



# The Briar Wire

THE SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE ALUMNAE NEWSLETTER

SPONSORED BY THE ALUMNAE ALLIANCE AND PRODUCED BY THE ALUMNAE RELATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT TEAM

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## Environmental science grant provides challenge gift opportunity

In early February, the family advisors of the Judith Haskell Brewer Fund of The Community Foundation Serving Richmond and Central Virginia awarded Sweet Briar College a two-part gift for its environmental science program and community garden.

The grant provides a \$500,000 outright gift over three years and a second one-to-one challenge grant that will be matched by other donors to the College. The result will be a \$1.5 million total gift to support equipment, faculty support, and endowment for program operations. The community garden will be revitalized through \$50,000 of dedicated funds.

The College is now seeking gifts for the challenge component of this grant. A few gifts have already been pledged. Don't let us miss this opportunity — to contribute to the challenge, please call the Office of Alumnae Relations and Development at (800) 381-6131.

## Next is NOW updates: champions reaching out to constituents, Day of Giving on the horizon

As we mentioned in the previous issue of *The Briar Wire* (“Getting to know the Sweet Briar Fund”), the champions of the **Next is NOW** special initiative have begun reaching out to various groups of Sweet Briar supporters. Efforts begin with communication from class fund agents to alumnae in **all** classes — whether or not that class is being honored at Reunion this year. Fund agents will encourage alumnae to accelerate Saving Sweet Briar pledges or make their most significant gifts **NOW** to the Sweet Briar Fund.

To acknowledge March 3, we are asking members of Sweet Briar's community to kick off **#SweetBriarForever** month with a Day of Giving. This is an opportunity to demonstrate our renewed commitment to Sweet Briar by giving now. By focusing on Sweet Briar's future, we honor the alumnae, students, faculty, staff, retirees, friends, and community who saved Sweet Briar and will demonstrate their support — in perpetuity. You can make a gift at any time at [sbc.edu/gift](http://sbc.edu/gift). *Onward!*

## Alumnae Alliance Council meets face to face

Since this past October, members of the Alumnae Alliance Council have been meeting by teleconference at least every other week. From February 4-7, they held on-campus meetings for the first time. Many of them had never met in person before these sessions.

During the meetings, Council members made presentations on their efforts so far and some ideas for the future. Each working group took the opportunity to connect with staff on campus to have in-depth discussions on collaborations, determine next steps, and get to know one another.

The Council also made a report to the Board of Directors, during which they showed the Board the immense time, talent and treasure they are giving the College. The Council is still aligning volunteers with the framework of the College and welcomes all alumnae volunteers for roles within the Alumnae Alliance Council. Complete [this form \(http://oldweb.sbc.edu/alumdev/alumnae-alliance-nomination-form\)](http://oldweb.sbc.edu/alumdev/alumnae-alliance-nomination-form) to be connected with the working group with which you wish to be involved.



During this phase, we need the time, talent, and treasure of all alumnae; strategic planning will follow in the next several months.

Thanks to volunteer efforts, the Alumnae Alliance Council has collected ideas submitted via the Alumnae Relations & Development Office's website and to SBC 2.0 and the Saving Sweet Briar Think Tank and handed them over to working groups of the Alumnae Alliance Council. The Council is always accepting ideas from Sweet Briar College alumnae and friends. To submit an idea, please complete [this form \(http://oldweb.sbc.edu/alumdev/submit-idea\)](http://oldweb.sbc.edu/alumdev/submit-idea).

## Board of Directors of Sweet Briar College

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## Alumnae House Staff

*Mary Pope M. Hutson '83  
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*Wanda Vest  
Data Coordinator*

**For more information about Alumnae House staff, please visit <http://sbc.edu/alumdev/meet-staff>.**

## The Charitable Rollover Gift Available in February 2016

The Charitable IRA Rollover Gift is now permanent. You can make your 2016 Charitable IRA Rollover Gift anytime in 2016. Your 2016 Charitable IRA Rollover Gift can provide the maximum support for Sweet Briar if you make your Charitable IRA Rollover Gift this year.

### The IRA Rollover Gift to Sweet Briar College

The Charitable IRA Rollover Gift can be made in February or any subsequent month of 2016. It provides a donor who is 70 and 1/2 or older and who has an IRA with the equivalent of a 100% income tax charitable contribution deduction.

The gift also reduces the amount that a donor must take into taxable income as an IRA minimum distribution. A donor who is required to take a 5% minimum distribution from his IRA can instead direct the minimum distribution to the Sweet Briar and reduce his taxable income.

