gallery. Amherst County native Tammy Ivins, who recently graduated from Davidson College with a degree in Classical Studies, wrote a scholarly paper on this Sweet Briar lekythos attributing it to the Tymbos Painter.

It always is heartening to welcome schoolchildren onto our beautiful campus, but for me, observing the generous voluntarism of our Sweet Briar docents is just as delightful as the smiles they generate in the 9-, 10-, and 11-year-olds. I am ever grateful to these community-spirited young women for their outreach to local children.
We are fortunate at Sweet Briar to have myriad campus resources, from our historic landscape to our built environment, that function as laboratories for learning outside the classroom. Cultivating the Sweet Briar Museum as a site for this hands-on learning has been the driving force behind my directorship. Ann Marshall Whitley ’47 took on the Herculean task of getting the museum up and running almost 20 years ago. My hat is off to her; it is no small thing to start a museum, especially with such a breadth of material to collect. Objects at the museum include memorabilia from Sweet Briar College’s history, and also the rich, extensive 19th-century collections of the Fletcher-Williams family. Ann did us a great service by bringing this treasure trove together under one roof. Her activities laid the groundwork that we are building upon today with ongoing activities at the museum that create rich opportunities for student engagement.

Sweet Briar women are a cultured lot. I would guess that many of you are frequent visitors to your local museum, and make it a point to visit museums when you travel. We all have our favorite displays; even now, when I visit the Smithsonian, I always go to see the cavemen at the Natural History Museum. They have been there, getting progressively dustier, since I was a 1970s child visitor. They are always on display, frozen in time. But this is an anomaly in the museum world. Changing exhibitions are the catalyst driving visitation and supporting education. Therefore, when you visit the Sweet Briar Museum, especially if you haven’t been here in a while, things may look very different than you remember. It’s more than just cosmetic, though the gallery where alumnae memorabilia—your history—is displayed has been painted pink and green in homage to our college colors!

First, we must take into account our audience. While alumnae certainly are one of our primary audiences, you may be here once every five or ten years for Reunion (more often if we are lucky!). When you visit, I want you to see your favorite pieces from the collection, your very own cavemen, if you will. Whether it’s one of Miss Indy’s ivory fans, Daisy’s silk walking dress, or a Chung Mung scrapbook, we must monitor the long-term preservation of our irreplaceable collections. Just as you or I would be somewhat worn and weather-beaten if we were exposed to the elements day in and day out, our collections suffer from being on display for prolonged time periods. Periodically they must get out of the light and into a nice dark storeroom to recuperate from the effects of being on exhibition.

However, this gives us the opportunity to select more objects to display, which represent different pieces of Sweet Briar’s history, and present fresh information as we uncover new stories about this special place. Rotating collections and changing exhibitions are the key to engaging another primary segment of our audience: today’s students. One of the things I’ve been able to do, with Dean Jonathan Green’s support, is hire student workers to staff the museum, allowing us to hold regular hours. The door is open and visitors are greeted by an informed museum worker five days a week, from 10 am–5 pm, when Sweet Briar is in session.

With these consistent open hours, we’ve seen an exponential increase in visitorship, largely through word of mouth: student workers tell friends about something cool or intriguing in the museum collections; their friends come to see it, and the word spreads. Do you want to know what a vasculum is, why amethysts were acceptable jewels for mourning, or how laundresses in the 19th-century kept the Fletchers’ underthings white? Come to the museum! We regularly host class visits from a variety of campus disciplines: art history, psychology, business, history, and archaeology professors all have used our collections to illustrate different aspects of their curricula.

There are other benefits to student engagement besides increased foot traffic. The student workers also function as my museum staff. In addition to giving tours, they help with curatorial projects. They learn to use our environmental monitoring equipment to track temperature and humidity in display cases, and take high resolution digital photographs of objects in the collection. They are trained to catalogue and handle objects, and to use our computerized collections management system. As a result, the experience they get through campus employment is equivalent to that of an entry-level, professional museum position.

Musings from The Sweet Briar Museum

CHRISTIAN CARR, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, ARTS MANAGEMENT; DIRECTOR OF THE MUSEUM

PHOTOS, L–r: Students in the inaugural class of “Curating, Collecting and Connoisseurship” listen intently as Christina Kingsley ’02 points out the important features of an Empire card table. Kelly Rogers ’06 discusses various items recovered from archaeological digs on Sweet Briar’s campus. Emily Olson ’07 gives a gallery talk explaining the difference between the material culture of childhood in the 19th century and today.
Students serious about entering the museum field can get even more in-depth and structured experience through our Arts Management program. Each semester, I direct practicum projects for students. They may elect to complete a one-, two-, or three-credit practicum, working in the museum for 40, 80 or 120 hours, respectively. The academic component of these projects make them more than just a basic internship: these are tailored to the interests of individual students, who meet with me weekly to discuss their work, report on associated scholarly readings they’ve completed relative to their projects, and submit a progress report.

A sampling of past practicum projects includes a survey of Daisy’s clothing by a history major planning to be a costume interpreter at a historic site, thus scrutinizing the construction of 19th-century clothing; a study of Chinese export porcelain by a business major interested in the economic impact of the ceramics trade in 18th-century America; and an exhibition on Sweet Briar’s May Day tradition by an exchange student from the Sorbonne who wanted the experience of curating a museum show, and came from a village in France where May Day is still an annual rite of spring.

Projects of this magnitude can be accompanied by an exhibition brochure providing a tangible piece of scholarship for students to add to their resumes in time for the all-important job applications. When our students wish to enter the museum world, this gives them a real advantage over other applicants. Setting us apart from other programs is the hands-on experience they garner at the museum; even in graduate programs, it is rare for master’s students to have the opportunity to handle precious objects. Our students do this on a regular basis, as we have formal opportunities for them to hone their skills built into the academic curriculum.

Last spring, I taught for the fourth time the “Curating, Collecting and Connoisseurship” class, in which students become well-versed in skills mandatory for anyone entering the museum field or the world of fine arts. Using our collections as the focus, students learn about specific areas like condition assessment, furniture construction, label writing, and object installation, and demonstrate their knowledge by curating a final exhibition. Garnering this curatorial experience as undergraduates is a real feather in their caps, especially when applying for that first job. This model has created excitement in other academic museums worldwide. Last year, I presented a paper at the International Conference of Museums meeting in Mexico City based on this method of teaching and student engagement, and have since shared syllabi and strategies with colleagues from Latin America to Latvia.

Student-curated exhibitions are not the only ones presented at the museum. In Fall 2005, we kicked off the inaugural exhibition in what I hope will be an ongoing program of exhibitions from alumnae collections. During Homecoming festivities, Laura Hand Glover ’86 lent some outstanding examples of Art Nouveau and Art Deco objects from her collection. It dovetailed perfectly with our decorative arts collections from the Fletcher-Williams family, which end about 1900, so we were able to extend the chronology through 1940. It also supported material from an Honors seminar I was teaching, “The History of the Interior.” The opening drew people from all over the region. If you have a collection you would consider sharing, please let me know!

Recently we have begun showing traveling exhibitions organized by other museums, which is marvelous publicity for Sweet Briar College. Next up is Gone With the Girdle, from the Atlanta History Center, opening in Fall 2007. Last year, our museum was the only site in Virginia selected to host a traveling exhibition funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, From Morning 'til Night: Domestic Servitude in the Gilded Age South. It was a perfect fit with our history: Sweet Briar House is the epitome of a Southern mansion of the Gilded Age, right down to the back staircase used by servants. Students trained as docents for this exhibition, on display from September through December 2006. We offered educational programs tailored to the Virginia Standards of Learning as well, partnering with the Legacy Museum of African-American History in Lynchburg, to access a whole new audience. This relationship was formalized through a series of internships for SBC students at the Legacy Museum, thus extending the principle of the learning laboratory right down Highway 29 into Lynchburg.

We have expanded our offerings to the local community, and these partnerships that support what we’re doing are bearing fruit in a number of ways. In May 2006, the museum hosted a gathering of area educators, primarily teachers from Amherst, Nelson and Rockbridge Counties and the Lynchburg City Schools. The purpose was to discuss ways in which we could serve as a learning laboratory for local students. We were supported in this unique, promising initiative by Virginia’s Department of Historic Resources, headed by Kathleen Kilpatrick ’74. More information about this exciting endeavor can be found in the article on Tusculum. I will also be joining the College’s new initiative sponsored by the DuPont Foundation, Promoting Academic and Community Engagement (PACE). Through this program, the museum will serve as the fulcrum of student-facilitated projects to enrich the academic curriculum of local high schools.

Although you and our students comprise our primary audience, we are cognizant that Sweet Briar College is really the premier cultural institution in the area. As part of this mandate to serve local constituencies, The Sweet Briar Museum welcomes visitors from across the region, from a variety of backgrounds. You may have seen the article in a recent Alumnae Magazine about the Girl Scout programs at the museum: as of April, we have welcomed almost 1300 girls to the museum to participate in programs like Daisy’s Day, African-American Heritage, and Japanese Culture, all based on facets of our collections. Each of these 1300 girls is a potential Sweet Briar student.

Please visit us. I’ll be delighted to share with you all of the activities taking place through the museum, a learning laboratory where our students are producing very exciting results!
One evening in April, a group of Sweet Briar College’s faculty and senior staff crowded into the library at Sweet Briar House with a group of accomplished and dedicated preservationists. Included in this gathering were architectural historian Allen Chambers, husband of Bettye Thomas, Class of ’62, restoration expert Travis McDonald from Poplar Forest, and Sweet Briar alumna and director of Virginia’s Department of Historic Resources Kathleen Kilpatrick ’74. The reason? A 250-year-old house, its pieces currently stored in the old dairy barns here on campus awaiting the time when they will be reassembled and the building—Tusculum—will take its place among the historic architecture that characterizes Sweet Briar’s campus.

Dating back to the 1750s, it will be right at home here. It is one of the oldest and most architecturally significant dwellings in the Virginia Piedmont and the childhood home of Maria Crawford, wife of Elijah Fletcher and mother of Indiana Fletcher Williams, the founder of Sweet Briar College. In addition to Tusculum’s relation to the College’s past, it occupied an important place in local history, and many Amherst residents have fond memories of playing baseball on its extensive lawns on summer afternoons. But development of the surrounding land placed the house in harm’s way, and a few years ago Kathleen Kilpatrick approached the College with a novel idea to dismantle the house completely, and re-erect it on Sweet Briar’s campus. As a result of her vision, which was enthusiastically shared by President Muhlenfeld, this 18th-century house will join another Fletcher family home, Sweet Briar House, notable for its 19th-century architecture (largely 19th-century) and provide a welcome addition to our 20th-century campus. This will create a microcosm of architectural history for the benefit of our students and the local community.

The purpose of the April meeting was to determine the best way to achieve this goal, and to ensure that after the process of reconstruction is complete, Tusculum will be more than just another historic house museum. Rather, it will become a significant educational resource for Sweet Briar College, and a model for preservationists nationwide. These plans, and discoveries made during the course of dismantling the house, will be shared fully during Homecoming Weekend 2007, which will celebrate the architectural and ancestral homecoming of this Amherst County treasure.

