

Jessie Schuster, SGA president
Opening Convocation remarks, Aug. 24, 2016

Hello all!

Welcome Back to the Briar!

Whether you were exploring the globe, rocking an internship, starting your first summer job, or spending time at home, I hope all your summers were extraordinary! There is something special about time away from Sweet Briar that makes you appreciate our campus community even more upon return. There's no wonder why alumnae come back year after year.

Now that you have moved in to your residence hall, met your hallmates, and are looking to the year ahead, I hope you take time to appreciate our beautiful campus and inspiring community. While you're enjoying jumping in crisp falling leaves, singing your heart out in upper quad, working with a professor to prove a new theory, or just curled up in the library with a new book, remember that this year goes by faster than you'd think. I challenge you to take a step out of your comfort zone this year, sign up for that new class that looks intriguing, go on a trip with the outdoor program that scares you a little bit, attend a Student Government Association meeting and speak up about something new you'd like to see on campus, start a club through Inter-club Council, go to Spring Fling, and whatever else you can find on campus to inspire you. Do not take a day for granted; if it is raining, splash in some puddles, if it is too hot to function, jump in the lake! When it snows, check out a tray and slide down that hill, but hold on tight!

And at the end of the year, when spring comes, and it is time for the seniors to leave, remember this year as your best year yet! Do not leave this campus with regrets. Whether you are a senior or a first-year, there is something new for you: a passion to discover, a friend to meet, or a difference you can make on campus. You may seem like one voice in a sea of opposition, but as we have seen in the past, it only takes one

Vixen's roar to start a movement! Appreciate all that this year has to offer, because as Disney has stated, "Adventure is out there"!

Thank you all!