### Direct from Qualifying IRAs

The Charitable IRA Rollover Gift is made directly by the IRA custodian to Sweet Briar. The gift is a completely tax-free transfer from the IRA to Sweet Briar. The gift is not included in the donor's income and the donor receives no income tax charitable contribution deduction for the gift. The completely tax-free transfer provides the equivalent of a 100% income tax charitable deduction for the gift.

Example: Susan Smith, who is 71, has a traditional IRA with a balance of \$100,000 consisting of deductible contributions and earnings. Susan can request the IRA custodian to distribute the entire \$100,000 to Sweet Briar. Under prior law, the entire distribution of \$100,000 would have been included in Susan's income. Under the new law, the distribution of \$100,000 is a qualified charitable contribution. As a result, no amount is included in Susan's income and this gift is a completely tax-free gift to Sweet Briar.

### Double the Tax Smart Gift

Susan and Robert Smith have separate IRA's and both of them are 70 and 1/2. Each of them can make a Charitable IRA Rollover gift of 100,000 in 2016 for a total 2016 Charitable IRA Rollover gift of 200,000 dollars.

As always, please consult with your own advisors who alone can advise you whether or not this gift is appropriate in your situation.

### **For More Information:**

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**Do you have questions or comments about The Briar Wire? Please contact Clélie Steckel, editor, at (800) 381-6131.**

## Interim Director of Foundation & Corporate Relations Edie Bowles '74 starts work at Sweet Briar

Edie McRee Bowles '74 has joined the Alumnae Relations and Development team as Interim Director of Foundation and Corporate Relations through June 30, 2016. Edie brings a background in fundraising through grants and contributions from other foundations with a focus in those organizations located in the state of Virginia. Thanks to her experience in fundraising since 1986, Edie will help the College reconnect with long-time friends and foundations who have supported Sweet Briar in the past. She will also be identifying new foundations and grant opportunities that meet the College's priorities, specifically through general operating and budget-relieving support.



Edie is a former member of the Friends of Art Board, former Class Secretary for 1974, co-chair of the Saving Sweet Briar event in Richmond in May of 2015, and is a regional co-chair for the state of Virginia for the Alumnae Alliance. She lives in Richmond, VA with her husband, Aaron, a contemporary landscape painter, and their small, fiercely loyal Cairn terrier, "Maisey."

## Vixen Voices: Shelby Macurak '17 returns to Sweet Briar

The Vixen Voices column includes news about our current students.

Shelby Macurak '17 came back to Sweet Briar this spring semester. One of 17 returning students, Shelby transferred back to Sweet Briar after a semester at Hollins University, which she says was very welcoming but that it just didn't feel right to be there when her heart would always be at Sweet Briar. She originally chose Sweet Briar because it felt like home to her — she loved the small classes, the campus, and being part of such a close community.



Shelby is a Psychology major from Culpeper, Virginia, who plays steel pan in Skiffle, is involved with Sweet Briar Theatre, Paint N Patches, Alpha Psi Omega, Sweet PEAs, and is a graduate of the Leadership Certificate Program.

Shelby's favorite memory at Sweet Briar so far is when she tapped her best friend to be her baby in Paint N Patches. Since coming back, Shelby's decision to come home has only been validated. "I hadn't even returned to campus yet but had other students sending me loving messages and professors reaching out to me. Once making it back to campus, I never felt as though I left. Everything was the same; all the professors were there for me academically and emotionally. I was able to pick up exactly where I left off and I'm finally beginning to feel blissful again."

Welcome home, Shelby!

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## Vixen Athletics Corner

By Neil Brown, Sports Information Director

The Sweet Briar College athletics department is excited to announce the addition of two varsity sports that will begin competition during the 2016 fall semester. Cross country and golf will be added to the existing slate of sports, bringing the total to eight NCAA varsity teams at Sweet Briar.

"Cross country has been a club sport at Sweet Briar College for years and visitors often tell us that we have 'the perfect campus' for a cross-country program," said director of athletics Teresa Boylan. "We believe this to be true, and we look forward to hosting many teams in the future, as well as attracting dedicated cross-country student-athletes to Sweet Briar College."

The home of Sweet Briar golf will be Poplar Grove Golf Course. Poplar Grove is located within two miles of campus and is golf legend Sam Snead's final course design.