**TUSCULUM’S PAST**

Tusculum, named for an ancient Roman town, was built in two stages: the initial house was built circa 1750 for David Crawford II and a large addition was added around 1805. William Sidney Crawford inherited the house and property from his grandfather sometime after 1762. William Crawford, who had been educated at Princeton and practiced law, was the Clerk of the Amherst County Courts, working out of the “master’s office” on the Tusculum grounds. In 1772, his son William Harris Crawford was born at Tusculum and later held a string of distinguished offices, as a U.S. Senator, President Madison’s Minister to France, Secretary of War, and Secretary of the Treasury. He was also a presidential candidate in 1824 in the famous four-way election against John Quincy Adams, Henry Clay and Andrew Jackson.

In 1813, William Sidney Crawford’s daughter Maria Antoinette married Elijah Fletcher, a young schoolteacher from Vermont. Elijah began operating
the Tusculum plantation upon his father-in-law’s death in 1815 and eventually bought the property from the Crawford heirs. By 1819, Elijah Fletcher and his wife had moved to nearby Lynchburg, and he soon became one of its most prominent citizens. Between 1825 and 1841, Elijah published a Whig newspaper, *The Virginian*. He also served several terms on the Lynchburg town council and was elected mayor of the city in 1830 and 1832.

Elijah and Maria had four children, including Sweet Briar College’s founder, Indiana. In 1830, the Fletcher family began spending time at their new Sweet Briar plantation, named by Maria Crawford Fletcher for the herbaceous Sweet Briar roses growing on the property (*Rosa Eglanteria*). While Sweet Briar is mentioned mostly as a summer residence, the family visited it and Tusculum all through the year. In corresponding with Crawford relatives in Kentucky, Elijah constantly remarked on the condition of Tusculum, the appearance of the garden, and the health of the slaves. It was obviously well loved by the family. The Fletchers’ eldest son Sidney began managing the Tusculum plantation in about 1841, between his various travels after college. Sidney returned to Tusculum again in 1849 and Elijah remarked: “Everything looks neat and Flourishes there. The prettiest crop of wheat I have seen anywhere this Spring. Sidney is a first-rate manager.” Despite his education in medicine from Yale, Sidney Fletcher preferred farming and, after receiving the property from his parents in 1849, remained there until his death in 1898. He left the estate to his cousin John Jay Williams of New Jersey and Tusculum remained the home of the Williams family, underscoring its connection to Sweet Briar College, until its sale in 1987.

It was Sidney’s younger sister, Indiana Fletcher Williams, who on her death in 1900 left the Sweet Briar property to be established as a college for girls. Ironically, Elijah Fletcher had remarked in 1845 that his daughters, upon their return from European travels, might be useful to society by establishing “a sort of a nunnery or a school at Tusculum....” This was in response to his sister-in-law’s remark “…that the quiet of Tusculum might be as interesting to a well ordered mind as the busy scenes of Paris.” Indiana had in fact been well educated at the Georgetown Visitation Convent in Washington, which her father referred to as a “nunnery.” It may well have been this reference by Elijah that later inspired his daughter Indiana to found a college in memory of her daughter Daisy.

**TUSCULUM’S PRESENT**

With its survival in its original location uncertain, Tusculum was offered for sale by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities with the stipulation that the buyer move the house to a new site. Totaling approximately 5000 square feet of living space, Tusculum is unusual for the central Virginia area in that it is a Georgian-style dwelling built of clapboard, rather than more common brick. It can be difficult to determine what makes a house historic rather than just old, but architectural details such as an open-air, L-shaped corridor are ornamented by an unusual scalloped bargeboard connecting the original section to the addition, creating an indoor-outdoor space unlike any other in antebellum Virginia. Also rare is the fact that all of the original trim and hardware are intact and will be used in the restoration, including the mantels, chair rails, doors, flooring, and an especially fine Georgian staircase. Tusculum has already been listed on the National Register of Historic Places, reflecting the Federal Government’s recognition of its historical and architectural significance.

In a further acknowledgement of the suitability of Sweet Briar’s campus as a permanent home, Tusculum will retain this designation even after it is rebuilt, a distinction shared by only a handful of houses in Virginia.

The work of dismantling and documenting each and every piece of Tusculum was entrusted to Timothy Robinson, the owner of Heartland Millwork and Restoration, who has spent almost 30 years working with historic houses. Robinson’s local connections, as well as his professional reputation, made
him the perfect candidate for this painstaking process. He grew up next door to Thomas Jefferson’s Poplar Forest, in the era before its restoration began. Other recent projects have been carried out at James Madison’s Montpelier in Orange County, and for the Frontier Culture Museum in Staunton, Virginia. Despite these distinguished projects, Robinson was greatly impressed by what he found at Tusculum, noting that the house’s huge beams, weighing three or four tons each, were meticulously crafted with such tools as the broad ax, block plane and two-man pit saw. “Every time I get into one of these things, I’m just stunned at how well they are constructed, this one in particular,” he said.

The process yielded up architectural clues like Roman numerals carved on the framework so the builder could ensure each board was properly placed. Bricks were revealed with the initials of the builders or owners etched into them. The quality and height of the wainscoting indicated the social stature of the occupants, as did the number of panes in the nine-over-nine windows, an obvious indicator of wealth. These bricks and panes of glass, along with all of the other pieces of this extraordinary house were all meticulously (painstakingly) labeled and currently reside in one of the unused dairy barns on campus.

**Tusculum’s Future: Think Green!**

The addition of another historic structure to the campus was cause for an internal discussion about its use. Virginia is full of historic house museums, and while these institutions form an important part of our common cultural heritage, it was felt that we were presented with the opportunity to do something more. Our recent campaign to encourage prospective students to “Think Pink!” has been incredibly successful, and now when people think of Sweet Briar, we’d like the other school color to spring to mind: Green! The College has developed a plan to reuse the building as the Tusculum Institute to encourage the study and appreciation of local architecture, and educate the public about preservation and adaptive reuse as a useful and preferable alternative to demolition or new construction. In essence, we want to spread the message that buildings can be recycled like pop bottles and newspapers. This focus builds naturally upon Sweet Briar’s past successes in recycling its historic buildings for new purposes, including the dairy barns, which are now art studios, the train station, which now houses classrooms, and a former water treatment facility at the lake that has been refitted as a wet lab for the Environmental Studies program.

The Tusculum Institute will provide a dynamic link with existing academic programs, including those in Education and the Sciences to History and Archaeology, and also host lectures and short summer courses on preservation from visiting faculty. These initiatives will ensure that the college museum’s established role as a steward of our built heritage continues to expand into a model to be followed outside of our local community, benefiting residents of our region, state and country. Sweet Briar’s dedication to seeing this project through to completion demonstrates the strong commitment by the College to preserving history and tradition while remaining relevant to today’s needs. Its addition to our campus will reaffirm the College’s role in embracing innovative education, showing that historic buildings can play dynamic teaching roles rather than serving solely as examples of architecture, albeit exceptionally fine ones.

We invite you to join us during Homecoming 2007 to learn more about this extraordinary endeavor.
Sweet Briar College Riding Program:
Equitation outside the Ring

SHELBY FRENCH, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND
DIRECTOR OF THE RIDING PROGRAM

Our magnificent 3,250-acre campus with its 16 miles of trails allows the Sweet Briar College Riding Program to stand out among top competitors. While the majority of riding programs in the United States focus on hunter seat equitation, Sweet Briar’s campus allows us to reflect the “roots” of this sport, which grew out of the traditions of foxhunting and jumping horses in fields over natural obstacles. As urban sprawl decreases our nation’s open land, many riders who attend the College have had little or no exposure to riding outside of a manicured ring.

Sweet Briar’s continued emphasis on our heritage of field riding offers students a rare opportunity to become bold and versatile riders. Cantering up and down hills and over jumps can be intimidating initially, but once students are exposed to this aspect of the sport, many of them fall in love with it.

Adventures that our riders have had exploring the land as part of a class or the Fall Field Team are primary topics of conversation at the Alumnae Rides held during Reunion each spring. We continue to host Hunter Trials during Families Weekend each fall, followed by a Hunter Pace and Poker Ride in early November.

The land also allows us to provide “recreational” riding opportunities along with our strong competitive program. The annual Halloween Ride, Easter Egg Hunt, and May Day Scavenger Hunt are highlights of the organized weekend rides that we offer throughout the fall and late spring each year. They provide a wonderful opportunity for interaction between the advanced riders, who serve as trail guides, and the beginner and novice riders in the program.

Program growth has driven our facility additions as well. Over the past three years we have expanded our horse housing capacity from 63 to 86. Generous gifts to the program have supported these expansions.

Other gifts have allowed us to increase our fenced turnout, adding 42 more acres of paddocks and larger fields; provide covered wash racks for the East and West wings of the main stable complex; and place a roof over our lunging pen. One of the most exciting additions has been the new truck and six-horse trailer that has allowed us to venture farther afield for competitive events.

Such gifts have allowed us to make the most of the expansive campus we have for horses and people to use. Happy, healthy horses and confident riders are a significant factor in the success of our program, and the many opportunities the land provides foster these qualities in all of our participants.

Sweet Briar’s Environmental Education Center

SHEILA ALEXANDER, DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATION COORDINATOR

The old Water Plant, built in the early 1900s, is now a nature center that allows the Sweet Briar and Amherst communities to learn more about the beauty, trails, and natural history of Sweet Briar College and the Central Virginia area. The Environmental Education Center provides a modern facility for Sweet Briar students as well as local K-12 teachers and their students. The Center’s Houston Environmental Research Laboratory contains sophisticated instrumentation for the study of the environment.

The Water Plant, dating from the earliest days of the College, was renovated in 2003 as an environmental education/nature center, environmental laboratory, and faculty office. The lab is equipped with extensive water, soil, wastewater, and sediment sampling equipment including N-Con composite samplers, macroinvertebrate samplers, and specialized water collection devices, Hach 4000 UV/Vis and Vis spectrophotometers, Agilent 1100 high performance liquid chromatograph with diode array and fluorescence detectors, a Hewlett Packard gas chromatograph with mass selective detector, a Perkin-Elmer 800 atomic absorption spectrometer, a Turner Systems TD-20 luminometer, a BIOLOG microbial identification system, and much more.

The Nature Center displays interesting biological and geological exhibits.

Maintained and set up by the Environmental Studies Department, the Environmental Education Center maximizes the use of our extraordinary campus for our own students as well as those in the surrounding communities. This project was graciously supported by alumnae Molly Johnson Nelson (‘64), Anne Stuckel Houston (‘46), and The Beirne Carter Foundation. We extend our thanks to our alumnae for their generosity and vision for the future.
Doing the Right Thing:
Sweet Briar Signs the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment

MICHÈLE LURCH-SHAW, DIRECTOR OF MEDIA RELATIONS, COLLEGE RELATIONS OFFICE

“It was the right thing to do—both educationally and in service to our future,” said Sweet Briar President Elisabeth Muhlenfeld when asked why she signed the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment.

The College is a charter signatory to the commitment—a pledge to become climate neutral. According to the ACUPCC Web site, this means “having no net greenhouse gas emissions.” Colleges are supposed to get there “by minimizing greenhouse gas emissions as much as possible and using carbon offsets or other measures to mitigate the remaining emissions.”

Organizers of the initiative say they seek the commitment of 200 college and university presidents by June 2007. They are more than half way there, but the debate about global warming remains heated.

In a recent sermon, the founder and chancellor of the area’s largest private college, Liberty University, called the focus on global warming “endless hysteria and alarmism.”

The United Nation’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change disagrees. In a report released in February, the panel of international scientists concluded that there is more than a 90-percent certainty that humans contribute to global warming “endless hysteria and alarmism.”

The United Nation’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change disagrees. In a report released in February, the panel of international scientists concluded that there is more than a 90-percent certainty that humans contribute to global warming. In Sweet Briar’s production, directed by Professor of Theater and Dance Geoffrey Kershner, the end was interpreted as being the result of global warming.

And then there is former Vice President Al Gore’s Academy Award-winning documentary, “An Inconvenient Truth.” Supporters laud Gore for raising public awareness of climate change. Detractors say there are scientific inaccuracies in the film and that Gore’s analysis of the impacts of global warming is exaggerated and alarmist.

The verbal sparring between supporters and skeptics is enough to make the average person dizzy. At Sweet Briar however, the debate is over.

“One wonders why we [the United States] are still debating when scientists world-wide have stopped debating,” Muhlenfeld said.

The Commitment calls for signatories to take a leadership role in addressing global warming. Environmental Studies Professor Rob Alexander said it is fitting that the nation’s colleges and universities take on this role.

“There is no one else who can make a statement with the authority of the nation’s colleges and universities. We are the ones who really understand what is going on. We are the ones who are supposed to be intellectually honest enough to face reality even when it’s not comfortable.”

And participating in the Climate Commitment may not be comfortable for Sweet Briar. The College could have difficulty meeting some of the requirements due to its size and the age of the campus buildings, many of which were built in the early part of the 20th century. Participation may also require significant capital investment over the next decade—funds that are not currently part of the College’s operating budget. Muhlenfeld said

The Sweet Briar Observatory

SCOTT HYMAN
PROFESSOR, PHYSICS & ENGINEERING

The Sweet Briar Observatory, equipped with a 12” diameter Meade reflecting telescope, is located behind the upper lake. Students use the observatory during the academic year when an astronomy class is being taught. Viewing nights are also scheduled for the SBC community and the general public.
she expects any required funds to come from donations and grants.

Despite the challenges, she was encouraged to sign the Commitment. “I would love for Sweet Briar to participate in this initiative because it shows leadership and forward-thinking in what is probably the most significant environmental issue of this century,” Rebecca Ambers, assistant professor of environmental science wrote in an e-mail.

Alexander was equally supportive of Sweet Briar’s participation and said the real value of the Presidents Climate Commitment may not be in achieving the agreement’s targets.

“The most important impact of this commitment isn’t in the actual reduction of greenhouse gases used by the College, but is in communicating to our students and the community at large that we must all address this issue,” he said. “If colleges start doing this, then businesses may follow. Then individuals may follow as well. Someone has to be first.”

A steering committee has met once, and will again in April, to flesh out a long-range action plan to implement the Commitment. So far, it has identified five areas that will underpin the plan. These include land use, student and community engagement, an emissions inventory, and a mechanism to make the action plan, inventory and any progress reports publicly available.

“We will have to take small steps and then some big ones,” Muhlenfeld said. “As we build new buildings, this Commitment will keep us focused on energy efficiency. And we will explore ways to further reduce our energy consumption.”

Within two years of signing the Commitment, the College is expected to set a target date for “achieving climate neutrality as soon as possible” and to develop a plan to make climate change and sustainability not only a part of the curriculum, but a part of students’ other educational experiences as well.

The College has been working on improving its energy efficiency since 2000. The Physical Plant department has insulated attics and pipes, retrofitted lighting, and added new heating and cooling systems, SBC’s Director of Physical Plant, Steve Bailey, told the student newspaper. These changes have reduced total energy consumption on campus by 22 percent.

Achieving climate neutrality will require bolder steps and the biggest challenge may be in changing perceptions.

“This [reducing greenhouse emissions] is going to require a change in mindset by many people,” said Tim Kasper, steering committee member and director of the Institute for Sustainability and Environmental Education. “It will be a long and slow process, but if approached from enough angles and in the proper way—it can be done.”
Chajul, El Quiché, one of the areas hardest hit by Guatemala’s 36-year civil war. Recently, students and professors from the University of Virginia, Virginia Tech, North Carolina State University and Lynchburg College have also signed onto the project.

The school is run by Foundations for Education, a nonprofit scholarship program that aims to improve educational opportunities for Mayan youth. Jim Durand, the trip leader and SBC associate professor of engineering, said several groups have visited the school but none have successfully finished a project.

“We went in with the idea that we were going to meet and listen to what the school administrators wanted,” Durand said. “The classic error is to go in and tell the people what you think they need.”

They listened to Foundations for Education manager Ramelle Gonzales, who “just wanted some simple things finished,” Durand said.

“The building of the spring box will help to protect the water from being contaminated,” Gonzales said. “Unfortunately the [2-acre] school grounds are not surrounded by a fence and the people from the village pass through the grounds on a daily basis with up to 20 sheep each.”

But the team hopes to do more. They want to finish a water tank started by another group and then connect the spring box to the tank with a pump system so the school has running water all year.

“Rainy season up at the school is normally from May until December,” Gonzales wrote in an e-mail. “The few months that are dry soak up all the water. When the people run out of their water sources they take water from the springs at the school.”

“If we finish the water tank, then they can store and test the water,” Durand explained. “If we can connect the spring and the tank, the school will have running water all year.”

“Unfortunately we won’t have running water to use while we are there working on the project,” Durand said, laughing. “We will be pretty much immersed in the realities of daily life that these people face. It’ll be challenging and a great learning experience.”

To prepare, Newman and her classmates built a full-scale prototype of the storage tank and spring box on campus.

Newman’s enthusiasm for the project is palpable.

“I brought my sketches and notes to Professor Durand the other day,” she said. “I spent two hours on the sketches. It was really fun. And he looked at them and asked, ‘So, Meredith, why aren’t you an engineering major?’”

Newman recently added a minor in engineering to her academic program.
Creating a Sense of Beauty and Community:
Donna Meeks, Grounds Superintendent

As they arrive on campus in the spring, guests drive beneath a canopy of tree branches, beside daffodils blooming near lampposts, and past a fountain splashing water beside a bed of tulips. Stone benches await guests underneath rosebud and crabapple trees. Azaleas line the roadways and cherry trees bloom in Daisy’s Garden at Sweet Briar House. Such an inviting landscape gives the impression of having been tended with a gingerly touch, not forced into shape. Visitors, residents, faculty, staff, and students find that Sweet Briar is a haven of natural beauty that inspires thought and conversation ideal for a college campus. This beauty is largely due to the work of an unsung staff led by Grounds Superintendent Donna Meeks. Donna’s talents reach beyond maintaining the campus grounds, now in the full blossom of spring. Bringing people and nature together, she helps to foster the wholesome quality of Sweet Briar’s campus that has convinced many to attend, visit, and return.

Donna juggles multiple projects to nurture the land properly and keep it in good condition for its many uses. “Planning two months ahead keeps me going,” Donna remarks as she anticipates the new challenges each season will bring. Year-round, she and her crew maintain the roadways, landscape the entrance way, trim and cut new trails, keep the fields and fencing in good repair, and tend to all the gardens on campus. They gather litter, pull weeds, prune trees, spread mulch, clean up after contractors, set up for events, and remove trash when many campus residents are still eating breakfast. On winter mornings, when snow and ice begin to fall and we reach for our radios to hear the news, Donna’s crew is already spreading salt and plowing roadways. As she participates in ongoing maintenance and new projects, Donna’s hands are always in her work, nurturing and creating beauty and efficiency. Through her direction, she ensures that the campus is made safe, grounds are kept refreshed and fertile, and a friendly relationship is sustained between people and the land.

Because many departments use the main campus, trails, and fields, Donna collaborates with faculty and staff to accomplish their goals. Working together, they have completed projects like the Community Garden, the Sweet Briar Plantation Burial Ground, and the trail system. Preparing the land is a laborious job, and weather often does not cooperate, but Donna feels the effort is “instantly gratifying.” After completing a project, she finds that the rewards are worth the hours spent building, repairing, and cleaning. During working hours, people strike friendships with each other and the land. “Sweet Briar is a community and a family,” Donna says, “everybody is working toward doing positive things.”

The history of the campus is important in understanding the needs Donna and her team must fill. Living nearby for many years, she watched the land cycle through drastic changes. In 1994, when the Dairy Farm ceased to operate, the property began to transform. Cows no longer trimmed the edges of the fields and made use of the acreage; this added responsibilities to the grounds crew and urged them to find new uses for the fields. Since then, the land has become a resource for those on- and off-campus. Area farmers rent the hay fields, Donna and her crew keep the edges clean and cut, acres have been converted to athletic fields, buildings and renovations have added to the overall appearance and resourcefulness. The end of the Dairy Farm marked a historic change, “the end of an era,” in Donna’s words.

The death of two of our ancient campus trees has affected the more recent history of Sweet Briar and the work of the Grounds Crew. “We just lost the Honey Locust in the President’s yard and the Fletcher Oak last year,” says Donna, two that had been living on campus since its earlier days. However, changes are not always of loss. “We’re beginning new plantings,” Donna says. Flowers are replenished with “two changes per year,” as Donna works with campus events to create color schemes for a welcoming appearance.

Perhaps Donna’s understanding of nature, resource, and beautification comes from the hours she spends on horseback, riding the trails up the mountains of Nelson County; or from her love of music, a game of coordinating tones, patterns, and timing to create beauty. Living a professional life full of work on the land and a home life filled with outdoor hobbies and creativity, she successfully achieves her campus goals for the beautification and maintenance of the grounds and her goal, as the leader of her staff, to convey the idea that “this is home.”
Glenton Goodwill, 
Sweet Briar Catering Chef

COLLEEN KARAFFA ’06
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, ALUMNÆ ASSOCIATION; ASSISTANT EDITOR, ALUMNÆ MAGAZINE

Sweet Briar’s new Catering Chef, Glenton Goodwill, is spicing up the menu for Sweet Briar Catering. Born into “a cooking family,” Glenton’s Jamaican roots are peppered with memories of making and enjoying traditional food. He remembers his grandmother cooking jerk chicken, serving ackee (a Jamaican fruit), and preparing curried goat (a Jamaican party favorite). Food is something beyond taste and enjoyment for Glenton; it’s a heritage to continue, a legacy in which he participates. “Back there,” he says, “a chef was like a god.” A magic element accompanied the task of transforming ingredients into food rich in flavor and uniting in quality. With a cultural background steeped in the importance of coming together over food and with excellent training experience through various culinary institutions and fine resorts, Glenton arrived at Sweet Briar as a passionate cook who easily adapted to his position. Having served dinners to guests numbering as few as two and as many as one thousand, Glenton is well prepared for the multitude of special events held on campus. We’re pleased to welcome him into the Sweet Briar community.

Glenton brought his Jamaican traditions with him through culinary school where he developed his own style. During school, he “fell in love with sauces” made from meat and wine. He discovered how the European use of wine makes a wonderful complement to Jamaican spice. “I call it European style with Jamaican flair,” he says. There’s a balance to reach between the two, and from this balance he invents masterful recipes of creativity and refined taste. “I love to use in-season foods. In the kitchen, you’ll find all kinds of fresh herbs and spices,” he tells of his workplace. Glenton’s commitment to quality food and making use of local markets and fresh spices makes his creations special. Mixing ingredients isn’t simply cooking for Glenton, it’s art.