"Mr. Frank Murphy, CEO of Poplar Grove, has been extremely supportive of this addition to our athletics program," Boylan said. "Poplar Grove's director of golf and head golf professional Tracy Newman will be the home-

next is **NOW**

course advisor to the SBC golf program as the program gets going this upcoming fall."

Sweet Briar competes in NCAA Division III and as part of the 14-member Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC). Cross country is a fall sport, and Sweet Briar will become the 11th women's team vying for the ODAC Championship in the fall of 2016. The seventh women's program in the ODAC, Vixen golf will play a fall schedule before beginning the traditional season in spring 2017.

"Athletics at Sweet Briar is strong, with a spirit like no other program. I believe this year is a testament to the resilience of our amazing Sweet Briar women, every single one of them. Offering cross country and golf gives us two more teams to fill with more extraordinary scholar-athletes," Boylan said.

The search for head coaches is underway for both programs and we look forward to announcing updates to these programs soon.

### Swimming

The Sweet Briar College swim team concluded its season at the ODAC Championships February 12 through 14 in Greensboro, NC. The Vixens finished in seventh place with 150 pts.

Mary McDevitt broke the school record in the 100-yard breaststroke, posting a time of 1:10.57 during the preliminary round. Olive Eiley initially set the previous mark of 1:10.68 in 2000 and then McDevitt tied the record as a first-year in 2014. The Yulee, FL native finished second in the B-Finals of the 100 breast to mark the highest Vixen finish of the championships.

Senior Lydia Fleck concluded her Sweet Briar career with a third-place finish in the 200-yard butterfly B-Final with a time of 2:29.56 and a fourth-place finish in the 200 free B-Final, with a time of 2:08.03.

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## Alumnae: Life-Long Learning Opportunity

ATTENTION SBC ALUMNAE: We want you to come back to SBC and work on your MAT or your M.Ed.! Campus housing may be available to alumnae coming back to work on their graduate degree! Also, at only \$355 per credit hour, both our MAT (30 credit hours-1 year) and M.Ed. (33 credit hours-2 years) programs are competitively priced. For more information and to apply, please go to our convenient online application: [www.sbc.edu/graduate](http://www.sbc.edu/graduate). Applications for MAT candidates will be accepted until March 1st, applications for M.Ed. candidates will be accepted until April 30th. For all other information, contact Shannon Beasley, Director of Graduate Recruitment-[sbeasley@sbcedu](mailto:sbeasley@sbcedu) or Jim Alouf, Professor of Education, [alouf@sbcedu](mailto:alouf@sbcedu).



## Notes from Indiana

*The Notes from Indiana column gives details from the history of Sweet Briar and the Fletcher and Williams families.*

In 1928, the Board authorized a nationwide campaign to raise \$375,000 for the endowment and \$375,000 for an auditorium and gymnasium. The campaign was divided among groups much like the **Next is NOW** special initiative has been: alumnae, students, Board, faculty, the employees who were descendants of the enslaved founders of the College, friends outside the College, and the waitresses in the dining room set up their own challenge.

According to The Story of Sweet Briar (1956) by Martha Lou Lemmon Stohlman '34, "The alumnae shone." They held 54 social functions in cities across the United States and raised \$5,000 more than their goal of \$100,000.

However, the students raised more than the alumnae did for the campaign. Again, from The Story of Sweet Briar:

With characteristic imaginativeness of students, they employed ingenuity in bringing in nickels and dimes and quarters; they painted cartoons on slickers, cut each other's hair, conducted classes in reducing exercises, and one girl sold a new type of toothbrush invented by her father. Income from these projects and cash gifts from those who could afford them brought more than \$115,000. (pp 162-3)

*The Briar Wire* is produced by the Alumnae Alliance and the staff of the Alumnae House.

Do you have an email address you want to share with us? Do we need to update your information in our database? If so, please give us a call toll-free at (800) 381-6131 or send an email to [alumnae@sbc.edu](mailto:alumnae@sbc.edu).



## Reunion and Sweet Weeks 2016 registration opening soon

During recent meetings on campus, the Class Acts Working Group of the Alumnae Alliance Council met with Alumnae Relations staff to go over plans for Reunion and Sweet Weeks 2016. They discussed event details that progressed plans for Reunion considerably, so the Office of Alumnae Relations & Development expects that registration information will be available in early March. Look for an email with open registration in the coming weeks.

To support **Next is NOW**, visit [sbc.edu/gift](http://sbc.edu/gift) or call the Alumnae Relations & Development Office at (800) 381-6131.