Glenton’s training began with basic culinary classes at the Bethel Vocational Training Institute in Jamaica, and continued at the Herbert Morrison Technical College in the West Indies where he received his culinary arts degree. To strengthen his training, he took classes at the Caribbean Institute of Hotel Management in Bermuda. He has worked in some of the top resorts in the Caribbean and the United States. Beginning as an apprentice at the Round Hill Hotel in Jamaica, he quickly moved into the position of Chef Tournant, the chef skilled in all stations of a resort kitchen. At Hedonism II, Jamaica, he served as the Sous Chef. He was the Executive Chef at the Boonsboro Country Club in Lynchburg and The Point Restaurant and Conference Center in Huddleston, VA. He says of himself that he readily accepts new challenges, which, no doubt, has led him into such highest ranking roles.

At home, Glenton has his own “cooking family,” with wife Vickie, a pastry chef and owner of the Drowsy Poet café on Lakeside Drive, Lynchburg. They have three children: two boys (Courtney, 10 and David, 18 months) and one girl (Evelyn, 4). “I think of my kids to manage stress,” he says when asked about the stress level of such demanding work. Because so many things are going on at once in a professional kitchen, “you have to really love it.” After 35 years (and counting) in the food industry, Glenton remarks about his art: “It’s the best thing in the world when someone says, ‘I love your food.’”
Pat Hutto, Manager of the Florence Elston Inn and Conference Center

Pat Hutto greets professionals, students, and guests who visit the Florence Elston Inn and Conference Center with her distinctive British accent and upbeat personality. As manager, Pat maintains a positive attitude toward her work and helps to create a welcoming atmosphere that extends throughout a visitor’s Sweet Briar experience. The constant come-and-go of company is a joy to Pat and has been an integral part of her life from a young age. As an adolescent in Great Britain, she helped her parents run their bed-and-breakfast. There, she learned to make true English scones, to manage a reservation calendar, and to greet guests with cheer as they arrive. Later, Pat opened her own English tea room with her husband in the United States. Her private collection of 75 teapots testifies to her passion for classic enjoyment of food and conversation.

Pat has been a familiar face on campus for some time, first employed as a dispatcher for the Department of Safety from 1998–2001, and then as Supervisor of the Inn from 2001–2003. As the Wailes Center and Elston Inn expanded into the full-fledged Conference Center of today, she took on the role of manager in 2003. Her life is now a balancing act of coordinating calendars, events, and daily meetings. Organization is a continual learning process as new requests are posed with each special event.

Recent improvements have increased use of the Inn and Conference Center by faculty, staff, students, and outside groups. Inn rooms have been upgraded with wireless internet, new furniture and wallpaper; new carpet has been laid in the Conference Center. Audio visual equipment also has been upgraded. With new marketing strategies in place, Pat predicts that the facilities will become an even more desirable resource for public use. “It’s now becoming a profitable venture,” Pat says. “We’re booked all year round. And over 60 percent of weddings are those of alumnae returning to celebrate. The other 40 percent are local. News about the Inn is spreading by word of mouth. The campus makes a perfect wedding package with the option of the Boat House for the rehearsal dinner, the Sweet Briar Chapel for the ceremony, the Inn to house guests, and the Conference Center for the reception.” To Pat, the prospect of more demand for the Conference Center is very promising.

When it comes to juggling calendars and tasks, Pat is constantly on her toes. Coordinating three groups of staff, including the Information Center and Florence Elston Inn Front Desk, Catering, and Housekeeping, is a great challenge. “Keeping the staff happy and working as a team,” is at the top of her priority list. Members of Pat’s staff must work with speed, efficiency, and quality to put on an enjoyable event. From setting up chairs and skirting tables, to pouring drinks and sautéing vegetables, the staff often turns over two and three special events in a weekend. Such a job is not without surprises; all must be able to improvise as unforeseen problems arise. Pat explained one instance when the staff pulled together during a power outage at a Board of Directors meeting. They stoked fires in the fireplaces, brought out candles, and the meeting continued. Several Board members were disappointed when the power came back! To Pat, snags in the plan are only challenges to overcome and inspire growth for the future.

The Florence Elston Inn and Conference Center is a place of constant motion, where the reconfiguration of chairs, tables, lighting, color scheme, floral arrangements, food offerings, and equipment are ongoing. Pat’s challenge to multitask and to always hold that smile is something she embraces each day. “I love meeting people, and I love Sweet Briar’s campus,” Pat says. These are her favorite aspects of her busy profession.
Steve Bailey, director of Physical Plant Operations since August 2005, is an asset to Sweet Briar College, and plays an integral part in its everyday function. His efforts and the work of his staff make the College an enjoyable place for all. Born in Amherst County, Steve has been familiar with Sweet Briar for many years. He began to truly appreciate the campus when he started dating his wife, Susan Parr Bailey ’81.

Steve oversees the six departments of Physical Plant: Power Plant, Grounds, Housekeeping, Carpenter Shop, Telecom, and the Post Office. Fixing broken items, turning on air conditioning, cleaning buildings, and day-to-day maintenance of the campus are some of the constant demands he and his staff address. In a place where change occurs every day and where each season adds new events to the college calendar, needs must be met quickly and with attention to quality work and efficiency. Fortunately, project management is Steve’s expertise, and is to him “the most enjoyable part of the job.” He manages all kinds of campus projects from building upgrades to new building construction and attributes much of his own success to his willing staff. “The employees of Physical Plant are the best group of people I’ve ever had the privilege to work with. They have a tough job, and they are dedicated to ensuring that the College runs smoothly. I appreciate their efforts.”

Major changes to the campus have occurred in the two years Steve has led the Physical Plant staff. Renovations to the Campus School, the new gym project, and the Arts Barn have had positive impacts on the community. The Campus School now has new floors and nicer classrooms. Sweet Briar students and visiting athletic groups enjoy training on better fields. The new Arts Barn is an innovative use of space already available to the College. “It feels good to accomplish so many things,” Steve says, “the challenge is to make continual improvement.”

Steve’s dedication to progress and helping others is reflected in his life outside of work as well. In addition to his position at Sweet Briar, he is a member of the Board of Directors for the Amherst Chamber of Commerce and the president of Rebuilding Together * Amherst/Nelson, Inc., an organization that performs renovations for elderly, disabled, and low income homeowners. With over 300 volunteers, Rebuilding Together (formerly called Christmas In April) repairs 10–15 homes annually on the last Saturday in April. Many of these homes are in grave disrepair. The mission of the organization is to preserve and revitalize these homes and communities, assuring that low-income homeowners live in warmth, safety, and independence. Sweet Briar is privileged to have Steve, a resource for outreach and leadership in his community, as a member of our campus community.

Steve’s involvement in outside organizations as well as his exceptional work at Sweet Briar proves that project management is not just a job to Steve; it’s a passion and a rewarding way of life.
THE 2007 CLASS ROSTER INCLUDES:

Art and Architecture. Make a mosaic on a Mac computer; design a dream dorm; plan home renovations; paint a self-portrait; create a stained glass window; take an architectural treasure hunt. Explore the world of art and architecture. Instructor: Christian Carr, Director of the SBC Museum/Assistant Professor, Arts Management.

Beading 101. Admire beautiful beadwork on American Indian clothes? Make a necklace like one seen on a Sioux warrior in the movies! Learn the basic stitch ("basket weave"). Instructor: Patricia Trout, Housekeeper, Sweet Briar House.

Chess. Learn to play a great game. Beginners and up welcome. Instructor: Kevin Phelps, Director, Dining Services.

Creative Choreography and Dance. Learn ballet, jazz, modern dance. Make up dances. Find out what it’s all about! Instructor: Samantha Angus, SBC ‘05.

Creative Embroidery. Decorate clothing with embroidery. Create designs, use needle and thread to transform a plain t-shirt into a one-of-a-kind item. Instructor: Cynthia Fein, Secretary, Dean’s Office.

Fitness FUNdamentals. How to get in shape like college and professional athletes: covers fitness and nutrition. Instructor: Shelly Taylor, Head Athletic Trainer.

German for Kids. Games, songs, media; activities teach German vocabulary, expressions, culture. Focus on listening, speaking, reading, writing. Program can fit the level of each child’s German knowledge and age. Instructor: Tiffany Cummings, Director, International Studies.

Imaginative Improv. Games and role playing, explore the creative process of theatrical improv. (Grades 3–5) Instructor: Geoffrey Kershner, Adjunct Instructor, Theatre & Dance.

Introduction to Golf. Introduction to fundamentals of golf for all ability levels, emphasis on safety, fun. Includes grip, posture, alignment, balance, golf course etiquette. Instructor: Blaise Whittle, Administrative Assistant, Physical Education.

Karate KIC: An Introduction to Black Belt Leadership Training. Teaches how to become leaders at home, school, in the community. Martial Arts teach more than kicking, blocking, punching. Students learn life skills (confidence, goal setting, self-discipline, integrity, Black Belt Attitude) while having fun. Includes facts on nutrition, physical fitness, importance of healthy activity. Instructor: Amanda Schwick ’03, Chief Instructor, Amherst Karate Academy.

Knitting. For beginners and those with knitting experience. No required project; teacher has project ideas for those starting out. Make a scarf, hat, or even a dog sweater! Instructor: Tiffany Cummings, Director, International Studies.

Learn to Play the Piano. Play favorite pop tunes, hymns, songs in our state-of-the-art piano lab. Learn basic chords, rhythms, note-reading. Instructor: Anna Billias, SBC Choir Accompanist.

Learn to Tap Dance. Class teaches love of all that is tap. Learn basics, feel the rhythm! Instructor: Julia Pleasants, W&L ’08, daughter of Craig and Sheila Pleasants (Virginia Center for the Creative Arts).


Old-Time Banjo Music Fun. Learn basic method of Old Time or “clawhammer” style banjo playing, simple tunes (including Civil War songs), plus some accompanying instruments (jawharp, bones, jug). Team-taught by SBC musicians. Students treated to mini-concert or jam. Instructor: Michael Hayslett, Adjunct Professor, Environmental Studies.


Pinhole Photography. Make a working camera from an empty box; develop pictures in a real darkroom. Instructor: Nancy McDearmon, Registrarial Assistant, SBC Art Gallery.

Sleuthing the Truth. Learn forensic techniques to solve mini crimes: fingerprinting, ink analysis, other techniques used by crime scene investigators to find the truth. Instructor: Todd Anderson, Science Instructor, James River Day School.

Soccer Fun with Coach Shaw. Basics of soccer in a “learner-oriented” environment. Individual skills of dribbling, passing, shooting and ball control, team skills of ball possession addressed. Instructor: Paul Shaw, Lecturer/Chair, Physical Education/Varsity Soccer Coach.

The Art of the Fake Fight. Using the art of “stage combat” students learn to fall, roll, and fake their way through a fight! (Grades 7–8) Instructor: Geoffrey Kershner, Adjunct Instructor, Theatre & Dance.

Where in the World? Explore physical geography, local customs of several countries around the world, and “strange, but true” facts for each. Learn what daily life is like for children living there, sample different foods! Instructor: Jill Gavitt ’97, Assistant Director, Admissions/Special Program Recruitment.

YOU CAN Save the Earth. Investigate environmental problems of human population growth and natural resource consumption using simple demonstrations, hands-on experiments, group discussions. Examine sustainable resource use, think globally, act locally with group challenges and ecocrafts. Some homework assignments. Indoor and outdoor activities. (Grades 3–5) Instructor: Tonya Van Hook, Entomologist/Monarch Butterfly Conservation Biologist/Research Assistant in Biology.

Kids In College

SBC hosts fifth annual “Kids In College” program, a summer enrichment curriculum for 3rd–8th-graders, in June. Led by faculty, staff, alumnae, others, the program offers fun-filled educational experiences, with invigorating exploration of topics in the arts and sciences.

Lynchburg, Amherst, and Nelson County students select two classes to participate in each morning during week-long program. Small classes (10-12 students per class) allow personal attention, guidance through a variety of fascinating study areas.

FROM TOP:
Dance Professor Mark Magruder teaches dance techniques to students
Kids In College enjoy the soccer field
Children launch catapults during the 2006 Kids In College program

Sweet Briar College Alumnae Magazine • www.alumnae.sbc.edu
The Time is Now!

HEIDI MCCROPY, VICE PRESDENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

Women’s sports and the value placed on female fitness and physical wellbeing have taken a dramatic turn, especially in the last 20 years. Today Sweet Briar students come to campus considering athletics and fitness as integral parts of their lives. Transforming our 75-year-old gymnasium into a modern fitness and athletics complex echoes the transformation of women’s roles in our culture. The change is a physical affirmation of the strength and power of women whose education accepts no limits. The time for a new facility is now.

Growing a young woman’s leadership and teamwork skills through sports is invaluable to her lifelong success, a benefit repeatedly proven through studies. Moreover, students build and cement their permanent Sweet Briar relationships—those friendships that have been a hallmark of every student’s experience for over a hundred years—on our athletic fields and in our fitness facilities.

Elevating our athletics and wellness programs to match the excellence of our academic programs is crucial to our students’ wellbeing, a vision we will accomplish through a new Fitness and Athletics Center. To fund the construction of the Fitness and Athletics Center and renovate the Daisy Williams gymnasium, a volunteer major gifts committee has been created to take a leadership role in reaching the project goal of $10 million. The committee includes experienced alumnae and parent volunteers who are passionate about this project. If you are interested in serving on the committee or want to recommend a committee member, please contact Heidi Hansen McCrory, Vice President for Development at (434) 381-6162 or hmccrory@sbc.edu.

Fitness & Athletics Center Gifts Committee
Katherine Upchurch
Takovarian ’72, Chair
Judy Wilson Grant ’66
Katherine A. Hearne ’85
Donna Pearson Josey ’64
Sally Old Kitchin ’76
Elvira McMillan Tate ’65
Bee Newman Thayer ’61

Nearly $4 million in gifts and pledges were committed to the facility during Our Campaign For Her World. To date, over $425,000 has been raised toward the additional $6 million needed to complete the project, including a significant leadership gift from Brad and Bee Newman Thayer ’61. As a testament to the importance of the new facility, every one of the Sweet Briar College faculty and staff associated with the Physical Education and Recreation Department and our athletics programs—from the Athletic Director to housekeeping—has made a gift to this effort. It doesn’t get any better than 100% participation from those faculty and staff who understand the importance of the new facility, and are committed to seeing the dream become a reality!
By any standard, Sara Shallenberger Brown has led a fascinating life. The daughter of Brigadier General Martin Conrad Shallenberger and Ina Hamilton Dowdy, Sally Shallenberger was born April 14, 1911 in Valdez, Alaska. As the daughter of a military officer, she spent her childhood living in seven states and six countries and became fluent in several languages.

She settled in Louisville in 1935 when she married W. L. Lyons Brown, of Brown-Forman Distillers Corporation. The couple raised four children: W. L. Lyons “Lee” Brown, Jr. (former Ambassador to Austria and former Brown-Forman CEO and chairman), Martin Shallenberger Brown (past president of Jack Daniel Distillery), Owsley Brown II (current chairman and former CEO of Brown-Forman), and Ina Brown Bond (Mrs. Allen McKee Bond III, member of Brown-Forman board of directors).

Mrs. Brown, an accomplished artist and designer, is known for worldwide support and advocacy on behalf of the environment and preservation and has been an active supporter and fund-raiser for educational, historical, and environmental organizations. She has lectured on conservation and horticulture and was a pioneer breeder of Cavalier King Charles Spaniels. At Ashbourne Farms in Oldham County, she bred cattle and Thoroughbreds.

Over the years, Mrs. Brown has served on more than 17 Kentucky boards and more than 19 national boards. She represented the United States at the U.N. Conference on World Population in 1974 and 1984. Among other outstanding awards, she received the Nature Conservancy's highest honor, the Oak Leaf Award, and a 600-acre tract of pristine land along the Kentucky River Palisades is named in her honor. Her service is impressive by any measure. However, having just turned 96 years young on April 14, Mrs. Brown is still going strong, working for causes she believes in, and lobbying members of Congress and even presidents on their behalf.
Her hard work and determination led to the historic expansion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), and she was there on December 2, 1980 when President Jimmy Carter signed that expansion into law.

She led the effort to preserve Locust Grove, the historic Louisville home of George Rogers Clark, when it was nothing more than a dilapidated home surrounded by weeds and of little interest to anyone. Today, it is a national historic landmark and an accredited museum.

She helped nurture the renowned Actors Theatre of Louisville and played an integral part in founding River Fields, a nationally respected organization devoted to protecting the Ohio River Corridor.

Her name is Sally Brown, but you may not know this woman of the world who has made Louisville her home for some 70 years. The reason is simple. Sally Brown has never been concerned with getting attention for herself. She has focused on getting the job done.

**Sally Brown: Force of Nature,** an hour-long KET (Kentucky Educational Television) documentary, tells these stories and more, profiling this unique woman—a woman whom the movers and shakers of the world call a mover and shaker.

“She is just a fascinating individual,” said documentary...
Sally Brown has never been concerned with getting attention for herself. She has focused on getting the job done.

producer/director Janet Whitaker, “but because she is so humble, most Kentuckians don’t realize what a huge role she has played in conservation and historic preservation locally, nationally, and globally. She is trying to make sure the world is a better place for generations to come.”

“If she’s on your side it's wonderful,” said Kentucky Hall of Fame journalist Barry Bingham, Jr., shortly before his death in April 2006. “I can imagine if you are on the other side seeing Sally Brown come into the room would cause your knuckles to go white because you know you are going to be up against someone who doesn’t at the end of the day say I’m going to pack up and go home and forget it. She doesn’t do that. That’s what makes her such a wonderful friend of the environment and of all the other projects she supports.”

And as the program demonstrates, that list of projects is exhaustive, encompassing everything from worldwide concerns such as the United Nations Conference on World Populations, to national matters such as the Natural Resource Defense Council, to Kentucky favorites such as Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill and Louisville’s Waterfront Park.

“Sally delves into each organization with her trademark mix of passion, intelligence, and tenacity,” said Shae Hopkins, executive producer of the program and KET deputy executive director for programming and production. “She is one of those rare individuals who has truly made a difference in the world.”

Reprinted from Visions magazine, courtesy of KET–Kentucky Educational Television.

Sally Brown: Force of Nature is a KET production. Generous funding for this production was provided by National City Bank of Kentucky, David and Betty Jones, Alex G. Campbell Jr. and Mr. and Mrs. William T. Young Jr.

More information about Sally Brown and this documentary is available at: www.ket.org/kentucky/sallybrown/

For a DVD or VHS copy of Sally Brown: Force of Nature, please e-mail shop@ket.org or call (800) 945-9167.

Reprinted from Visions magazine, courtesy of KET–Kentucky Educational Television.

Photos courtesy of Sally Brown

Worldview
Her father an Army general, Sally grew up around the world. Amidst political turmoil in Greece, she befriended Prince Nicholas’ children and the family lived in Austria when Chancellor Dolphus was assassinated and the Nazis were threatening to invade.

Artistic License
An accomplished artist, Brown graduated from Sweet Briar College with a degree in Fine Arts with an emphasis on painting.

Family Matters
Married in 1935, her husband Lyons Brown became president of Brown-Forman Corporation in 1945 and chairman in 1951. The couple had four children.

A Go-for-it Spirit
After receiving a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel from a European friend, Brown discovered the breed wasn’t recognized in the U.S. and started a club that led to AKC registration for the breed.

Nature Lover
Brown is active in many state and national organizations. The 600-acre Sally Brown Nature Preserve in Kentucky was named in honor of her tireless work.

Reprinted from Visions magazine, courtesy of KET–Kentucky Educational Television.
Financial Update and General Comments on the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2006

PAUL DAVIES, VICE PRESIDENT FOR FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Since Sweet Briar began publishing its “Honor Roll of Donors” on the web instead of in hard copy, the College has not included its financial operating results in the Alumnae Magazine. With the Spring/Summer 2007 issue, these results will once again become an annual feature.

In reviewing the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, the Board of Directors was pleased to note the significant improvement the College had shown in just three short years. Although the College’s financial position improved with the growth of the stock market in the late 90s, between July 2000 and June 30, 2003 its financial position worsened. The size of incoming classes decreased each year during that period. Due to the decline in the stock market and an increasing reliance on endowment spending, the College’s endowment had dropped from a high of $126M in FY 1999 to $86M in FY 2003. In FY 2003, the College had a tuition discount rate of 54%. The discount rate is the percentage that is produced by dividing institutional financial aid grants by total tuition and fees, exclusive of room and board. In short, the College was awarding increasing amounts of aid, and drawing too heavily on our endowment to do so. Our endowment drawdown was at an all-time high in FY 03 of $12.1M.

Faced with declining enrollment and a spending rate that was unsustainable, the Board of Directors, working with the administration, established a strategic planning committee to study the long-range future of the College. During FY 2004, the Shape of the Future Committee, with membership from the Board, the administration, the Alumnae Association and the faculty met throughout the year to explore the various options open to the College. The Committee established twin goals of long-term financial stability and larger enrollment. Input was received from students, faculty, staff, and alumnae. In addition, the College contracted with George Dehne Associates, a well-known higher education market research firm, to test several alternatives.

After almost a year of meetings and discussions the committee recommended to the Board of Directors on May 26, 2004 that Sweet Briar remain a women’s college, and that we recast our mission to embrace wholeheartedly and clearly the fact that today’s graduates will move into professional life.

Even before the Shape of the Future meetings began, the College developed a plan to reduce its reliance on the endowment to 5% by FY 2010. To accomplish this, the College would have to reduce endowment spending from $12.1M to $5M over seven years, or by $7.1M while increasing our endowment to approximately $100M. With an operating base of $38.7M, the task would not be easy. Working together, the faculty, staff, and administration initiated several steps to ensure that the College not only would survive, but
Sweet Briar Institute Statement of Activities  
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2006

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<th>REVENUES AND GAINS</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net Tuition and Fees</td>
<td>11,706,444</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment Income (1)</td>
<td>9,160,415</td>
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<td>Gifts</td>
<td>8,816,574</td>
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<td>Auxiliary Sales and Services</td>
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<td>Sales &amp; Services Educational Dept</td>
<td>100,644</td>
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<td>Federal Grants &amp; Contracts</td>
<td>661,882</td>
<td>1.69%</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Grants &amp; Contracts</td>
<td>676,359</td>
<td>1.73%</td>
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<td>Other Sources</td>
<td>364,177</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenues and Gains</strong></td>
<td><strong>39,068,346</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00%</strong></td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instruction</td>
<td>13,051,346</td>
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<td>Research</td>
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<td>Academic Support</td>
<td>3,362,404</td>
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<td>Student Services</td>
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<td>Institutional Support</td>
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<td>Scholarship and Fellowship</td>
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<td>Auxiliary Enterprises</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>35,574,916</strong></td>
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| Change in Net Assets | 3,493,430 |
| Net Assets at the beginning of the Year | 138,564,238 |
| Net Assets at end of Year | 142,057,668 |

(1) Includes investment income and realized gain and unrealized loss on long & short term investments

**Sweet Briar Institute Consolidated Statement of Financial Position**  
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
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<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
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<td>Loans to Students</td>
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<td>Dividends &amp; Interest Receivable</td>
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<td>Prepaid Expenses and Deferred Chgs</td>
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<td>Investments</td>
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<td>Beneficial Int Perpetual Trust</td>
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<td>Assets Restricted to Investment in land, building and equipment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land, Buildings and Equipment</td>
<td>48,765,763</td>
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<td>Deferred Bond Issuance Costs</td>
<td>388,767</td>
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<td>Funds held by Trustee under bond indenture (1)</td>
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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
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<table>
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<th>LIABILITIES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts and Other Payables</td>
<td>1,511,219</td>
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<td>Accrued Interest</td>
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<td>Student Deposits and Advance Fees</td>
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<td>U.S. Government Grants Refundable</td>
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<td>Annuity Obligations</td>
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<td>Asset Retirement Obligation</td>
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<td>Post Retirement Benefit Obligations</td>
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<td>Self Insurance Liability</td>
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<td>Bonds Payable (1)</td>
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<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NET ASSETS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>84,915</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted- Designated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporarily Restricted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Permanently Restricted</td>
<td>53,448,409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>142,057,668</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | **190,608,791** |

(1) Proceeds from Series 2006 bonds to retire all earlier issued bonds at the earlier of the callable date or maturity date of each bond.

In conclusion, morale is high and the College is filled with optimism. Our capital campaign was a tremendous success. We anticipate one of our largest classes in decades, while dropping our overall discount rate to 42% in FY 2008. Our success is due to the collective support from our alumnae, Board, parents, faculty, staff, and students. The College is well on the way to a sustainable 5% endowment spending rate. However, to ensure that 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. To achieve this, it is critical that we all contribute, whether it be recruiting prospective students and promoting Sweet Briar to our friends and family, giving to the Annual Fund or endowment to support ongoing operations such as faculty salaries and financial aid, or supporting critical capital projects such as the Library and Fitness and Athletic Center to ensure that our students have quality facilities.

In FY 2005 salaries were frozen and the College reduced its employee retirement contribution from 10% to 8% of an employee’s salary. Nineteen staff positions were eliminated. All vacated positions were reviewed and supervisors had to justify why the vacated position should be filled. Once the determination was made to fill a position, it was held open for 4 weeks to save operating dollars (critical positions such as public safety were exempt from the waiting period). This policy remains in force today. All non-salary budgets were cut 10% and have remained flat, the only exception being non-controllable expenditures such as health care, utilities, and food. Our new Dean of Admissions, Ken Huus, working with outside consultants and using the market research of George Dehne Associates, developed a new admissions marketing strategy.

So how did the College finish FY 2006? By being proactive and working collectively with our Board and alumnae, each incoming class since 2004 increased in size, while the tuition discount rate was reduced from 54% in FY 2003 to 46% in FY 2006. The College reduced its reliance on the endowment from $12.1M to $8.9M in FY 2006 ($3.2M decrease). During this period, the College’s endowment grew from $86M to $94M. Unlike many of our competitors, we have been able to cut costs, increase salaries (3% in FY 2006; 4.25% in FY 07), reduce our tuition discount rate and increase our enrollment. The operating turnaround was critical as the College began the process to refinance all of its long term debt in late 2005. Investors took notice that the College had a clear strategic vision and was willing to make the necessary budgetary cuts. This was rewarded when we generated interest of over $140M in orders against $20M of bonds. With the strong demand, we were able to refinance all long-term debt for 25 years at a fixed rate of 4.815%. Refinancing improved the College’s annual cash flow by over $800K. A strong indication that Sweet Briar is on the correct path is that we had the largest entering class in 20 years in the fall of 2006. As FY 2007 comes to a close, the College is projecting a tuition discount rate of 44% and endowment spending of $7.7M ($4.4M less than FY 2003).

In conclusion, morale is high and the College is filled with optimism. Our capital campaign was a tremendous success. We anticipate one of our largest classes in decades, while dropping our overall discount rate to 42% in FY 2008. Our success is due to the collective support from our alumnae, Board, parents, faculty, staff, and students. The College is well on the way to a sustainable 5% endowment spending rate. However, to ensure that 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. To achieve this, it is critical that we all contribute, whether it be recruiting prospective students and promoting Sweet Briar to our friends and family, giving to the Annual Fund or endowment to support ongoing operations such as faculty salaries and financial aid, or supporting critical capital projects such as the Library and Fitness and Athletic Center to ensure that our students have quality facilities.
If Sweet Briar College pops up on your caller ID, it is probably a student with the Phonathon program. Each young woman is genuinely excited to have a conversation with you and is thinking of the questions she can ask while dialing the phone.

Many callers are first-years and are learning about the history of the College through conversations with alumnae. They cannot wait to talk to an alumna with the same major they are considering. Upperclasswomen also enjoy speaking about tap clubs and traditions. All get excited when calling someone who is from their hometown or state.

Three of the many fabulous Phonathon callers this year are Sarah Balderston ’09, Madeline Davis ’10, and Laura McKenna ’10, and they would like to share with you what they have learned from alumnae and their experience with Phonathon.

**SARAH BALDERSTON ’09**
**MAJOR: MODERN LANGUAGES**  
**HOMETOWN: PITTSFORD, NEW YORK**

“I saw Phonathon as an opportunity to make a little money each week and become better acquainted with some of my peers. What I did not anticipate were the wonderful conversations I’ve had with alumnae. Part of my job description is to connect with alumnae and raise money for the Annual Fund. Fulfilling these goals is rewarding, but even more gratifying are the calls in which I connect with alumnae over their memories. It is exciting to speak to someone who lived in my dorm, shared my major, or even knew my mother, Ann ‘Workado’ Works Balderston ’76. The fact that so many of these women are willing to take time out of their busy schedules any given weeknight to discuss our shared love of this remarkable institution is a true testimony to how amazing Sweet Briar truly continues to be. With each call I feel that I become more connected to the Sweet Briar of today and the Sweet Briar of the past.”

**MADELINE DAVIS ’10**
**MAJOR: UNDECLARED**  
**HOMETOWN: NORFOLK, VIRGINIA**

“I want to know what you liked about Sweet Briar and any funny stories. Many alumnae see this as a ploy to soften them up and get more money, but I really enjoy hearing about your experiences—memories about the Sweet Briar dairy providing the fresh milk, yogurt, and ice cream for Prothro, study abroad adventures, professors you had, or road trips with friends. I realize that, although women come to Sweet Briar for individual reasons, whether I speak to a graduate from the thirties or a current freshman, there are things we all love about Sweet Briar such as the beauty of the campus, the small classes, and the sense of community with faculty.

“One alumna compared her SBC experience with attending a large university for her graduate work. She said if you enjoyed going to the DMV and being just a number, then Sweet Briar is the place to go. I look at my role as a Phonathon caller as being the continuation of that personal feeling and of not being a number. Along with the other callers, I want to know about you and your experience at Sweet Briar. So please, answer your phone!”

**LAURA MCKENNA ’10**
**MAJOR: GOVERNMENT**  
**HOMETOWN: BRISTOL, VIRGINIA**

“I dial the phone for the 30th time this evening, and an SBC graduate from 1942 answers. She is a little hard of hearing, but can still share her fun memories about the time she had to sneak out for the weekend to see her boyfriend at UVA.

“You may ask yourself what a first-year has in common with a 1942 graduate. After 40 minutes, we find we both adore pink and pearls and think that a women’s college offers the finest education available to smart young women of today. We also share a love of Sweet Briar.

“Turning in my tally sheet that evening, I reflect that some women have not been willing to talk, but others have shared their experiences from 50 years ago and wish they were still students here. It is enlightening to me that they are still so fond of their College memories and still come back to Sweet Briar to celebrate their reunions.

“Walking back to my dorm, I am reassured that this is the place for me. Talking to graduates who say only positive things about the College makes me want every young woman to have the same experience that I do: to thrive in the classroom while still playing a sport and being a member of three clubs, and acting as officer for two of the three. The College is full of opportunities that the alumnae experienced, and now it is my time to do everything that the College has to offer. Talking on the phone with each alumna shows me my own potential.”

In the Phonathon room one constantly hears, “Oh, my gosh, me, too!” or “I hope we can meet when you come to campus or when I am home.” Phonathon callers want to share your experience of Sweet Briar and have you share their experience, so answer your phone when Sweet Briar pops up on the caller ID!
Sandra Maddox AH '59 has worked in the Sweet Briar Alumnae Office for 46 years. She retired from the College on March 30 as assistant to the director.

Over nearly five decades she has become the face of the office for alumnae returning to the College for Reunion or other events, said Louise Swiecki Zingaro ‘80, director of the Alumnae Association.

“When they come here, Sandra’s like home. She always has a smile, she always gives a warm welcome,” Zingaro said. “That’s something when you genuinely mean it, you can’t fake. And it sets the tone for their visit.”

Maddox’s welcome is real, and it’s the times when alumnae are on campus that she says have stayed with her the most.

“My memories are always when the ladies come back,” Maddox said. “They always hug each other.”

She arrived at Sweet Briar in April of 1961, and spent a short time in duplicating before becoming a full-time records secretary in the alumnae office. She was promoted to executive secretary and office manager, and then assistant to the director in 1995.

In 1994, in an effort spearheaded by Ann Young Bloom, the Class of 1959 asked Maddox if she would become an honorary member of their class. She accepted the offer, and the Alumnae Association voted and approved it.

It is an extraordinary recognition. In Sweet Briar’s history only two others—former president of the College, the late Anne Gary Pannell AH ’10 and the late Mary Hughes Blackwell AH ’28, former assistant in the alumnae office—have been made honorary alumnae.

Maddox’s legacy in the alumnae office is such that Zingaro summed up the impact of her retirement in one word: “Huge.”

The impact will be compounded by Nancy Godwin Baldwin’s retirement at the end of June. Baldwin ’57 has edited the Alumnae Magazine since 1986, but that’s only her most recent role at SBC. She is the former director of admissions, an office she worked in from 1958 to 1980.

Maddox and Baldwin will leave behind a combined 96 years of service. “They know so many people personally,” Zingaro said. “They know not only the alumnae, but also their families. So much of what we do is relationship building. People trust them. They’re credible.”

Relationships between students, alumnae, co-workers and the larger Sweet Briar community were the reason Maddox, who has served with five College presidents, was content in her job for so long.

“[It was] the friendship,” she said. “I’ve had three bosses in my forty-six years, which I think is quite impressive. I enjoyed the work and the friendship of the alumnae…they all love the College. They come back and feel like they want to start all over again.”

Diane Dalton ‘67 has served on the Alumnae Board since 1995 and is a member of SBC’s Board of Directors. She acknowledged how she and her classmates feel about Sweet Briar and suggested the reasons go beyond their experiences as students.

“The fact that [Sandra] was made an honorary alumna—her devotion and caring for the College and the alumnae is truly a gift to the College,” she said in a telephone interview. “The loyalty we alumnae feel has so much to do with the dedicated people who work for the College.”

Maddox has mixed feelings about leaving Sweet Briar, but has no doubts about how she’ll spend her days. “I want to spend more time with family and do some traveling and golfing.”

She and Elbert, her husband of 48 years, have traveled to Europe and the Caribbean. These days they stay closer to home. “Beach areas,” Maddox said. “I love beaches.”

Much of their motoring will be to attend their four grandchildren’s sporting events, such as recent gymnastics meet where the couple sat for four and a half hours on unforgiving bleachers.

“One granddaughter likes to ride horses; I have a grandson that plays three sports; and my oldest granddaughter is into cheerleading. It’s just, you know I can’t do everything and work, too,” Maddox said, laughing. “That’s my plan.”

Born and raised in Amherst County, Sandra and Elbert have been friends since she was 13. “We met at church socials and attended high school together and our relationship grew,” she said.

There was no revelatory moment, just the dawning of a lifelong love and friendship. “You don’t marry just for love, you have to really enjoy each other,” Maddox said. “We understand each other.”

They have two sons who attended the Campus School as youngsters. Randy graduated from Lynchburg College and Doug from Hampden-Sydney. The sons live nearby with their wives and children, where the grandparents enjoy seeing them often.

Maddox was honored at a reception on March 30, which was attended by family, alumnae and friends from across the Sweet Briar community.
We are sad to share news of the death of Elizabeth Sprague at Westminster Canterbury, Lynchburg, VA, March 4 at the age of 95. She was a member of the Sweet Briar faculty as Assistant Professor (1949–1960); Associate Professor (1960–1964); and Professor (1964–1977). Twice chair of the Department of Biology (1958–64; 1971–77), she was named the Dorys McConnell Duberg Professor of Ecology in 1975 and Professor Emerita in 1977.

After graduating from San Diego High School, Elizabeth attended UCLA, obtaining her master’s in biology in 1935. She taught biology at Hoover High School, San Diego, then moved to Fullerton, CA to teach at the junior college (now a branch of California State University) for two years.

As World War II accelerated in 1941, she held a summer job at Convair, San Diego, where she was trained to read and file blueprints for search and rescue planes. As the war went on, Elizabeth was recruited by the YWCA to manage a USO Center in Abilene, Texas. After the war, she received a faculty appointment at Samson College, New York where she taught for three years. In 1949, she came to Sweet Briar College to teach biology and botany until her 1977 retirement. In 1960 she completed her Ph.D. in biology from Claremont College.

Nature and travel were passions of hers. Throughout her professional career and in retirement, she made sojourns across the United States, Europe, Australia, and Africa to study the flora and fauna of the world.

She is survived by loving nieces and nephews: Doris Avery and Pamela Carroll, San Diego; Bob Sprague and John Sprague, AR; Kristin Ogley, Sacramento; Kate Boase, Granite Bay, CA.

A memorial service was held at the Westminster Canterbury Chapel in March and a service of remembrance in the Sweet Briar Chapel during Reunion 2007.

Where would any of us be without giants?

Capturing Elizabeth Sprague is a tall order. Is she the woman I first met more than 50 years ago? She was a commanding figure—tall, upright, roaring through the doors in Academic in long strides, red hair ruffled by the wind, level eyes that saw into crevices no one else penetrated, tough demeanor covering a caring and kind soul. And the voice, precise in words, low in timber. When Miss Sprague talked, we all listened.

Or was she the funny woman and personal friend I was privileged to know and enjoy as the years rolled by and our contact continued? She was both, of course. I am unsure whether I fully recovered from the strength of the assistant prof’s aura that guided me through a difficult year of freshman botany in 1953. She guided and she taught. My thumb is bright green even now because of Elizabeth Sprague. I can still talk knowledgeably about slime mold, a half dozen varieties of algae and why rose thorns aren’t thorns. Her practicums were killers. Miss Sprague charged across campus at a dead run, as we panted behind her scribbling names of trees, shrubs and bushes as she pointed them out. Once in a panic I failed to identify a boxwood.

The Sprague, as Mary Anne Wilson and I knighted her, taught me more than any other academic at Sweet Briar other than Lysbeth Muncy. The Sprague did not want her students to learn, she insisted we learn; she demanded we learn. But mere learning was insufficient. She commanded that we think, that delicious sine qua non of a liberal arts education. I refuse to believe that Miss Sprague ever bent that commandment in the years she continued to teach.

Elizabeth Sprague loved the good green things of this earth. On the good green things she lavished her love, her time and her energy. That was apparent to us even as students. I am certain her life was not particularly easy. She suffered neither fools nor defeat lightly. Disappointments were held in check, complaints were rare. She was mostly philosophical that she had to revise much of her doctoral dissertation, as nearing completion, the subject of that Ph.D.—puddle plants—dried up. She was always amazed that some of her old girls recalled that crisis. Miss Sprague laughed when we shook our heads.

Miss Sprague was reluctant to abandon her little house in Amherst for shared living in Lynchburg. She put the best face on her loss of daily contact with the gifts and glories of nature. What a splendid, resilient, sharing and dedicated person she was.

When I established a charitable remainder trust in favor of Sweet Briar and the girls of tomorrow, my relationship with Elizabeth Sprague was a major motivator for its creation. One third of that trust is dedicated to Elizabeth Sprague and the preservation of Sweet Briar’s environmental heritage. It was my good fortune to have an opportunity to say thank you to a woman who continues to inspire me as my own shadows lengthen, and to root for the good green things of this earth.

Elizabeth Sprague was the last of the giants who inhabited my world at Sweet Briar. Where would any of us be without giants?

—Carol McMurtry Fowler ’57
Professor Leonora Albigese Wikswo, 1916–2007

Word has come from her family of the death of Mrs. Leonora Wikswo, age 90. She passed away March 3 in Visalia, CA, following a brief illness.

Leonora taught math and astronomy at Sweet Briar from 1956 to 1970. She was Instructor in Math (1956–59), Assistant Professor (1959–67), Associate Professor (1967–70), and chaired the Department of Mathematics for many years during her tenure as a professor until her retirement.

Preceded in death by her husband, John Wikswo, a noted research chemist, she is survived by three daughters who are Sweet Briar alumnae: Leonora Pescosolido ’63, Exeter, CA; Dr. Muriel Lambert ’66, Montclair, NJ; Antoinette Best ’68 Visalia, CA; one son, Dr. John P. Wikswo, Jr., UVA ’70, Nashville, TN; ten grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Born in 1916 in Brooklyn, NY, Leonora graduated from Montclair State University, NJ with a B.A. and from Columbia University with a master’s degree, both in mathematics. She first joined the mathematics faculty of Lynchburg College, VA, then came to Sweet Briar.

She is remembered by generations of Sweet Briar students for her understanding of mathematical and scientific concepts. She also had an acute sensitivity to poetry, and was an internationally recognized mathematician, a naturalist, world traveler, and accomplished artist.

Leonora Wikswo: truly a beloved teacher

As a student at SBC, I know that she was truly a beloved teacher and I remember the number of times I would walk by her office and see a string of students outside her door waiting to speak to her. She had a depth of understanding of students’ problems that was amazing. As a teacher, she encouraged original thinking and if a student didn’t understand a math problem when it was explained one way, she would try explaining it another way until the student understood it.

I myself am now a Professor in the Pathology Department of UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School, and I have used her as a role model in my method of teaching and in interacting with students. I think of her quite often when I have a line of students outside my office, both those I teach in class and those working as graduate students in my laboratory, and hope that I am providing them with the same degree of support that she gave her students.

—Dr. Muriel Lambert ’66

Professor Langley Wood, 1924–2007

We are saddened to learn of the death of Professor Robertson Harris Langley Wood, age 82, January 29 at Westport Health Care Center, Richmond, VA.

From 1972–76, Langley was Sweet Briar’s Coordinator of Environmental Studies. From 1974–75 he also was Director of Publications and Assistant to the Director of Development, and in 1975, lectured in photography, then returned to the Biology Department as Professor of Environmental Studies from 1976 until retiring in 1982.

Born in Lynchburg, VA, he held a B.S. from the College of William and Mary and earned a Ph.D. in marine biology from Cornell University. Prior to coming to Sweet Briar, he headed the Physiology Department for the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and was a research scientist for Woods Hole Institute. He also served as chairman of the Zoology Department at the University of New Hampshire.

A Navy World War II veteran, he was awarded the Purple Heart. In retirement, he wrote two novels; his second, Bacon’s Last Year, a seafaring WWII story based on his experiences aboard the U.S.S. Belknap, was published.

He is survived by five children: Pamela Wood Irving, Belle Meade, NJ; Patricia Wood Wingfield, Richmond, VA; Michael Langley Wood, Hampton, NJ; Duncan Langley Wood, Chesapeake, VA; and Robert Harris Wood, Orlando, FL; seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held February 10 at Spring Hill Cemetery, Lynchburg.
Victor Henningsen, Jr.
1924–2007

Sweet Briar College has lost a devoted friend. Mr. Victor Henningsen, Jr. of Pelham Manor, New York, passed away March 26 at age 83. He was the husband of Mary Florence ("Mayde") Bemis Ludington, SBC ’48, and the father of Mary Francis Henningsen Collins’75. Granddaughter Caroline Collins is a current student in the Class of 2010.

Mr. Henningsen served on the College’s Boards of Directors and Overseers for ten years (1974–1984), was chairman from 1980–1984, and recently rejoined as an Emeriti Trustee in November 2003. During his service on Sweet Briar’s Board, he was an important voice and wise counselor on numerous committees including the Development, Student Affairs, Future Directions, Nominating, and Executive Committees. He also was a member of the Parents’ Committee and honorary member of the College’s Centennial Commission. The Henningsens are life members of the President’s Circle and members of the Silver Rose Society. His many contributions to the College include philanthropic support of the Friends of Library, Friends of Art, and the Sweet Briar art collection through donations of numerous gifts of art to the College which have graced its walls with many beautiful works.

Director of the College’s Arts Management Program Rebecca Massie Lane pays tribute to Mr. Henningsen: “He was a generous supporter of the arts at Sweet Briar College, giving a number of American paintings from his father’s collection to the Pannell Art Gallery during the campaign of the 1980s. He also supported art conservation projects in the art collection, as well as being a lifelong contributor to the Friends of Art. He was keenly interested in Japanese woodblock prints and in American impressionists. His friends in the arts will miss his enduring and faithful support, and I will miss the informational arts clippings and correspondence he regularly sent to me.”

Mr. Henningsen, an unflagging supporter and promoter of higher education, attended the Phillips Academy, the United States Merchant Marine Academy, and graduated from Yale University in 1950 with a B.A. in economics. During World War II he served in the Atlantic, Mediterranean, and Indian Ocean war zones as midshipman, third, and second mate in the merchant navy, finishing as Lt. (JG) USNR. He was also an international leader in the poultry and egg industry, and spent his entire professional career with his family firm, Hennington Foods, Inc., founded by his grandfather in 1889. Starting as an office boy and plant worker, he retired as President and CEO in 1993 and served as Chairman Emeritus until his death.

During his career he received numerous industry honors and awards. He was an active volunteer for Andover, the USMMA, Yale, and Sweet Briar. A past president and longtime trustee of the Chapel of St. Thomas More at Yale University, he was also past president of the Yale Club of New York City and of the American Friends of the Bermuda Maritime Museum. He devoted much of his time and energy to his native town, particularly the Village of Pelham Manor, serving over the years as chair of the Pelham Community Chest; member of the Village Planning Board; trustee and mayor of the Village of Pelham Manor; co-chair of the Friends of the Pelham Town Library; and chairman of the Board of the Sound Shore Medical Center. At the time of his death he was still active in efforts to bridge political divisions and bring good people together in service to the community he loved. His interests included ships, sailing, and sports cars, especially vintage MGs.

He is survived by Mayde, his wife of 58 years, his children and their spouses: Vic and Susan, Andover, MA; Kit and Caroline, Stony Creek, CT; Mary and Chris, Pelham Manor; and Tim and Anne, Wexford, PA; and eight grandchildren.

A Memorial Mass was held March 31 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Pelham Manor, NY.

Victor Henningsen, Jr.
John Wesley Shrader, Jr., 1925–2007

It is with heartfelt sadness that we report the death of Mr. John Wesley Shrader, Jr. of Amherst, the husband of Phyllis and father of J. Thompson (Tom) Shrader and his wife, Deborah (Debbie) Snead Shrader ’78. He also loved Scott and Louise Świecki Zingaro ’80 as his own children. He died Sunday, April 8, 2007.

John Wesley worked at Sweet Briar for nearly 20 years, beginning in 1972 as Superintendent of Custodial Services and then Set-up Coordinator until his retirement in 1991. He also served his country in the Navy during World War II, was a member of Clinton Masonic Lodge and Amherst Fire Department, and was a lifelong member of Emmanuel United Methodist Church in Amherst.

Former colleague and friend, James Meade, commented that: “We worked together like hand in glove. He was a real fine person to work with and very understanding. He was nice to everyone he came in contact with, and I enjoyed going on town trips with him and working on set-ups.” As a testament to his gentle nature and enjoyment of life, he looked forward each day to time with his pets Buddy and Nick.

The family invited friends and family to celebrate John Wesley’s life with them at Whitten Monelison Chapel on April 11.

Margaret Cornwell Schmidt ’37

Margaret Cornwell Schmidt ’37, 1917–2007

Margaret Schmidt, longtime educator and volunteer, died at age 90, March 9, 2007 at Parc Provence in Creve Coeur, MO of complications from Alzheimer’s disease and cancer.

Born in St. Louis, she attended Washington University and graduated from Sweet Briar in 1937, then joined the faculty of the John Burroughs School (her alma mater) in St. Louis, where she taught physical education. She was an accomplished field hockey player, competing internationally for three years with the U.S. national team.

In 1942, Margaret married William Clark Schmidt, a lawyer, who served in the Army Air Forces in World War II and was killed in a plane crash in India in 1944.

Margaret returned to Sweet Briar, serving as executive director of the Alumnae Association from 1950–1955. She later returned to Burroughs, where she worked for 24 years as a test administrator, adviser, reading teacher, college counselor, director of admissions and principal of the senior school. She also earned a master’s degree in education from Washington University.

Margaret received the John Burroughs Outstanding Alumnus Award in 1976. She served on the Sweet Briar Board, the Advisory Council of the Washington University Association and the John Burroughs Board. She was an elder, Sunday school teacher and president of the Women’s Association at Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Church, Clayton, MO. She volunteered at a neighborhood health center and tutored for the “I Have a Dream” Foundation.

A memorial service was held April 12 at Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Church. Margaret had donated her body to the Washington University School of Medicine and her brain to the Memory and Aging Project, of which she had been a longtime participant.

Margaret’s sister, Helen Cornwell Jones ’40, predeceased her. She is survived by her daughter, Ruth Schmidt Igoe ’66, Doylestown, PA; a sister, Virginia Johnstone, St. Louis; a brother, Alexander M. Cornwell, Boca Grande, FL; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.
ACAD
Catherine Wright
Mrs. James E. Hill
January 7, 2007

1922
Ruth Ulland
Mrs. Samuel P. Todd
March 8, 2007

1927
Lucy Orgill
Mrs. Sidney W. Genette
September 24, 1999

1930
Elizabeth Bryan
Mrs. John S. Bond, Jr.
April 29, 2007

Anna Winfred Smith
Mrs. Winfred S. McConnell
January 28, 2005

Gladya Wester
Mrs. Leonard M. Horton
May 4, 2007

1931
Jean Countryman
Mrs. Will B. Presba
July 24, 2006

1932
Alice Dabney
Mrs. John C. Parker, Jr.
April 21, 2007

Anna Gilbert
Mrs. Hugh W. Davy
February 1, 2007

1933
Betty Green
Mrs. Sidney R. Nathan
April 9, 2007

Mary-Paulding Murdoch
Mrs. Hugh McDonald
Martin
January 5, 2007

1934
Mary McCandlish
Mrs. S. William Livingston
March 23, 2007

Jane Morrison
Mrs. Jane M. Moore
March 20, 2007

1935
Beverley Hill
Mrs. John P. Furniss
December 21, 2006

Rebekah Huber
Miss Rebekah L. Huber
January 25, 2007

Charlotte Olmsted
Mrs. Maurice Kursh
December 27, 2006

Laurose Schuize-Berge
Mrs. Laurose MacFadyen
March 9, 2007

1936
Annette Harley
Mrs. Joseph Choppell
November 28, 2006

Katharine Niles
Mrs. Franklin P. Parker
May 4, 2007

Margaret Smith
Mrs. John R. Thomasson
May 6, 2007

Lillian Steele
Mrs. Lawrence T. Cook
March 20, 2007

Lois Wolfe
Mrs. Hugh M. Shwab, Jr.
January 4, 2002

1937
Leititia Belknap
Mrs. Haig Carapetyan
April 6, 1999

Margaret Cornwell
Mrs. W. Clark Schmidt
March 9, 2007

Mary Katherine Shafter
Mrs. Frank A. Hardy
January, 1998

Elizabeth Arnold
Mrs. Robert J. Waite
April 11, 2007

Elene Essary
Mrs. John W. Gill
January 4, 2007

1939
Gene Green
Mrs. Charles Morgan
July 16, 2006

Margaret Smith
Mrs. John R. Thomasson
May 6, 2007

1940
Elizabeth Butler
Mrs. Jonathan W. Warner
February 14, 2007

Katherine Estes
Mrs. Gilbert E. Johnston
January 12, 2007

Mary Elda Stein
Mrs. Richard C. Kautz
January 4, 2007

Jean White
Mrs. Edward L. Box
March 27, 2007

1941
Elizabeth Lancaster
Mrs. William Washburn
April 6, 2007

Byrd Smith
Mrs. Byrd Hunter
January 30, 2007

1942
Virginia McGuire
Mrs. Andrew J. Brent
February 27, 2007

1943
Dorothy Devore
Mrs. Harry T. Platt, Jr.
January 7, 2007

1944
Dorothy Arnold
Mrs. Robert J. Waite
April 11, 2007

Elene Essary
Mrs. John W. Gill
January 4, 2007

1947
Ann Briggs
Miss Ann E. Briggs
January 18, 2007

Virginia Walker
Mrs. Virginia Walker
Christian
March 28, 2007

1948
Catharine Doolin
Ms. Robert R. Dickey III
March 15, 2007

Ann Porter
Mrs. Edward W. Mullen
February 2, 2007

1949
Fredda Duncombe
Mrs. Grant A. Millard
March 12, 2007

Emilie Thornton
Mrs. Earl M. Forte Jr.
December 31, 2006

1951
Sue Taylor
Mrs. Robert F. Lilley
March 13, 2007

Robin Francis
Miss Robin R. Francis
March 13, 2004

Joan Potter
Mrs. Henry D. Bickel
January 23, 2007

Susan Salter
Mrs. Samuel R. Mulligan
July 3, 2005

1955
Chase Lane
Mrs. Eugene Bruns
December 28, 2006

1957
Betty Folmar
Mrs. H. T. Hunt, Jr.
September 23, 2005

Natalie Wittich
Mrs. J. Paul Morrow
February 8, 2007

1958
Anne Robinson
Miss Anne A. Robinson
March 30, 2007

1961
Mary Carmichael
Mrs. Preston Bass
March 16, 2007

1962
Ann "Penny" Pendleton Powell
Ms. Pendleton Bowen
February 24, 2007

1966
Kathryn Bingham
Ms. Kathryn Bingham
April 9, 2007

1986
Tamara Wright
Mrs. George Shaw
February 25, 2000

2008
Laura Jahnke
Ms. Laura Ann Jahnke
February 19, 2007

If you wish to write to a member of the family of someone recently deceased, please contact the Alumnae Office for name and address.
JAMESTOWN, VA CELEBRATION 2007

Every 50 years since the early 1800s, there has been a celebration of the founding of Jamestown. The 400th anniversary of the founding has been celebrated over 2006–07 with the main event in May, 2007. This commemoration highlights the legacies of Jamestown: free enterprise, representative government, rule of law, and diversity. These all began in the New World with the founding of Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in North America.

Marshall Acuff, Sweet Briar parent (Amanda ‘97) and former member of Sweet Briar’s Board of Directors, is president of the 501(c)(3) arm of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation. The Foundation is a state agency responsible for the living museum, Jamestown Settlement. The mission of the Settlement is education and interpretation of life in the early 17th century in the colony of Virginia. Physical facilities include a new 60,000-square-foot museum as well as reproductions of the original three ships and a reconstruction of the original village of Jamestown.

MINI reunions


RIGHT: Seven alumnae gathered for the August 2006 wedding of Polly Taggard Taylor’s son Peter Taylor and Anne Galbreath ’90 on Orr’s Island, ME. L-r: Jaimie Del Monte Galbreath ’92, Sandy La Staiti Sylvia ’59, Jim Jones Vail ’59, Anne Galbreath Taylor ’90, Polly Taggard Taylor ’59, Erna Arnold Westwig ’59, Rachel Renzy Meima ’90.

Editor’s Mea Culpa: Please note corrections in names and class years. Apologies to all for errors appearing in the Winter 2007 issue!
“Exceptional faculty are the very heart of Sweet Briar,” says Professor Rebecca McCord. “Faculty give their time, effort, energy, and ideas to make Sweet Briar a positive learning environment. Faculty can also make a financial investment in the same programs that empower our students to become outstanding leaders.”

Professor McCord is a Professor of Music—and an Indiana Fletcher Williams Associate. Sweet Briar College came into existence over one hundred years ago through the generous bequest of Indiana Fletcher Williams. Williams Associates are those individuals who have followed Indiana’s example by making provisions in their estate plans for Sweet Briar College, and so help assure the College’s future financial viability. “When you are on this beautiful campus every day, you develop a unique viewpoint of the issues and challenges facing the students, faculty, and administration,” she explains. “The faculty and staff understand where support is needed the most and, through their generosity, they can help the College achieve long-term goals.”

Financial provision for a particular program or aspect of the College is one way to support the work faculty do for women’s education—it signifies a belief in the future of the College. A simple way to provide this patronage is through a planned gift.

As a small liberal arts college, Sweet Briar’s interactive environment requires involvement from those in many areas across campus to ensure success in keeping the College at the forefront of women’s education.

“Everyone should fully support Sweet Briar by attending College events and giving generously to support faculty endowments, academic and cultural programs, student scholarships, and our library,” Professor McCord urges.

Even more than raising a particular dollar amount, she would like to see the Sweet Briar faculty achieve 100 percent giving participation in some form, whether through planned gifts or Annual Fund gifts—an achievement that would reflect the faculty’s deeply held confidence in the College’s mission of providing an outstanding liberal arts education.

“I am not a wealthy person, but I want to leave a legacy and pass on the privileges afforded to well educated, committed women.”

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

To learn more about the personal, financial, and charitable advantages of making an estate gift or to request the Letter of Intent form, please contact The Office of Development at (434) 381-6161 or toll-free at 888-846-5722.
USE OF OUR CAMPUS AS A RESOURCE

Sweet Briar College
Box E
Sweet Briar, VA 24595

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED