Dear Sweet Briar Alumnae:

As I anticipate my departure from Sweet Briar College after the May 13 commencement, I have been asked what I will miss most when I leave. The answer is easy: I will miss the beautiful campus and the magnificent Sweet Briar House, but most of all I will miss the people of Sweet Briar College.

The opportunity to learn to know our outstanding students and dedicated faculty and staff has been delightful. I have developed many friendships on campus. I shall always stand in awe at the courage, tenacity and sheer grit of the students who returned to the college after the attempted closing and those who enrolled during the past two years knowing how frail we were. Parents trusted us despite the trauma already experienced by their daughters and lingering concerns as to whether we were strong enough to succeed. The faculty—those who remained, those who returned and those who joined us later—all demonstrated a sense of mission, not only to save Sweet Briar College but also to engage in the noble fight to save women’s education and, more broadly, liberal arts education. Yes, liberal arts education is on the line. Years ago it was the very definition of a college education. Today, confronted by a trend towards careerism and narrow job training, we must fight harder to make the case for liberal arts education.

I have also benefited from members of the Sweet Briar College community who are not physically on campus—our extraordinary alumnae. During the last few weeks, as I signed letters soliciting or acknowledging gifts, met with alumnae at receptions or read personal notes from alumnae, I felt such a strong sense of friendship. I now recognize the names of many Sweet Briar Women who have become my friends. Whether you just joined the alumnae ranks after last year’s graduation or will be returning for your sixty-fifth reunion this year, I have loved learning to know you. I consider you my friends. I am truly appreciative of your support for our efforts during the past two years. Many of you have sent notes of encouragement or told me that you appreciated my efforts on behalf of the college. You even provided me good things to eat!

Defying all odds, doing the impossible, the Women of Sweet Briar saved the college. Seeing your heroics, I had no hesitation to join you in this noble effort. There was never a time when I did not believe in the success of our mission, but I knew I would need your strong support. You did not let me down. You generously provided resources; you encouraged and advised us; you organized and supported alumnae events; and you assisted with the recruitment of new students. As an additional expression of your love for the college, you came to campus and weeded flower gardens, painted, and polished.

Like you, I fell in love with Sweet Briar. Like you, I am determined that she will endure in perpetuity. It gives me immense pleasure to think that I might have contributed a small part toward that goal. Please know that I shall never forget what you have done for your college and what you have done for me personally during my time as president. You embraced Cherrill and me as part of this special community and we are grateful.

Without you the college could not have been saved, and without your continued generous support the college cannot endure. Naysayers will tell us—again—that it cannot be done but I know you will do it. You are Sweet Briar Women and for Sweet Briar Women the impossible is just another problem to solve.

Yours truly,

Phillip C. Stone
President
The magazine aims to present interesting, thought-provoking material. Publication of material does not indicate endorsement of the author's viewpoint by the magazine or College. The Sweet Briar College Magazine reserves the right to edit and, when necessary, revise all material that it accepts for publication. Contact us at any time.

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Students plant rose bushes to mark the beginning of Sweet Briar Forever month in March.
Sweet Briar Named ‘Turnaround of the Year’

In an honor that would surprise no one, Sweet Briar was judged “Turnaround of the Year” for 2016 by Education Dive, a Web site focusing on higher education news and analysis.

Sweet Briar offers “hope to small liberal arts colleges across the country” because of its averted closure, the continued alumnau engagement, and strong fundraising efforts—even if it may be “an extreme best-case scenario,” Education Dive wrote.

The college also received high marks in the National Survey of Student Engagement, a survey used by more than 1,600 colleges and universities nationwide to assess educational quality. Students ranked Sweet Briar high for opportunities to interact and conduct research with faculty, as well as chances to participate in campus leadership roles, internships and field experience. They also praised the supportive and inclusive campus environment.

Environmental Science Chair Recognized for Contributions

The Virginia Museum of Natural History chose longtime Sweet Briar professor Linda Fink to receive the Thomas Jefferson Medal for Outstanding Contributions to Natural Science Education.

Fink, who is the McConnell Duberg Professor of Ecology and chair of the Environmental Sciences Department, was praised for her “illustrious career of over twenty-five years at Sweet Briar College, where she has dedicated her time inspiring her students with creative and original teaching perspectives that instill curiosity and appreciation for the natural world.”

Fink was “delighted” to accept the honor. “As a field biologist at a liberal arts college on 3,250 rural acres, I have one of the best jobs in Virginia: to encourage young people to care about the natural world,” she said. “I spend rainy March nights counting salamanders, and breezy September afternoons catching monarch butterflies.”

Student Writers Expand Sweet Briar’s Literary Tradition

In a room in Reid Pitt, a group of students gathers once a week to revive and grow a creative writing tradition at Sweet Briar. Last year, they brought back the college’s Red Clay literary magazine. This year, they’re working on ways to engage the whole campus. That includes bringing speakers to campus and hosting “Poetry and Pie” sessions where students and faculty read aloud their favorite poems and enjoy pie from the beloved Woodruff’s Café.

“We’ve extended our mission, spreading it to the wider community, so that even if they don’t submit for the magazine they can get involved;” says Ally Young, who leads the Red Clay group.

Young is particularly excited about a set of Wednesday evening writing workshops that use poetry to probe politics on campus. With tensions high after the last fall’s election, students read several poems—including Maya Angelou’s “Still I Rise” and Walt Whitman’s “I Hear America Singing”—and used them as writing prompts to express their feelings. Further sessions will help students deal with the consequences of today’s politics.

“It’s a trying time emotionally,” says Young, a senior from Brooklyn. “Writing is very therapeutic.”

In the fall, the group organized the first of its Browsing Room Reading Series with the poet and essayist Natasha Oladukon, who works at the Virginia Quarterly Review; the series features the work of young writers in the area or Fellows at the Virginia Center for Creative Arts across Route 29. A second young VCCA Fellow, journalist and fiction writer Lulu Miller, joined the group in the spring. Both sessions drew robust audiences.

The students on the Red Clay staff have also redecorated the newly renovated offices in Reed Pitt, where they have a suite of two rooms, including a satellite library location for back issues of literary magazines and a large selection of journals for reading and browsing. Karol Lawson, director of the College’s art collection and galleries and the Sweet Briar Museum and visiting assistant professor in the arts management, helped the group select several pieces from the college’s decorative arts collection for the walls, including work by alumnae.

The spring brought a joint reading with students from Lynchburg and Randolph colleges and a visit to the Virginia Arts of the Book Center for Charlottesville for a hands-on session with printmaker and book designer Josef Beery. That helped them prepare for the spring edition of Red Clay, work that included gathering submissions, assigning editing task and working out printing schedules.

Chang Turns Research into Book on Central Asia
After two decades of excavation and four years of writing, anthropology professor Claudia Chang is preparing to publish a book on the Iron-Age denizens of central Asia.

Her book, *Rethinking Prehistoric Central Asia: Shepherds, Farmers, and Nomads*, will question the myth that the people living in parts of what is now Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan were chiefly horse-riding nomads.

“They were actually growing wheat, barley and millet, and in our region of Southeastern Kazakhstan, they were actually living in sedentary settlements,” Chang says.

How does she know? Digs have found carbonized remains of the grains, as well as foundations for simple houses and evidence of burial grounds reflecting nomadic symbols. Her excavations and further research also revealed evidence of animal husbandry and a nomadic system of hierarchy.

Central Asia and southeastern Kazakhstan were along the Silk Road trade route. The ancient herders and farmers occupied the territory between the Persian Empire and Greek influence to west and the Chinese Dynasties to the east. Chang explores the period between 400 BC until the BC/AD divide, at the beginning of the official opening of the Silk Route by Chinese envoys.

Her research took years of cooperation with Russian and Kazakh colleagues, grants from the National Science Foundation, the National Geographic Society, the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

At least 10 Sweet Briar students worked on the digs and surveys from 1998 to 2015. Conditions were challenging, Chang recalls, with students living in tents, sifting through soil, navigating the occasional flood and experiencing a post-Soviet culture.

For her book, Chang brought together the physical evidence she found, along with the historic and ethnographic information on nomadic societies such as the Mongols and Kazakhs from the region. Chang’s book will be published in the fall by Routledge Press.
Second Time Around for Engineering Student

Samantha Jay Schwartz enjoyed her first time at Sweet Briar so much that she came back for seconds. After earning a business management degree in 2013 and working for a few years, the Pennsylvania native decided she wanted to finish an engineering degree.

Schwartz, 26, began classes in the fall of 2016 and expects to graduate again in 2018. In the meantime, she’s got an internship with BWXT in Lynchburg, which is the leading supplier of nuclear components and fuel to the U.S. government. She hopes to make a career in the defense industry.

So what’s it like coming back to campus? “I love being back, the energy is so positive right now,” Schwartz says. She misses playing sports, so she volunteers as an assistant coach for the lacrosse team.

She found the engineering department intact, despite the ups and downs of the past two years. She had taken an engineering class her first time at Sweet Briar to fulfill a lab requirement and found that she liked it. This spring, she’s taking a mechatronics class, which involves designing systems by integrating mechanical, electrical and control systems engineering.

Before returning to Sweet Briar, Schwartz took a few classes at the University of Virginia. “I didn’t like the atmosphere. It wasn’t a place where I would succeed,” she says. “I like the smaller class sizes. I like the ability to have one-on-one time with my professors.”

In September, Schwartz was awarded the Alumna Daughter-Legacy Scholarship. Her sister, Torrey, graduated in 2015.

4 Alumnae Tapped for Hall of Fame

Four alumnae have been named to Sweet Briar’s Athletics and Riding Hall of Fame, honored for their achievement at Sweet Briar, their professional accomplishments and their ongoing support for the college.

They are: Missy Ackerman ’87, a standout field hockey and lacrosse player who went on to coach at Sweet Briar; Sally Old Kitchin ’76, a tennis player who has consistently supported the college and athletics programs in the years since her graduation; Elizabeth “Keedie” Grones Leonard ’76, a talented rider who spent 20 years on the riding staff after graduating; and Makanah Dunham Morriss ’66, an avid rider who was a leader in the riding program as a student and has continued that leadership as an alumna.

Their induction ceremony came amid a busy weekend in early April that also included the 90th Annual Horse Show, the lacrosse alumnas game, the Friends of Athletics golf outing, two home tennis matches, and a home softball doubleheader.

Alumna Receives Lifetime Award as Equestrian Coach

The Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association has announced that Sweet Briar alumna Margaret “Peggy” McElveen will become the 24th recipient of the IHSA Lifetime Achievement Award. McElveen, who graduated from the College in 1971, is director of equestrian studies at St. Andrews University in Laurinburg, N.C.

The honor, which the IHSA has awarded since 1993 to “recognize the long-standing commitment of its college and university coaches,” was presented during the 45th IHSA National Championships, May 4-7, at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington.

In making the announcement, the IHSA called McElveen “one of the most popular equestrian team coaches in Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association (IHSA) history.” She is being recognized for her service and contributions to college riding and the horse industry.

For McElveen, the award is affirmation of a career in service to equestrian sports and horsemanship.

“I was very surprised and just extremely grateful,” McElveen said of receiving the honor. “That kind of recognition from colleagues you’ve looked up to for years is overwhelming.”

As director of the equestrian program at St. Andrews, McElveen oversees everything from coaching and recruiting riders to looking at prospective donation horses, according to the announcement. She also is a faculty member, teaching equine studies.
On a day in late February, Sweet Briar’s engineering community buzzed with activity: In a classroom in Guion, high school students created mechanical devices out of a random array of objects, part of a special program designed to introduce girls to engineering concepts. At lunch in Prothro, engineering majors talked with representatives from Google about the future of women in the field. And at a dinner in the Upchurch Field House, Google’s lead software engineer, Antoine Picard, spoke to about 250 people gathered from across central Virginia for the National Engineers Week lecture.

“Be passionate about something,” Picard told the audience. “It doesn’t matter what topic you pick. You can find someone who is very passionate about it.”

The visit from Google representatives comes as the college is building a relationship with the Silicon Valley company. Like Sweet Briar, Google is intent on bringing more diversity to the engineering workforce. The company plans to provide a pipeline of internships and training for Sweet Briar students.

“We have been just delighted that they see the value of a women’s liberal arts college that has an engineering program, and they want us to be stronger,” President Phillip C. Stone said.
On the day in June 2015 when the court declared Sweet Briar officially saved, Philip C. Stone stood on the steps of the Bedford County Courthouse and made a bold statement: “We are not in this for just a year,” he told reporters. “I see this as a transition to the next 114 years of life at Sweet Briar, and I’m committed that our best years are still ahead.”

Nearly two years later, as Stone prepares to step down as president, he leaves the campus well on its way toward achieving that vision: Enrollment is increasing steadily. Finances have stabilized, with the latest audit showing the College with no material weaknesses, no spending from the endowment and, for the first time in many years, a small surplus. Faculty and administrators are working to expand the curriculum with plans for a revived computer science major awaiting reaccreditation by SACS and new master’s programs.

And alumnae are more engaged than ever, not only contributing money but helping to recruit new students and network with graduates.

“I do not believe any other person could have guided us with the steady, loving hand that Phil Stone openly stretched out to our community,” says Marcia Thom-Kaley, an assistant music professor who helped restart admissions in the year after the closure attempt. “He got the boat back in the water, calmed us down and assured us that the ‘impossible was just another problem to solve!’”

In May, Stone will turn over the keys to Sweet Briar House to the college’s 13th president: Meredith Woo, a former University of Virginia dean with a firm commitment to liberal arts education. Woo will work with faculty and board members to develop the vision that will sustain the College in the decades ahead. But Stone’s contribution will never be forgotten.

“Phil Stone was the right leader for the right time,” says Teresa Tomlinson ’87, chairman of the board of directors. “The fact that he is eminently respected throughout Virginia and higher education signaled to the world that reviving and retooling Sweet Briar College was not a fool’s errand but a legitimate and worthy endeavor. We cannot undervalue that in our trek to put Sweet Briar back on track and to make it better than ever before.”

Stone was no stranger to Sweet Briar when he was approached to lead the College out of the chaos from the attempted closure. As a retired president of Bridgewater College, near Harrisonburg, he had gotten to know Sweet Briar through its leaders and athletic competitions. “I had a really good perception of Sweet Briar,” he recalls. “I thought it was an excellent school, which added to my shock at the closing attempt.”

When he arrived on campus, he was disappointed to find some signs of neglect, not only in the physical plant but also with the electronic systems needed to manage administrative data. Programs and systems were not fully used and very much out of date. “There had not been enough loving, attentive care to this college for a long time,” he says.
Sarah Clement ’75

Saving Sweet Briar, Inc. Chair,
Alumnae Alliance Council Member

I first met Phil outside the courthouse in Bedford on the morning the settlement keeping the college open was going to be entered into the record. I was standing on the sidewalk when I saw a distinguished, handsome gentleman approach, and something told me this might be our new president. I asked if he was Phil Stone; he answered that he was. I embraced him in a big hug and told him that NOW no Stone had been left unturned. I thanked him from the bottom of my heart for his willingness to step in at this critical moment for Sweet Briar.

I saw Marcia Thom-Kaley walking up just then, and introduced her to Phil. Marcia had her typical operatic reaction, wrapped her arms around him, screamed, and burst into tears. It was perfect. Phil took all this in stride and with a big smile. He shook hands with everyone, and I ushered him into the courthouse, knowing beyond doubt that we were in excellent hands.

Marcia Thom-Kaley

Assistant Professor of Music

One morning, I believe it was July 3, 2015, as I was driving on to campus to head into the Admissions Office, I noticed a gentleman in a suit with a briefcase. It was odd for about 10 seconds because I did not recognize him! Then, just as the story has been told, I slammed my car into park (with it still running), leapt out (with the door still open) and said, “You’re Phil Stone!” He kindly responded, “I think so!” Yes, I threw my arms around him and said, “WE ARE SO GLAD YOU ARE HERE—thank you!” The rest is history!
The professors who remained, however, stood ready to help him. “When the faculty executive committee comes in to introduce themselves, they bring me a list of the faculty members who are staying, the faculty members who are leaving who I might be able to call and turn around, adjuncts we can use to plug holes—what a gift,” he recalls. “They didn’t have a duty to do that, but they loved their college, and they wanted me to be successful. I’ll always be grateful for that.”

Once the College had reopened on schedule, Stone set about the hard work of reassuring supporters and raising money. In what was dubbed the “Rolling Stone” tour, the president crisscrossed the country in his trademark pink-and-green tie, attending alumnae gatherings, meeting with donors one-on-one, talking to philanthropic backers. The work continues: Stone estimates he is on the road three days a week representing Sweet Briar and sharing the news of its renaissance.

“If we can show that women’s education can be done in such a special way at Sweet Briar, including some master’s programs just for women, I really think we can create a niche. It’s going to take some time. It’s going to take some hard work. But it gives us a vision to aspire to that I think generates some passion and energy.”

His vision, he tells anyone who will listen, is to make Sweet Briar the leading women’s college in the nation. He believes the ingredients are all here: a beautiful campus, a certain cachet to its name, a strong curriculum and faculty, and an accomplished, empowered corps of alumnae. The best evidence of the alumnae strength, he says, comes in the successful effort to rescue the college.

“No other women’s college, no other college can really have a story like that,” he says. “It not only shows heroic effort

PAM DEWEENE
Dean of Academics, Spanish professor
It had been a difficult spring and early summer, to say the least, but on July 23, I was in our new president’s office and Phil Stone was asking me to talk about the person I had nominated to be dean. Sitting across from President Stone, I recognized immediately that the man in front of me knew all he needed to know to help us through the most difficult moment in the College’s history. He listened to me as I extolled the many virtues of my esteemed colleague and then looked at me and said, “He sounds wonderful, but I think you should do it.”

When I recovered from the shock, at least I had the presence of mind to ask pertinent questions, and primary among them was when he needed an answer. With over 2,000 e-mails sitting on his computer desktop, of course he said the sooner the better. That evening I let him know I was on board. How can anyone say “no” to Phil Stone? Anyone who has ever worked with him would, I feel sure, say the same things: he is an amazing leader, mentor, decision maker and human being.
Teresa Tomlinson ’87
Chairman of the Board of Directors

I have so many wonderful memories of Phil. One that perhaps no one else got to experience is when he told me that it was time to start to look for a new president for Sweet Briar. Phil is wildly popular and so adept at what he does that no one would have suggested a change in leadership. So, the fact that it came from Phil was really quite remarkable. He intuitively knew we could get a good pool of candidates, and he selflessly knew it was the right time to make that switch. You just cannot say enough about that strength of leadership.

Teresa Boylan
Athletic Director

I had taken a job at Hollins. . . . The soccer coach at Hollins came in and said, “Sweet Briar just called to schedule a game.” On July 12, I met with President Stone. A few minutes with the man, I was sold.

Words of support of athletics and the importance of athletics on a college campus and the different type of education that student-athletes get on the playing field or in the pool with their coaches, with their teammates, the leadership opportunities, the growth and camaraderie that you have on the team, he felt was very worthwhile. That was really music to my ears, because I had been here a long time and really hadn’t seen the support come from the president’s office down to athletics.

And success. It also really makes the case for Sweet Briar, because in order to do this you had to have passion, you had to have energy, you had to have commitment, you had to have skill. And you had to have leadership ability. It’s just an extraordinary case study in what Sweet Briar did in preparing women for life and leadership.

All that work might have fallen flat if not for Stone, says Sarah Clement ’75, who chaired Saving Sweet Briar, Inc. and now sits on the Alumnae Alliance Council.

“All that we had miraculously accomplished up to that time, culminating in the settlement installing critically needed new leadership, would have been for nothing without Phil’s courage, wisdom, enthusiasm, insight and leadership,” she says.

As Stone prepares to step down after graduation, he says he will miss the faculty when he leaves. He will miss the students, their traditions and their energy. “I’ll also miss the campus. I’m in Sweet Briar House. I’ll miss the house and walking the dairy loop, just the atmosphere, the sense of the community.

“People have been so kind to me,” he adds. “I’ve stayed in alumnae homes, been to their luncheons and teas and receptions, and I have been met with kindness and politeness and enthusiasm.”

One of the most special moments, he says, came at the graduation ceremony for the Class of 2016.

“I had probably a dozen parents come up to me, some of them tearful, and say, ‘Thank you for letting my daughter graduate from Sweet Briar.’ That was really touching. I told them, ‘You’re to be thanked. You trusted Sweet Briar when we were at our most vulnerable, when we were on the cusp of losing. . . . What an extraordinary investment.’ That is a memory that will always stand out for me.”
Like many who choose to attend Sweet Briar, Georgia Clickner fell in love on the driveway. “I just knew I had to go there,” she asserts. A few months after, the 8-year-old met President Stone on campus, leading her to make him the subject of her “famous person” essay for school. She later recopied the essay, drawing pink roses all around the page, and sent it to Stone as a Christmas present. He immediately replied with an effusive, handwritten thank-you note, which of course to her felt like getting personal mail from a rock star.

A year later, a Christmas card from Stone arrived for Georgia. In it, he told her the essay she sent him the previous year was one of his treasures and he wanted to thank her again. Truly touched by this, Georgia announced she was making him another Christmas present—two actually—a tiny clay fox and a pop-up card featuring Stone as a fox in the President’s Office. She received another prompt thank you and this note: “When you arrive at Sweet Briar as a student, show this to the president and tell her you are a friend of mine!”

PHILLIP C. STONE
President of Sweet Briar

At Christmas, after the students went home, and the faculty and staff were about to finish for the holidays, I decided that before I leave Sweet Briar, instead of just walking through those formal parlors of Indiana Williams’ and having receptions, I’m going to be a resident of the parlors.

And so, I got my CD box out, and I got the CD Christmas record of the Sweet Briar choir, and I got down there with a bottle of Merlot, and the lights and the decorations and the portrait of Indiana over one shoulder, looking at Daisy across the way, reading a book on Greek history because that’s what Meta Glass would have enjoyed me doing.

And I put on my jacket, because I didn’t think it was appropriate to be in Indiana’s presence without my jacket. I was the only person in this 20-room house, but I wore my jacket.

The point I want to make is there’s so much to experience and to appreciate here at Sweet Briar, and I was not going to get out of here without at least capturing that moment for myself.
We all need to be rowing in the same direction, especially in the critical years ahead.

Meredith Woo wasn’t looking for a job when Sweet Briar came calling. She was a tenured professor at the University of Virginia. While on leave, she was in London directing on behalf of the Open Society Foundations an extensive global higher education effort, particularly in the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and Africa.

“But the opportunity to lead Sweet Briar at this historical moment, and make a difference, was attractive,” says Woo, who will become the College’s 13th president on May 15. “Sweet Briar is an important women’s college and always occupied an interesting niche in American higher education. That legacy is an important basis on which to build Sweet Briar’s future.”

Woo, a Korean-born, U.S.-educated academic, comes to Sweet Briar after years in higher education, including work at the University of Michigan, Columbia and Northwestern. As a dean at UVa, she led the university’s liberal arts college, which has 11,000 undergraduates, 1,600 graduate students, and 800 full-time faculty members.

In her six years there, she restructured graduate programs, expanding on-line and international learning, and created a multi-year financial plan that helped navigate the college through sizeable state cuts. She also expanded fundraising: Before she arrived, her college was raising less than $10 million a year. In her final year there, the total was $62.2 million.

For the past two years, she has sat on the other side of fundraising, giving away money to universities in her work for Open Society Foundations. “So I know that there is far more money chasing after good ideas, than good ideas chasing after money,” she relates. “Also, of course, fundraising must be a team sport involving the faculty and their ideas.”

A graduate of another small liberal arts college, Bowdoin in Maine, Woo appreciates the value of the education Sweet Briar provides. “Within a few years of graduation, the rates of employment between liberal arts graduates and others with ‘more marketable degrees’ will look the same,” she says. “A good liberal arts education provides students with relevant skills for employment—it teaches logic, critical thinking, effective expression, and a host of other skills that are important in all walks of life.”

And as a mother, she enjoys engaging in the lives of students. “I am passionate about young people. I am endlessly curious about the way they think about themselves, their problems and prospects in life. I admire their openness to ideas and cultures and music—and their innocence.” Her son Ben recently graduated from Bowdoin. “I feel like connecting with young people keeps me connected to him,” Woo says.

She doesn’t mention any specific plans for Sweet Briar, saying that should wait until she has her “feet on the campus.” Woo arrived in early April and plans to spend several weeks working alongside outgoing president Phillip C. Stone as she gets to know faculty and students.

After her six years at UVa, “I consider myself a Virginian, if not by birth then by choice,” Woo says. She has already scouted out her new home and likes what she sees. “I like to cook,” she says. “I was thrilled to note that Sweet Briar House has a Wolfe cooking range. I will certainly make good use of it.”
Woo is clear about what she sees as the key to the college's future: “We should be focused on academic distinction and stand ready to take the lead in important debates on issues of the day facing women. Greater global visibility and prestige should flow naturally from that. But we have a lot of hard work to do both to revive Sweet Briar and make it flourish.”

She acknowledges the job won’t be easy. “It may be one of the toughest posts in American higher education,” she says. “We can all love and respect Sweet Briar and what it has always stood for, but we need to roll up our sleeves and get to work.”

Alumnae are an essential part of that future, Woo believes. "The alumnae at Sweet Briar wrote an important chapter in American higher education. Instead of being passive bystanders, they grabbed the bull by the horns and rescued their college. One of the main reasons I took this job was the sterling example of some very capable women pitching in to reopen Sweet Briar.”

She intends to work closely with them going forward. “I think of college presidency as a contact sport, so I will be visiting with as many alumnae as possible.”

She also urges students, faculty and alumnae to reach out to her with ideas. “Please do not hesitate to tell me what I need to know about Sweet Briar,” she says. “It may be a small college but it is not a simple one. Tell me also your aspirations for Sweet Briar. We all need to be rowing in the same direction, especially in the critical years ahead.”

“Fundraising must be a team sport involving the faculty and their ideas.”

“I am passionate about young people. I am endlessly curious about the way they think about themselves, their problems and prospects in life. I admire their openness to ideas and cultures and music—and their innocence.”

“...we have a lot of hard work to do both to revive Sweet Briar and make it flourish.”
The Class Challenges are well underway! To promote the importance of giving to the Sweet Briar Fund each year, classes are once again competing against each other for the titles of highest participation and highest giving within each decade.

Like last year, all classes are competing for the decade awards and Reunion classes are competing for the five traditional awards, which were awarded in a near sweep in 2016:

**2016 REUNION CLASS AWARDS**

**The Nancy Dowd Burton ’46 Award** for largest Annual Gift by a Reunion Class
- Class of 1966, celebrating their 50th Reunion

**The Centennial Award** for the largest gift to all funds for 5 years by a Reunion Class
- Class of 1966, celebrating their 50th Reunion

**The Nancy Godwin Baldwin ’57 Award** recognizing the class with the highest percentage of attendance at Reunion
- Class of 1966, celebrating their 50th Reunion

**Reunion Participation Award** for Classes Celebrating their 25th–50th Reunions
- Class of 1966, celebrating their 50th Reunion

**Reunion Participation Award** for Classes Celebrating their 5th–20th Reunions
- Class of 1996, celebrating their 20th Reunion

While current giving statistics will be announced at Reunion Convocation, classes have until June 30, 2017 to compete for these awards.

**2016 DECADE PARTICIPATION AWARDS**

- 1930s—Class of 1938
- 1940s—Class of 1944
- 1950s—Class of 1955
- 1960s—Class of 1966 (highest among all classes and among Reunion classes)
- 1970s—Class of 1975 (highest among non-Reunion classes)
- 1980s—Class of 1986
- 1990s—Class of 1993
- 2000s—Class of 2006
- 2010s—Class of 2010

Class Challenges

Who Will Win in 2017?

4 Classes each gave over $1,000,000
- CLASS OF 1960
- CLASS OF 1966
- CLASS OF 1972
- CLASS OF 1975
Please find current giving statistics listed below. You can stay up to date on class giving statistics at sbc.edu/alumnae-development/class-giving-statistics/.

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Data reported on April 21, 2017.
As part of our efforts to return Sweet Briar to a position of financial strength, the College set a goal to raise $20 million in unrestricted funds by June 30, 2017. These funds will allow Sweet Briar to support its students, faculty, and its culturally significant built and natural environment. Because this is the largest single-year fundraising goal in the College’s 116-year history, some skeptics might find it a daunting objective. If we learned nothing else from our recent history, we have proved that as a united community with a common goal, we can do anything we set out to accomplish. Our collective consciousness is focused like a laser on our $20 million goal. As of March 30, alumnae and friends of the College have already contributed more than $8.6 million in gifts and pledges.

There is great excitement on campus and around the globe about the announcement of Dr. Meredith Woo as Sweet Briar’s 13th president. She will take the reins from President Phillip C. Stone on May 15, after President Stone presides over the graduation of the Class of 2017. Under President Stone’s leadership, Sweet Briar is now on sound financial footing, ready for the next chapter, and the College celebrates another a graduation that was not supposed to happen.

Understanding that no challenge is too great for Sweet Briar women and supporters, we announced the Phillip C. Stone Legacy Challenge on March 30 to honor his extraordinary leadership. This challenge was established through the generosity of a small group of donors who each gave $250,000 and above to serve as a salute to President Stone for helping to rescue our college when we needed him most. This group of leadership donors has committed a total of $5 million in gifts and pledges to the Phillip C. Stone Legacy Challenge. These loyal alumnae and friends of the College challenge fellow supporters to raise another $5 million by June 30, 2017, when we will honor President Stone at Reunion.

When we committed to save Sweet Briar, our alumnae and friends knew that the first few years would require heavy lifting from everyone involved—we are still rebuilding enrollment and recovering the costs of the closing effort. Generous, even sacrificial, philanthropy is critical to restoring the financial strength of the College. The most enduring gift we can give President Stone as he departs Sweet Briar is our continued commitment to ensuring the College thrives in perpetuity.

We commit to this college, now and forever.
We can ALL make a difference as to its future.
We know we can count on you to help.
You make the difference.

Support the Phillip C. Stone Legacy Challenge now by making a gift at sbc.edu/give.
When Sweet Briar won a contest to bring star singer-songwriter Rachel Platten to campus last spring, the College got more than a concert with the “Fight Song” singer. The contest came with a $10,000 Chegg David B. Goldberg Music Grant.

That has allowed the music department to open an electroacoustic studio for music composition, complete with a computer, microphones speakers and the latest software.

This spring, 11 honors students used the lab in Babcock for a sound design class with assistant professor of music and composer Josh Harris. “Some of them used it to compose music, but only a couple of them are musicians,” Harris says.

One student's midterm project captured the soundscape of a soccer game—the key rattling in the ignition, the car starting, the cheers from the crowd—all without going to an actual game. Another reflected the gist of a Spanish novel with words, piano music, a xylophone and beeping sounds.

Learning the technical skills needed for sound design in video gaming, television or movies is one of the studio’s practical applications, Harris says, as well as how to use professional recording software. Moreover, most music composition today is done with the aid of computers, he says.

The studio also allows Sweet Briar to expand its BLUR curriculum. BLUR, the Blue Ridge Summer Institute for Young Artists, is a summer arts camp for high school students offering tracks in studio art, creative writing and now sound design and composition.

“This isn’t the College’s first use of synthesizers and other technology in the music program, but it moves forward a goal of the department—and part of the reason Harris was hired in 2014—to reestablish strength in both composition and music technology.

Harris says he had been planning to ask the Development Office for help in raising money for the equipment when the grant came through.

Women may be underrepresented among composers, but there are many fine examples students can look to, including pioneers in the electroacoustic field such as Laurie Spiegel. Harris also notes there’s a tradition of using computers to synthesize audio to make “art music” dating back to the 1950s—though you might not immediately recognize it as music.

“Sometimes it’s described as beeps and squawks. But it gets you to think about sound in an abstract and essential way,” he says. “I think it makes you a better composer. Even if you’re composing with acoustic instruments, and even if you want to write for piano or string quartet, understanding and being able to work with the building blocks of sound changes the way you think about composing.”

That Sweet Briar is also launching a computer science program—pending approval by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges—has Harris doubly excited. He can see himself and his students working with colleagues in the computer science and engineering programs.

“Once you turn sound or anything into ones and zeros, you can do anything with it,” he says. “You can make a robot walk, you can make video, you can make sound, so there are a lot of opportunities for cross-disciplinary collaboration.”
Fort Myers

Triangle

Sweet Briar

Charlotte

Roanoke

Milwaukee

New York
Across the country—and as far away as Paris—two dozen alumnae clubs came together in January to mark Sweet Briar Day. They gathered in art museums, auction houses and living rooms. They drew graduates, parents, students and young women applying for admission as they celebrated the College’s revival.
Developing portfolios for a class with National Geographic photographer Medford Taylor, Sweet Briar students didn’t have to go far to find their subjects. Horses, sports teams, and everyday objects provided inspiration.
Jessie Melrose was drawn to Sweet Briar for its riding program, but the athletic department noticed something else in her background: a year of cross country in high school.

So they recruited her for the cross country team in the fall, then persuaded her to play lacrosse in the spring.

"I love sports," says Jessie, a first-year student from Virginia Beach. "It keeps me busy. It's kind of a nice break from schoolwork. And it's nice having another group of people you can go to with problems."

As Sweet Briar builds back its student body, student athletes are taking on more sports and more responsibility to ensure the College remains competitive whether on the playing field, on the tennis court, or in the pool.

"If it wasn't their main sport, they were probably playing out of position," says Athletic Director Teresa Boylan. "To jump in and play on a team when you know you're down in roster numbers or to come into a team where you've never played before, that's difficult. That's a challenge."

Boylan, who first came to Sweet Briar in 2008, left after the closing was announced for a job at Hollins. But she returned in July 2015 when the College was saved.

"I started calling coaches back to see where they were," she recalls. "I and a couple of the other coaches called our teams, student athletes, just bringing the band back together so to speak."

When we talked to students we asked them to do more. "We'd tell them, 'I know you're a lacrosse player, but we need you to play a second sport. Can you consider playing field hockey? Can you consider playing soccer?'"

Molly Van Buren was a senior in the fall of 2015 ready to play her fourth year of field hockey. But the team had lost many of its key players. So some softball and lacrosse players crossed over to play field hockey, and a couple of freshman players joined the team.

"The players who had previously been on the team helped the new players learn the game," Molly recalls. "Since everyone was athletically inclined, they picked up the rules and movements pretty quickly, and because the athletic department is so supportive of each team, we had already known all the people joining from other teams."

The same thing happened when swimming season started. "We had one new swimmer who hadn't swam since she was 11 years old," Molly says. "She put in the time and effort to improve her strokes and work on her turns, and while she wasn't as comfortable in the water as the rest of us she was there early every day to get ready. The team welcomed her and we all helped her with things if she asked, and she improved tremendously by the end of the year."

Alumnae also helped: attending games and providing treats and other support for athletes. Tracy Stuart ’93 volunteered as an assistant field hockey coach.

"The alumnae support was just off the charts, nothing I'd ever seen before," Boylan says. "The reconnection with alumnae and faculty and staff was positive."

In the fall, Jessie Melrose estimates she spent two hours a day, five days a week on cross country practice, as well as riding three times a week, for two hours each morning with the Intercollegiate Horse.
Show Association team. Lacrosse practice fills up two hours, six days a week.

"I'd never played lacrosse," she says. "I think in terms of soccer when I'm playing lacrosse, but there are so many different rules."

Elizabeth Phaup, a junior transfer student from Amherst, also finds her soccer background helps her understand the basic rhythm of lacrosse. Still there were some differences. "I'm not used to setting up a play," she says, explaining that the lacrosse players storm down the field, then rotate the ball among their teammates before shooting at the goal.

Elizabeth, whose mother works in the College's admissions office, says part of the Sweet Briar's appeal was the chance to play sports. "I was never one of those amazing athletes," she acknowledges.

Boylan says she stresses that opportunity to play when she recruits new students. She also tells them that women's sports won't be overshadowed at Sweet Briar, like they are on some co-ed campuses.

"We are the main attraction," she says. "We are the players, we are the cheerleaders of each sport. We don't have to share our facilities with anyone."

Sports also become an invaluable part of the college experience for student athletes, says Molly, who is now living in England, pursuing a master's in forensic science.

"The teams become your family, after hours of practice and bus rides and games," she says. "I wouldn't have changed my experiences for anything and both teams made my time at Sweet Briar even better than it already was."
Jill Steenhuis Ruffato ’80 is an artist who has lived for 37 years in Aix-en-Provence in France. Her work is part of the permanent collections of several museums, and she has sold more than 3,000 paintings.

Why She Decided to Move Overseas: I came here for a summer art program at a school, The Marchutz School of Painting and Drawing, that teaches in the tradition of Cézanne. I was only planning to go for six weeks, that’s the big catch. But my plans changed radically after I got here, when destiny took hold. I already had a job lined up back home as a stockbroker. But I fell in love with painting and drawing—and with a young man I met here.

How She Broke It to Her Dad: On the day I was supposed to leave, on August 9, 1980, I was already packed and my train was to leave at noon, and my job was waiting for me at Wheat First Securities, and my family was waiting for me in Atlanta. I’d said goodbye to Serge, thinking I would never see him again. At 11 a.m. I got the guts to call my father and I told him, “Daddy, I just love being here, and I’m learning so much.” I asked to stay for the whole year.

“Well, Jill, it’s your life; it’s your decision,” he told me. I could have easily just gotten on the train to go to Paris and on the plane to go home, out of a sense of duty. But I had the courage to ask. That decision changed my life. [She and Serge are now married, living in a rustic farmhouse outside of Aix.]

How Sweet Briar Prepared Her: Sweet Briar gave me the courage to do this. Back then, everybody was saying you have to have a back-up plan, you should work first and make some money. You don’t want to be a starving artist. I went my own way. And I’ve been living uniquely on the income of my art since 1985. I see the difference with my women friends who are artists and went to public universities. No one was standing behind them. No one was cheering them on.

On the Value of Sweet Briar Connections: There are two things you need to make your career work as an artist: You need quality work, and you need people to buy it. Since 1985, I’ve kept up with every person who bought my paintings. I make sure they know about my tours, my workshops, my books, my new Web site. When I was getting started, it was my Sweet Briar friends who helped me. Francie Root ’80 set up a show in New York City. Myth Monnich Bayoud ’80 helped me in Dallas. Nan Dabbs Loftin ’81 and Allison Roberts Greene ’81 came up with the idea of using my shows as fundraisers for Sweet Briar. That’s the model I use now, fundraisers for nonprofits. I rarely do gallery shows.

In this increasingly flat world, Sweet Briar’s connections extend across the globe.
Rebecca Dalley '14 lives in Buttermere in England’s Lake District, where she works at a hotel and spends a lot of time with sheep and sheep dogs.

**Why She Moved Overseas:** My parents are both British citizens, though I went to high school in the States. About the time I was graduating from Sweet Briar, they decided to move to the Lake District. I didn’t get into vet school, so I thought I could do that here. My parents and I have always moved around quite a bit, and it’s sort of in my blood. I got to move to my favorite vacation spot.

**What She Does in Buttermere:** I work as a receptionist and in the bar of the Bridge Hotel. Right now I’m taking a month off to work with the farmers here and help with the lambing. I go out all day and look for sheep that are having trouble. Sometimes, if it’s a difficult birth, you have to put your hands in there and pull the first one out. They just get stuck without human intervention.

**The Beatrix Potter Connection:** There are lots of sheep in Buttermere. Herdwick sheep, they’re famous. Beatrix Potter, who wrote *Peter Rabbit*, was really well known for actually conserving the breed. It’s what inspired her stories, the people and the landscape.

**What Sweet Briar Taught Her:** I majored in biology and chemistry. The plan has always been to become a vet. In the States, I worked at a vet’s office for over a year. So I have experience with cats and dogs and horses, because I worked in the stables at Sweet Briar. But I never worked much with sheep and cattle.

**What Saving Sweet Briar Taught Her:** It’s helped me because if you don’t get there the first time, keep trying. If you think your school is going to close, keep trying. If you don’t get into vet school, keep trying.
Harpreet Bedi ’93 is a lawyer, a hotel manager, a documentary producer among other things. The daughter of an Indian diplomat, she now lives in Singapore with her husband and four children.

**HOW SHE FOUND SWEET BRIAR:** My father was the Indian ambassador to Poland at the time. John Davis was the American ambassador, and he told my parents at a cocktail party that his son was at VMI, and that they must consider Sweet Briar for me. When I heard it was all girls I wasn't sure I wanted to go. But I applied to Sweet Briar and other colleges. It was August, and I still hadn't heard back from any colleges. So I started calling. None of them had received my application. There was a postal strike in Poland, and all the mail being sent to the United States was thrown away.

So when I called Sweet Briar, they were the sweetest, and they said they would still consider my application if I mailed it then. So we drove to West Berlin and mailed my application, and they accepted me. I stayed all four years, and my closest friends from the States are, of course, my girlfriends from Sweet Briar.

**HOW SHE MOVED TO SINGAPORE:** I stayed in the States for a while, I got my law degree at Northeastern University and worked as counsel at Cisco Systems in California. While I was there, my husband started a business. He was one of those dot.com guys. He started People.com, then it got bought out by Monster.com. We decided to move when we wanted to have children. He flew around to six countries. We listed all the things we wanted and all the things we didn’t, and Singapore won out. I quit my job at Cisco, and I was pregnant two weeks after we moved to Singapore.

**HOW SHE CAME TO RUN HOTEL VAGABOND:** Life is not the way you plan it. I never ever thought I’d be general manager of one of our hotels. We have a very big real estate company that I manage. My husband bought hotels in several countries. He thought we should have a hotel in Singapore that was a showcase for art and that had an artist in residence who was accessible to the guests. I stepped into the role as manager, reluctantly, to help out. Now I’m very proud to tell you that we are rated the No. 1 hotel in Singapore.

**WHY SHE MOVED TO SINGAPORE:** I declared last week that I am a feminist, and I won’t apologize for that. It may be that Sweet Briar is responsible. I truly don’t know that I would be this confident as a woman if it weren’t for the amount of one-on-one attention I got at Sweet Briar.

**WHAT SHE OWES TO SWEET BRIAR:** When my daughter was 9 years old, she asked me what it meant to be Sikh. We didn’t know that much about our religion, so we traveled for five years. We filmed in more than just the eight countries we showed. We asked people what God means to them. What was great was to hear people being very liberal, very open minded. Cinema Libre has decided to distribute it in the U.S. Thanks to Trump, because of what’s going on in the States, this movie seems to really be apt.
Susannah Cooper ’95 joined the State Department in 1997 and has worked and lived overseas 15 of the past 20 years, mostly in the Middle East (Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates)—and Jamaica. She and her family are now in Amman, Jordan, where she is the economic counselor at the U.S. embassy.

**How She Got There:** I wanted to work for the State Department since I was in high school. My husband and I studied Arabic and have worked mostly in the Middle East. Coming to Jordan was a great opportunity to serve at the crossroads of so many of our foreign policy priorities: advancing Middle East peace, defeating ISIS, promoting U.S. business opportunities, expanding people-to-people ties.

**What Surprised Her Most:** How much it’s the same! U.S. products and franchises are so popular. A Magnolia Bakery (the NY cupcake company) franchise just opened in Jordan. The language, culture, customs, traffic, and more are all different, but my kids can eat Cheerios wherever we live.

**How Sweet Briar Helped:** I studied International Affairs and Dr. Barbara Perry and Dr. Jeff Key were instrumental in my career success. Dr. Perry supported my application for a Truman Scholarship, which funded my graduate studies, including a year at the American University in Cairo. Their support not only prepared me for a career with State but also helped me feel confident in my career choice.

**How She Stays in Touch:** Social media helps a lot, but I wish I had more time in the U.S. to visit the campus and attend reunions. The alumnae community has become so much more connected over the past few years, and that’s been a great chance to catch up with friends.
Nicole Jeamin Lee ’13 came to Sweet Briar from Korea and has just settled in Beijing with her husband. She works as a part-time researcher and plans to start her own company.

**How She Found Sweet Briar:** One of my dad’s friends who graduated from the University of Virginia encouraged me to visit. During my tour at Sweet Briar, I remember finding myself pleasantly surprised by the opportunities to speak out, ask questions, and engage with professors and classmates in and out of classrooms. It was exactly what I was looking for in a college campus.

**Why She Went Back:** After graduation, I packed away to pursue a master’s degree at Northwestern University. My initial career plans were to move to San Francisco. But only two weeks after moving to San Francisco, I urgently had to travel to Korea for personal reasons. For two years, I lived in Seoul working as a full-time analyst for food marketing, which involved frequent travel to the U.S., Europe, and Asia networking with buyers and manufacturers. After my wedding in December, I moved to Beijing, where my husband has been working.

**How She Keeps Up With Sweet Briar Friends:** Honestly, I was alarmed by the idea of losing touch with friends while traveling and living overseas. But I’ve come to a conclusion that the miles don’t make a difference when they are your sisters from college. We may not be seeing each other as often as we used to, but we’ve expanded our bubble into a global scale. When Jackie Montero ’13 had business trips in Seoul last fall, I had the pleasure of showing her around and indulging in Korean BBQ at one of the finest restaurants in Gangnam. Having sisters around the world makes your friendships richer and flavorful—literally!

**How She Managed Her Wedding:** I wasn’t going to become a “bridezilla,” requesting friends from the States travel all the way to Korea for just one day. I got my dream venue, Vogue-like engagement pictures, and an elegantly tailor-made dress, but it seemed like a bridal shower with my close friends wasn’t likely to happen. However, the day before my wedding ceremony, Connie Kim ’12, A Joo Kim ’14 and Rani Jang ’15 managed to fly in to throw me a quick, surprise bridal shower.
Lorie Teeter Lichtlen ’82, who has lived in Paris since 1983, is a public relations executive for Burson-Marsteller.

WHY SHE MOVED OVERSEAS: When I graduated in 1982, Reagan was president and a huge recession was on. Jobs were scarce. I went to New York and Washington, and applied at different places. I had just graduated magna cum laude, and employers only cared about how fast I could type! It made me think the working conditions might not be great. And Paris, where I’d spent my junior year abroad, seemed a more livable place.

WHY SHE DECIDED TO STAY: I didn’t actually decide to stay, but I have two children who are French citizens and a house in Normandy, so I guess I’m here to stay.

WHAT SHE DOES IN PARIS: I just celebrated my 10th year at Burson-Marsteller, which is the 13th company I’ve worked for since coming to Paris. I arrived on April Fool’s Day 1983 for a six-month internship at Newsweek; then got a job as a news assistant at the Wall Street Journal, and then as a reporter for Women’s Wear Daily. That took me to Hungary with Estée Lauder for three days, among other adventures.

HOW EURO DISNEY SHAPED HER CAREER: I decided to leave journalism for PR, but it had to be for something interesting. So I went to work for Euro Disney. For the grand opening, we had 3,500 journalists on site for four days; They came from literally all over the world. That was a great experience, and Euro Disney was a great school for PR.

WHAT SWEET BRIAR TAUGHT HER: My degree is in international affairs. I wanted to be Secretary of State, so I could travel all over the world. Between journalism and PR, work has taken me to a dozen countries, including Hungary, Turkey, and China. I’ve been to Morocco three times, twice to work on projects for the King of Morocco. Before Burson-Marsteller, I worked in banking and luxury goods. I’ve been in lots of different professional situations. Sweet Briar taught me how to learn and to ask questions. That broad liberal arts education has made me very resilient.

ON BEING AN AMERICAN IN PARIS: Euro Disney was eye-opening, since French people saw it as American cultural imperialism. I’m getting flak again since the U.S. elections. Before, people wondered how we could elect an actor or a peanut farmer. Now they wonder how Trump could win when Hillary got more votes. It makes for animated cocktail party conversation. You find yourself representing your country, whether you mean to or not.
Rachel Bratlie ’99 is a psychiatrist who has lived with her family for the past three years in Hamilton, New Zealand, just south of Auckland.

**Why She Moved Abroad:** A number of doctors who I trained with had worked temporarily in New Zealand, and they all had fantastic things to say about living and working there. My husband and I started thinking about it when I completed my residency training in 2008 but didn’t take the jump until 2014, after I had some work experience in the U.S. and after we’d had our first son.

**What Surprised Her:** On the good side, the work culture in New Zealand is very family friendly and I receive a generous amount of vacation time each year—six weeks—and unlimited sick leave, which I can use for myself or my children. On the not-so-good side, most things here are very expensive, as shipping to New Zealand from anywhere is not so easy.

**How Sweet Briar Helped:** I spent my junior year of Sweet Briar studying at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. It was one of the best years of my life. Having had this experience, I was open-minded to the idea of going abroad again. Adjusting to life in New Zealand was certainly easier because of my experience in Scotland.

**Advice to Americans Moving Abroad:** If you have the inclination and the opportunity, go for it! I firmly believe that my family and I are better for it, in terms of our quality of life and in viewing issues from a global perspective.
Evangeline Taylor ’00 is an assistant cultural affairs officer at the U.S. embassy in Managua, Nicaragua. Traveling with her husband in the Foreign Service, she has lived in Azerbaijan, Russia and Nicaragua in the past seven years.

**How She Decided to Live Overseas:** I always wanted a chance to live and work overseas. Learning about the history of a country and their customs, trying new foods, and meeting new people. Life in the Foreign Service means we will live all over the world—who knows where our next assignment will take us!

**What She Has Learned:** I’m surprised how much I could come to love and appreciate a country I’d never heard of in my youth, Azerbaijan, or how intimidating a city of 12 million people, Moscow, could turn into something familiar and comfortable. On the other hand, I am reminded when I live in other countries, especially those that do not have actual rule of law, how lucky I am to be an American, and to know what it is like to live in a free and wealthy country that has numerous opportunities.

**How She Connects With Sweet Briar Overseas:** While we lived in Azerbaijan, I visited three of my classmates who were living in Germany—Amy Hess Snawder, Susan Bobb and Kim Harden Fella. In Russia, classmate Kim Fella came to see us and we “adopted” study abroad student Taneal Williams ’16 while she was in the prestigious Moscow Theater Art program. When visiting Hungary, my husband and I met with then-U.S. Ambassador Colleen Bradley Bell ’89. The day after we arrived in Nicaragua, Sandra Rappaccioli Padilla ’80 came over to meet us and has introduced me to life here in Managua. The Sweet Briar sisterhood has connected us all over the world.

**How Sweet Briar Prepared Her for the World:** I studied biology and minored in music in college, but now I’m a cultural affairs officer. I started a new career. That’s huge. I come from a background in doing lab research and science. It’s scary at first, but you have to have that confidence. Sweet Briar gives you that confidence.
Slavica Olujić Klapčić ’95 lives in her native Croatia with her husband and their four sons. She and her husband run Katapult, a business focused on tourism, events and conferences in Zagreb.

**How She Found Out About Sweet Briar:**
I spent my senior year in high school as an exchange student in Houston, Texas, living with the best family in the world, the Woodards! Liz Clegg Woodard is also an SBC alum, Class of ’72. She is married to Donald Woodard, who is a W&L alumnus. I heard great stories about their college time and decided to apply.

**What She Liked Best:**
The campus, the facilities, the environment were really enriching. But the best parts were the professors. They have my greatest respect and admiration as intellectuals, as academics, as teachers, as people. The professors were there for us, they treated us like adults, like perceptive young women; they treated us with respect. They believed in us; they gave us confidence.

**What She Does in Zagreb:**
I started a company for events and show productions in 2002. We are organizing the biggest Christmas fair in Zagreb called Advent in Zagreb, which is one of the top tourist events. We also organize corporate events and conferences for companies like IBM, American Express, SAP, and other local and international corporate clients.

**How Sweet Briar Prepared Her:**
It gave me confidence and strength. I believe there is no business challenge which is unsurpassable. On a more practical note, it gave me a broad liberal arts education; it taught me how to make a good presentation of the work I do, of the projects I create, of myself. It taught me to think, to connect information, to always go forward.

**Her Advice for International Students:**
When you come to a foreign country, I think it is always better to go to a place where you can feel safe and nurtured. A small community, which allows you to meet people, make real friends, get to know the surrounding better and faster. Our freshman year, we complained about SBC being a “bubble.” Later I realized that during all this time in a wonderful pink and green bubble, without knowing it, we were growing more independent, louder in saying what we think, more confident, braver. Isn’t that a great preparation for the outer world?
Sweet Briar College has broken ground on a renovation of its home tennis courts. The College anticipates completing the project by the end of May—just in time for Reunion and summer tennis camps.

Vice president and general counsel Nancyellen Keane ’78, who is managing the project, says existing courts are being “reconfigured and redesigned.”

The current layout consists of two sets of seven courts, one immediately behind Williams Gym and the other on a terrace below. The scope of the work this spring calls for the upper courts to be rebuilt from scratch, Keane said, resulting in six new courts in place of seven.

The redesign will provide proper spacing of the courts and an ample viewing area adjacent to Court 1 for Vixen Tennis home matches.

The construction also features an improved drainage system, as well as new fencing, surface, subsurface and nets. Crews are digging 9 inches into the ground to completely remove the old subsurface.

Steve Bailey, Sweet Briar’s physical plant director, says about 100 truckloads of the old asphalt have been removed from the courts. Grounds crews recycled the crushed material to repair gravel roads elsewhere on campus. A 6-inch base of stone will underlie the two top asphalt layers—a 2-inch base plus a 1-inch surface coat.

Everything meets NCAA and Intercollegiate Tennis Association standards, says Teresa Boylan, head tennis coach and the College’s athletic director—and the improvements send a message to prospective students.

“We are an equal participant in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference and Mid-Atlantic region for quality tennis,” Boylan said. “An updated facility shows that the College is committed to a varsity tennis presence, and to a year-round ‘grow-the-game’ facility that will support learning and playing.

“Tennis recruits will see that our wonderful school is creating high-level opportunities for them to be successful. You can be pre-med/pre-vet/engineering and play high-level tennis on championship-quality courts here at Sweet Briar College.”

Boylan admits it will be nice to host conference matches at home again, but she is also eagerly looking forward to welcoming alumnas back for a fall tennis round robin and social.

“Now that construction is underway, I have put these events on the books!” she said.

The renovation is made possible through contributions from alumnas and other Sweet Briar supporters, including support from the Van der Meer family.

Van Der Meer is part of a 107-year history of tennis at Sweet Briar, having held adult summer camps on campus since 1979. This renovation allows that tradition—and the auxiliary revenue that comes with it—to continue.
Compiling a summer reading list? Consider new releases by alumnae authors.

**MOLLY HASKELL ’61**  
Steven Spielberg: A Life in Films  
A veteran film critic and author, Molly explores the full range of Spielberg’s works for the light they shine on the man himself. Molly reveals how the storylines spanning Spielberg’s oeuvre—from hits Close Encounters of the Third Kind, E.T., and Schindler’s List to the lesser-known A.I. and Empire of the Sun—all spring from his own life and experiences. Molly is the author of five previous books, including her memoir, Love and Other Infectious Diseases, and the recently reissued From Reverence to Rape: The Treatment of Women in the Movies.

**ELLEN APPERSON BROWN ’72**  
John Apperson’s Lake George  
Ellen grew up hearing stories about her great-uncle, preservationist and conservation activist John Apperson. After discovering Lake George in the early 1900s, Apperson devoted himself to protecting the state-owned lake and its islands from commercial development, squatters, and erosion. Using images from her personal collection and from the Kelly Adirondack Research Center, Ellen has captured the essence of Apperson’s love for the lake and his impact on its preservation.

**ROBIN CUTLER ’66**  
Such Mad Fun: Ambition and Glamour in Hollywood’s Golden Age  
Robin’s biography of her mother, Jane Hall, tells the story of a remarkable life—from being orphaned in an Arizona mining town to Depression-era New York debutante to Hollywood screenwriter—and brings into high relief the ambitions of a talented woman versus societal expectations in the age in which she lived. Robin, a public historian, is also the author of A Soul on Trial: A Marine Corps Mystery at the Turn of the Twentieth Century.

**FLEMING PARKER RUTLEDGE ’59**  
The Crucifixion: Understanding the Death of Jesus Christ  
Noting a preference to preaching the Resurrection as opposed to the Crucifixion among contemporary pastors, Fleming confronts issues giving rise to this preference and explores the importance of the Crucifixion to having a true understanding of the Gospel. Fleming is retired Episcopal priest, lecturer, and teacher of other preachers. In addition to sermon collections, her other books include The Battle for Middle-earth: Tolkien’s Divine Design in The Lord of the Rings.

**SALLY MOTT FREEMAN ’76**  
The Jersey Brothers  
During WWII, Sally’s father ran Roosevelt’s secret White House Map Room. Her Uncle Benny was the gunnery and anti-aircraft officer on the USS Enterprise, one of the only carriers to escape Pearl Harbor. Her Uncle Barton seemed out of harm’s way in the Navy Supply Corps, until he was sent to the Philippines and listed as missing-in-action after a Japanese attack. Sally’s book details her father and Uncle Benny’s attempts to find and save Barton. The story is sourced from archives around the world, letters half-forgotten in basements, interviews with fellow shipmates and POW’s, and prescient correspondence and diary entries by the brothers’ fiercely protective mother.

**JANE ELLEN LISHNOFF GLASSER ’66**  
In the Shadow of Paradise  
In her seventh collection of poetry, Jane opens with an epigraph by 13th-century Persian Sunni Muslim poet Rumi: “The wound is the place where light enters you.” Taking inspiration from art, nature, even the commonplace, she finds meaning and purpose in loss, disappointment and death: A scar “is the shorthand/of an important story” and a piece of sea glass is “softened/by memory, beautiful/in its forgiveness.”
Shirley P. Reid
Sweet Briar mourns Shirley P. Reid, namesake of the SGA's employee excellence award

The Sweet Briar community was saddened to learn of the death of Shirley Pendleton Reid, who passed away at Fairmont Crossing in Amherst on Jan. 26, 2017. She was 79.

Reid joined the Sweet Briar College staff in 1954 and retired 57 years later in 2011. She began work as a housekeeper in the Mary Helen Cochran Library and trained to take on increasing responsibilities until she became the circulation supervisor.

The library wasn’t her first job at Sweet Briar, though. In 2005, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of her employment at Sweet Briar, Reid recalled that she worked part time at the College in high school. Her job was to go to students’ rooms to announce male visitors.

Reid, who became a full-time employee the same year the U.S. Supreme Court ordered the desegregation of public schools in Brown v. Board of Education, saw momentous changes during her tenure, both on campus and off. She said then-head librarian Tyler Gemmell encouraged her to broaden her skills to be ready for progress that would bring opportunity—such as becoming one of Sweet Briar’s first African-American supervisors.

“She used to tell me things would change,” said Reid, who would raise two daughters and watch both graduate from college to lead successful careers.

In addition to the evolution of hairstyles, hemlines and societal attitudes, Dewey Decimal card catalogs gave way to a computerized Library of Congress system, and Reid was part of the conversion.

“That was a job,” Reid said in 2005. “But you change along with things.”

As part of her responsibilities, Reid supervised countless student employees—numbering in the dozens at any given time—and was a kind, kindly advisor, and example to many. Her dedication to the job was legendary and she was beloved by the generations of faculty, staff and students who relied on her expertise.

“She truly was the face of the library for decades and students loved her,” says Cochran’s director John Jaffe, who is on sabbatical this year. “She was at once mentor and mother to thousands over the years. Looking at the accomplishments of her two daughters, Valerie and Yolanda, you can get an idea of the high standards she set and the encouragement and insistence on education that she inculcated in all her contacts.”

Alice Lancaster Buck ’44

Alice L. Buck passed on Nov. 16, 2016, at her retirement community in Ashburn, Va. She died of complications related to congestive heart failure. She was preceded in death by her husband of 65 years, Pierpont Blair Buck (Pete) in 2010. She is survived by her sister Carrington Pasco of Richmond, Va., her three children, 10 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Alice Lancaster Buck was the daughter of Dabney S. Lancaster, Business Manager of the College and member of the Board of Directors and Board of Overseers. Lancaster House, now known as Hubbard House, was built in 1937 and named in his honor.

She was the youngest of four sisters. She graduated from Sweet Briar College in 1944 and then married Buck on Dec. 9, 1944. She obtained a master’s in history from UVa. She worked for the Atomic Energy Commission as a historian until her retirement in 1987.

Alice was a devoted wife and wonderful mother of three children: Blair Dabney, Dorothy Tyler Gemmell encouraged her to broaden her skills to be ready for progress that would bring opportunity—such as becoming one of Sweet Briar’s first African-American supervisors.

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Beloved former dean dies, but his big, booming laugh lingers in memory

The Sweet Briar community was also saddened to learn of the death of George Henry Lenz, a former physics professor and academic dean of the College. Lenz, 76, of La Jolla, Calif., died Saturday, Oct. 8, 2016, after a three-month battle with cancer.

Lenz came to Sweet Briar in 1971 from the University of Virginia, where he began his teaching career. He served the College until his retirement in 2004. He was named the Whitney-Guion Professor of Physics in 1976 and served as academic dean from 1990 to 2001. A native of South Orange, N.J., he received his Ph.D. in experimental nuclear physics from Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J.

A News & Advance obituary says “colleagues at Sweet Briar describe him as having a fine analytical mind, a strong sense of fairness, a kind supportive nature, and a great sense of humor with a big hearty laugh.”

Pam DeWeese, current dean of the faculty and vice president for academic affairs, echoed those sentiments.

“George Lenz was an exceptional person,” DeWeese said. “He had just become dean when I arrived at Sweet Briar and, soon thereafter, we were both involved in a complex strategic planning process. I was always impressed with his kindness, thoughtfulness around difficult issues, and good judgment.

“He was an excellent mentor who became a valued friend over the years. It was heart-breaking to hear the news of his illness and passing, but so many of us at Sweet Briar have wonderful memories of him. I can still hear his laugh and see the twinkle in his eye. Rest in peace, George.”
Interim director Joe Malloy worked with Reid for 15 years and also knows what she brought to the library and the Sweet Briar community.

“Shirley P. Reid was a delight to work with and I learned many things from her about running a library,” Malloy said. “She will be sorely missed by me and many others.”

Her contributions did not go unnoticed. In 1997, the Student Government Association created the annual Shirley P. Reid Excellence in Service Award to recognize College staff members—and named her its first recipient. She also was recognized in 2001 as a Centennial Award winner for having a significant impact on the College.

Reid is survived by her daughters, Valerie Reid Jackson and Yolanda Reid ’91; two stepsons, Dock Reid III and Charles Reid; three grandchildren, Richard, Angela and Terence Jackson; and a large extended family, including many current and former Sweet Briar employees.

Julia Jackson Nichols Professor of English John Gregory Brown even dedicated his novel “Audubon’s Watch” to Lenz—whose laugh still reverberates in his memory, too.

“George was not merely admired by his colleagues here at Sweet Briar; he was beloved,” Brown said. “He was as generous and kind as he was scholarly, and he had a great booming laugh I can still hear. Most of all, he was a gentleman, a devoted husband and father, and for three decades one of the truly great presences at Sweet Briar.”

Lenz is survived by Ellen, his wife of 55 years, along with their son G. Ehrich Lenz, J.D.; daughter-in-law Marybeth; grandchildren Otto and Adele; daughter Kelly Ann Lenz, M.D.; and son-in-law Nicholas McCrory.
1939

Patricia Balz Vincent died peacefully November 14. She studied art history at Sweet Briar and later danced with Doris Humphrey and Charles Weidman. Serving in the Red Cross in India in WWII, she met her husband, Patrick, a British officer in the Indian Army. Settling in Durham, Patrick joined the faculty at Duke, and Patricia became a docent at the Duke Museum of Art and volunteered for the American Dance Festival.

1947

Linda McCoy Stewart
18 Osprey Lane
Rumson, NJ 07760-1821

Happy 70th Anniversary, Class of 1947!

It’s pre-dawn in mid-April with the whole world steeped in a cold, steady drizzle. In the Monroe Freight yard we huddle by the tracks . . . a gagle of tearful, shivering sophomores. Many of us only in pajamas or nightshirts under buttoned up raincoats that afford zero protection against chill, rain and a kind of grief none of us had ever known before. We’re a hastily convened group—students, a few faculty, local farmhands, country folk of all dimensions—joined in a single purpose. We’ve come, quite spontaneously, to pay respect to our late president, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. In the gloom, the funeral train slowly passes, bearing his body from Warm Springs, Ga., to Washington, D.C. So solemn the moment . . . no speeches, no bugles, no tossing of flowers . . . just the rain . . . no speeches, no bugles, just the rain and a kind of grief none of us had ever known before.

1949

Preston H. Hill
3910 South Hillcrest Dr
Denver, CO 80237-1110
303 7582428

Preston Hodges Hill welcomed her first great-grandchild Enzo Dylan Hill in January 2017 in Brooklyn, NY. Enzo’s father David Hill is med student due to graduate in June. Another grandson is at University of Colorado Boulder. His twin sister is studying music in Boston. She’s glad SBC is thriving.

1950

Jo Gulick Grant
20 News Lane
Lyme NH, 01768
(603)795-2708

Unaccustomed as I am to anything “secretarial, I think its high time, after 17 years, there should be some news of us in the Alumnae Magazine. Just as the college is being so wonderfully revived, why not a similar revival of the 1950 class. Notes? I, with little knowledge of our life-happenings over so many years, now venture to cobble together and submit what has been sent in so far.

“Bill” Bailey Fritzinger
Weston, VT: Not much excitement, but much contentment. All’s well down on the farm. Had to give up the sheep, geese, cow and horse after my husband Fritz passed away, but I still have the dog, cat, chickens, 11 grandchildren and four greats to chase after.

Waller Berkeley Ferguson writes that she is now widowed and living in a retirement home in Richmond, Va., with quite a few other alumnae. She applauds all current efforts to keep saving Sweet Briar.

Sally Bianchi Foster and husband Bob, now in an assisted living facility in New Jersey, both claim that “getting old is tough stuff” but are “hanging in there.” Sal would love to hear from any and all who remember her VOX POP Show (!) or any of the other events she so beautifully stage-managed.

Edie Brooke Robertson reports that she was widowed in 2014 and moved to a retirement community in Norfolk. Before that, much travel, family reunions, more grandchildren, etc. “I still keep in touch with Lola Steele Shepherd, Frances Martin Lindsey and Dolly Clark Rasmussen. Coming together.

Ackie Easter Henderson writes: “ Been living happily in Charlottesville for 45 years. Three grandchildren in Florida, Shanghai and Edinburgh. Still getting around, but not quite as spry.”

B.G. Eimore Gilleland, now widowed, lives in her own home in Winter Park, Fla., still travels and keeps active in the community with volunteer jobs. Over the phone, sounds just as strong and vigorous as if the year were 1947. (She has been a great help to me in connecting with classmates).

Lucy Kreuzer Carey writes from Catonsville, Md., where she has lives in a retirement community called Charlestown for 11 years. Retired from social work, she finds herself always busy and never bored, takes classes, and has recently taught one herself on Russian history.

Elsie Laudram Layton reports that she has stayed in touch with SBC folks in Houston but looks forward to further-away news of classmates. The College experience meant so much to her and she sends best wishes to all who read this.

Bonnie Loyd Crane lives in a house overlooking the sea in Magnolia, Mass., (near Gloucester) loves it, welcomes guests and others interested in her collection of 19th century paintings brought along when she moved her gallery up north from Wellesley. Bonnie has three grandchildren!

Anne McNeez Blanken writes from Lexington, Va., that she is quite well, keeps busy with tennis(!), bridge with Louise Moore, and a couple of volunteer jobs. She is off to Italy in April. (Always been hard to keep up with my old roomie!)

Cara Jane Morningstar Spiller, in Oakland, Ky., says she’s doing pretty well trying to cope with various hip problems and also to keep track of her four children, spread from New Jersey to South Africa. She sends love to all.

Rita Murray Gould in Del Ray Beach, Fla., reports she is living in a “life-long care”, lovely apartment, had to give up tennis, but found something else called Pickle Ball. She has one granddaughter and three great grandchildren nearby who keep life interesting.

Ginny Page Love reports that she and her second husband have been in Los Angeles, Calif., for 30 years, both in good health, share 16 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren, all scattered from Hawaii to Belgium. She says she thinks of SBC with fond nostalgia.

Anne Peyton Cooper says keeping in touch with old roommates, classmates and faculty means so much for SBC’s solid foundation. Anne enjoys her life at the Harbury Club in Pelham, NY, where she has a condo, can and does make many short, easy trips into the big city for art shows and all sorts of cultural happenings. She gets together occasionally with Dottie Montague Cholnoky who lives nearby in Connecticut.

Betsy Sawyer Hodges and husband Allan are in their own home in Orlando, married 67 years, with five children, 11 grandchildren, and 16 great grandchildren (with two more on the way!). Betsy says she still enjoys quilting when she isn’t keeping in touch with her huge family.

Lola Steele Shepherd says, yes she is present and accounted for in her retirement community in Richmond. She wanted to be near her daughters, and also Waller Ferguson who was already there. She reports the recent death of, and mid-February military services for, Dolly Clark Rasmussen’s husband, John. Our sincere condolences to Dolly and her family.

Mary-Dame Stubbs Broad in Hampton, Va., lost her husband Doug in 2003 and has since been living alone in her own home, still without cane or walker. She is pleased to report great happiness, in spite of bladder cancer, Hurricane Isabel and weeks without power. She reproves in her life with her three grandchildren, one great-grandchild and another on the other way, “Good to have class notes once again”.

Carolyn Williams Feussner: is living in a great retirement community in Linwood, on the Jersey Shore, after 42 years as a real estate broker. She does a lot of travelling, spending time in Naples, Fla., in the winter, and summers on Lake Winnipesaukee, NH. (Carol, please be sure to phone me next time you’re coming up here!)

Jo Gulick Grant writes “As for me,
I still have my original husband Bill (63 years now) and we’re still happy in our ancient 1773 farmhouse in rural New Hampshire. Slowing down, of course, but keeping busy with church and library work and enjoying classes, and cultural events at nearby Dartmouth College. I have done a lot of travel in the past few years, mostly overseas, but of late, feel we should start limiting that to the US and Canada. I keep up my Italian by meeting with a study group, plus another group for conversation. We have eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, all pretty far—for except for our oldest daughter, currently the principal of a local elementary school.

Virginia Luscombe Rogers: I just returned from a visiting Dotsy Wood Letts in Palm Beach, Fla. We have stayed in touch for years. My son, Justin, lives in Middletown, Va. I drove to see him last fall and on to Charlotteville and SBC with Anne Ferry Bryan ’49. The campus looked beautiful. My daughter Sarah works for Heritage Maryland. Daughter Larkin lives and works in Brooklyn. I serve on the Board of a Historic Preservation Foundation. Heartfelt thanks to all who wrote or phoned this time. I will need your help if these notes are to continue—and anyone wishing to contact another in our class, please phone me (or the SBC Alum Office) for complete address, phone, or email.*

1951

Patty Lynus Ford
Spring Lake Village
5555 Montgomery Dr., Apt. 23
Santa Rosa, Cal. 95409-5597
patella2@sonic.net

Monna Simpson MacLellan: My work of almost 30 years with youth ministries at the Episcopal Church Center in New York City ended in 2008 when the staff office was moved to Minnesota. Since then I have been teaching 4-year-olds at a nursery school located in the parish house of my church. These energetic, enthusiastic children keep me limber and hopeful. My husband of 61 years, George “Mac” MacLellan, died in June 2014 after two years of illness. His ashes rest on Nantucket Island, Mass., where he grew up and where we met at the summer theater soon after my SBC graduation. My daughter and her family came to live with us more than 20 years ago, and I am so grateful to have them share our home. Three of my eight grandchildren are still students, two in their freshman year of college and the youngest a senior in high school. They all fill my life with joy. My eyesight is worsening, but I can still read. I look forward to hearing how my old friends are doing. All the best.

Julie Micou Eastwood: Good news about SBC’s recovery under the new, dedicated and successful presi- dient. I’m well settled here at Westmont and with Libby and Rod very nearly. It is a pleasant place to be to with a new group of friends.

M.J. Eriksen Ertman: All of my news concerns children: I had a lovely Christmas with Susie, our daughter who lives nearby. A lovely Christmas Eve and a Christmas Day with lots of cousins in Hingham, Mass. Since then, Andy has been here for a few days (straightening out my accounts on the computer). Anne came for a week, and then Martha for my 87th (wow) birthday on Feb. 2. I’d love to hear from classmates at mjertman@comcast.net

Anne Sinshheimer: This is my better-late-than-never Christmas note. I still read with elementary school children, play duplicate bridge (not well), go to a women’s gym (not my favorite pastime, but it enables me to continue enjoying life), walk dog, knit, attend concerts. I am on the landscape committee for our homeowners’ association. (I live in a planned unit development, aka PUD.) I am most thankful that I can do what I do. I am also fortunate that my oldest nephew and some of his family live here.

Lynne McCullough Gush: I have just talked with Lynne, who is dealing with cancer. This means that she cannot walk her marvelous Weimaraner, Kennington, to the bayou, that she doesn’t drive her new silver automobile around Houston, and that her number of piano students is limited, but her spirit is irrepressible. (PLF)

Patty Lynas Ford: We appreciate being at Spring Lake Village, a beautiful 26-acre campus bounded by the Santa Rosa Creek on the north and a large lake and park on the other side of Montgomery Drive on the south, in Santa Rosa, Calif. There is a range of mountains to the north and a couple of moderately high ones on the south side. Minor medical issues can be taken care of at the health center, which is such a convenience. We haven’t walked around the lake yet. It also connects, through a wooded path, to another lake, where there are swans and more than enough geese. Both are surrounded by wooded hills. In November, our Virginia daughter flew to see us. We took her and our local daughter on a drive up the coast to see two nights at the Little River Inn. The first day, we drove up to Mendoci-no, a charming town with lots of tank houses and old New England type of architecture and a marvelous restau- rant, Cafe Beaujolais. The next day, before driving home, we drove inland about 15 miles to visit Starcross, a non-affiliated religious community, set in the coastal mountains amid lots of redwoods. We’ve been on the mailing list for years, and our visit this time coincided with picking of the olives, which daughters Elizabeth and Becca did. We bought some a few weeks later, bottled under the label “Olio Nuovo,” hoping that there might be some of their olives in each bottle. (Wistful thinking.)

Mary Pease Fleming: Mary sent her inimitable Christmas card this year. I am not good at geometry, but when there are five children who marry and have more children who then have children (I’m at the grandchild level here and don’t know if her great-grandchildren are old enough to have families), the Christmas card with its happy photos may soon be in the Guinness Book of Records and circumnavigate the globe. They are an extremely handsome group. (PLF)

Ursula Reimer van Anda died Oct. 5, 2016, in Portola Valley, Calif. Her son and his family lived nearby.

1952

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Those of you whose emails I was able to contact have already heard about our Class President Joanne Holbrook Patton’s illness following her successful hip-replacement surgery. Since I do not have current or any email addresses for quite a few of our class members, I will repeat what the email said: A few days after returning home after her surgery, Joanie had heart failure and breathing problems, necessitating emergency room trips, hospitalizations, rehabs, and finally the insertion of a pacemaker. All this time in bed has greatly interfered with her mobility, so her recovery has been understandably slow. Her goal is to make it to our 65th Reunion, but as with many of us, “it all depends …” I spoke to her at the end of January, and she was beginning to be able to use a walker and must do many exercises to recover strength and balance. I know many would like to send her a card or a note at her home at 135 Asbury Street, Topsfield, Mass. 01983 or joanne@greenmeadows.com. She tells me that she had a call from Ann Hoagland Kelsey. I am sure that Joanie’s indomi-tale spirit will carry her through this difficult time.

Speaking of our reunion, so far I e believe Pauline Wells Bolton, Pat Beach Thompson, Pat Layne Winks, Betty Wijder Gady, Janine. I am trying to go, God willing! Please send Pat Thompson any pictures, clippings, and notes for the scrapbook, which she again has offered to compile.

Ann Whittingham Smith wrote that she would not be there, as did Binji (Harriet) Thyager Eldred and Ja-nis Thomas Zeanah, who has severe arthritis. Janis recently was awarded the prestigious Outstanding Service Award from the Birmingham Chapter, National Society of Arts and Letters. Congratulations, Janis!

I am afraid this is a little short this time because I always rely so much on Joanie’s Christmas cards for news. You guys will have to send it to me!

Seriously, if you can travel, make a serious effort to come to Reunion, June 2-4. Try to get a son or daughter or a grandchild to come with you. If you live near another alum, try to travel together. We need to see one another one more time at Sweet Briar. You are all new and graduates in my mind!

1953

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Thank you to those of you who responded to my plea for news. I corresponded with those of you for whom I had email addresses. If you did not hear from me and have computers, please send me your email address. Otherwise please send news for the next issue to my home at the address above.

From Kirk Tucker Clarkson: Kirk and Jack have moved to a retirement community, Vicar’s Landing at Ponte Vedra Beach, to be near their children and two grandsons. They welcomed two great-granddaughters in 2016, one born in nearby Jacksonville, the other in Costa Rica. A third grandson is in his final year at Darden Business School at UVa. Kirk keeps in touch with Polly Sloan Shoemaker and Jimmy and Betty Behlen Stone, all of whom are now in retirement communities.

Ginger Timmons Ludwick and David have moved from Los Angeles to Palm Desert, Calif., and Liz Ray Hessler has moved to a retirement home in Charlotte, N.C.

There is a theme here: Kay Amsden and Mary Lou are very happy in their retirement community, Heritage Heights in Concord, N.H., where they have lived for 14 years. They highly recommend it, and anyone interested in relocating to that area is welcome to visit them.

From Edie Norman Wombwell: Edie had just returned home following knee-replacement surgery, which is not healing as fast the previous knee surgery, which took place eight years ago. (Age takes its toll.) While she is

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grateful for the services her retirement community provides to temporary medical patients, she is not entirely happy with some aspects of group living. Fortunately, she has lots of family living nearby. Good news—she is expecting twin great-granddaughters in May.

From Betty Bentsen Winn: Betty is still working and living at home in McAllen, Texas. She deals with the joys and responsibilities of home ownership and still finds time for bridge, travel and grandchildren. Her daughter, Susan, lives in Middleburg, Va., and her son, Dan, in Durham, N.C. Two grandchildren, Will and Carrie, are lawyers, Will and his wife live near Betty, and Carrie lives in San Diego, Calif. Betty is looking forward to our 65th reunion.

From Ginny Hudson Toone: Ginny, by her own admission, has slowed down and doesn’t like it one bit. A couple of months of physical therapy didn’t help her back. Tennis and skiing are activities of bygone days. Currently, she is working sporadically on repairing a poor paint job (self-created) in her bedroom, which competes with just sitting and reading. She continues to volunteer at the Carrollton Library and to socialize with friends.

From M.A. Mellon Root: M.A. moved to a retirement community on Hilton Head Island, S.C., this past Thanksgiving. She is delighted to get good food without the chore of cooking it herself. Her daughter, Francie Root ’80, lives in New York City. Francie is a classmate of Fran McClung Ferguson, daughter of Maggie Graves McClung and David, M.A.’s daughter-in-law, Leslie Wright Root ’83, and son Randy live in Dallas.

Maggie Graves McClung: Big News! ’11 Maggie and David’s second great-grandchild, a girl, Blair Herman Ferrin, daughter of granddaughter Julia McClung Ferrin ’09, was born in late January. Big News! ’21 Granddaughter Carol Ferguson ’11 graduated from Union Theological Seminary in May and accepted a call to be the solo pastor at Crescent Springs Kentucky Presbyterian Church, in a suburb of Cincinnati, Ohio. In contrast to some of the above, the McClungs plan to stay in the house they built in 1960.

From Katzy Bailey Nager: Katzy is glad that SBC is back in business. She said, “Obviously, our fiercely loyal alumnae were understimulated.” And added, “Hell hath no fury than a woman scorned.” She is so right. She and C.J. spend their winters in a little home in Longboat Key, Fla., and still maintain their home in Lake Wylie, S.C., where they continue their reading program in the local elementary school and enjoy kayaking (Katzy) and sculling (C.J.).

Nancy Ord Jackson: Nancy reported that her husband of 58 1/2 years, Arthur C. Jackson, died two years ago at the age of 96. He was survived by Nancy, five children and eight grandchildren. I learned via the Internet that Arthur won a bronze medal in sharp shooting at the 1952 Olympics and shortly thereafter was recruited by the CIA, where he spent a very risky career until his retirement. Their five children now live in Ohio, Connecticut, Virginia, Oman and Portugal. The three children and two grandchildren who live in the States had just returned from visiting the two families in Oman and Portugal. Nancy is currently at home in Canterbury, N.J., with her two cats, Mister and Missy. Our sympathy to Nancy and her family on the loss of Arthur.

Carol Exnicios Tucker: Chugging along down here in Tampa. It’s lovely at this time of year but not so great in the summer.

Please keep the news coming and remember our 65th reunion will take place next year. 2018 will be here before we know it.

**1954**

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It’s too sad, but I have to start out with the loss of four more friends from our class. We extend our sympathies and condolences to their families and friends.

Nancy Hay Mahoney died last September. Her services were in Ridgefield, Conn.

Lynne Morrissey Strike died earlier the same month, but I have no details.

Betty Gene Orr Atkinson died just before Christmas in Memphis. Here’s a bit from the paper on her death: “A regal Southern belle with a warm, beautiful smile and a deep love for her family, friends, and Savior Jesus Christ, Betty loved researching family history, reading, and studying scripture. She was a Bible Study Fellowship leader and a devoted member of Independent Presbyterian Church, Chi Omega sorority, Daughters of the American Revolution, and The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Betty graduated from Ward-Belmont High School in Nashville, attended Sweet Briar College in Virginia, and graduated from The University of Mississippi with honors.” Sissy Morris Long. Betty Gene’s lifelong friend, saw her often, as she lives in Trevezant Manor, where Betty Gene was in the nursing facility. Sissy says Betty Gene was just waiting for the arrival of her first great-grandchild and died the day after seeing his picture.

Page Anderson Hungerpiller also died last December in Savannah. She attended the Pape School and graduated from the National Cathedral School in Washington, D.C. before attending Sweet Briar. She founded the Savannah Tree Foundation, which successfully saved the 300-year-old Candler Oak, as well as the oaks lining White Bluff Drive. Their organization has since planted and preserved many thousands of trees that distinguish Savannah’s charm and character. Page was also an active and dedicated member of the Junior League, Trustees Garden Club, and Colonial Dames of America.

I so appreciate all those who responded to my email plea for news for this next issue of our magazine!

Sally Gammon Plummer reports that she has been diagnosed with Parkinson’s and decided to sell her home of 31 years and move to the very active and engaged retirement community Claremont Park in Denver. She did manage to go on several museum-sponsored birding trips last year: to the Florida Keys last February, to Magee Marsh in Ohio in May, and to Klamath Falls, Wash., for two days in September, then down the California coast to Novato and a spectacular day at Point Reyes. She and all her family had a July vacation in Oregon, and they were all together again at Christmas. At the end of December, she met Faith Croker Rahmer and her daughter, Sally, who had spent the holidays in Breckenridge, Colo., for lunch in Denver.

Barbara Chase Webber writes that she is still in the horse racing business and it’s still pretty fun.

Margie Morris Powell says that while she is still involved with the Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage and raising funds for historic preservation, she doesn’t get paid to do it anymore. She and Phil keep busy with an old house and an old garden perched on the side of a hill. But her knees don’t let her play hockey anymore. Their seven grandchildren are scattered all over the country, with one also in London.

Bev Smith Bragg Jeans writes, “I’m so far still being blessed. After all, I’ve had two wonderful husbands, both of whom have spoiled me rotten, and one of them still does. Together, we have five children, 11 grandchildren and two great-grand-alls, of whom carry on the family tradition of love of travel, though that differs from one and his wife serving in Rwanda as missionaries, and another, thanks to frequent-traveler flight and lodging perks from his job, taking in four diverse adventures in a four-month period—Portugal, the United Arab Emirates, India and over to Africa to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro. When I admonished him about the current danger in that part of the world, he admonished me back—it’s all your fault. And, I’m afraid I did set that standard, though I’m now paying the piper by losing a lobe of a lung and lots of my energy to a foreign virus (pieces of that lobe are in labs from Atlanta to Seattle trying to identify the source). At least it wasn’t cancer, as they first thought.” She hopes all of us have done all we can to support our remarkable and still very beautiful school. As I also hope. Bev wrote a cute remembrance of her first meeting of any SBC gal when she saw Vaughn Inge Morrissees and Lynn Carlson McCaffrey, all hatted and gloved, in the Montgomery train station on their way to the College in the fall of 1950. Thanks to Bev’s husband, John, for being kind enough to type all Bev’s notes to me for her.

A nice Christmas letter from Jerry Driesbach Ludeke tells of 11 wonderful days in Charlottesville with family that ended badly when she returned to a totally flooded house. In spite of tiring work by Servicemaster, all the floors and some lower walls had to be replaced, and she slept on a camping mattress, mostly out on the patio, for four and a half months till it was all fixed. Jerry offers this flood-prevention tip: Inspect every toilet in your house. There is a flexible tube that leads from the source of water up to the clean water tank. If it is attached to the tank with a PLASTIC nut, CHANGE IT to stainless one. The plastic ones are known to crack and cause floods like hers. Happily, in June her whole family had a reunion in Costa Rica to enjoy the marriage of Anna (Kevin and Amy’s eldest) to Murilo from Brazil.

Also in a Christmas letter, Caroline “Kobo” Chobot Garber writes that she and her daughter Laurie went on another cruise, this one to the Baltic Sea, where they visited seven countries. They met an old friend in Norway and had a wonderful tour of St. Petersburg, too. Laurie still enjoys selling children’s books and toys, with kayaking and camping for fun. Kobo’s son, Galor, is teaching history and coaching lacrosse at Mt. Vernon Presbyterian School in Atlanta. Like the rest of us, to Kobo, the idea of SBC closing and the campus being divided up into subdivisions or something is unthinkable.

How nice to hear again from Joan Oram Reid. They are still living in Lon- don, and her husband, Sir Bob, finally retired Jan. 1. He had been almost 20 years with an American company, Intercontinental Exchange, based in Marietta, Ga. They have bought a retirement flat in St Andrews, Scotland, and hope to move there gradually. Joan says health wise they are a bit dodder,
in their mid 80s, but life in London is always busy and interesting. Mary Hill Noble Caperton is enjoying life with her Jack Russell Terrier in the Charlottesville retirement community University Village. Like me, water aerobics is one of her activities. She sees Helen Smith Lewis occasionally.

Big news from Mary Jane Roos Fenn—her daughter, Susan, who has multiple myeloma ( incurable cancer of the bone marrow), is in complete remission. She is still having chemo and lots of meds after a stem cell transplant two years ago. Mary Jane will be going to California in April for the wedding of Susan’s daughter Dana.

Another note from lately, Ruth Sanders Smith enjoys attending Florida Atlantic University’s Lifelong Learning Classes. She’ll be going north later in the spring for her granddaughter’s graduation from Cornell and her grandson’s graduation from NYU dental school. She also keeps busy helping out through the Literacy Coalition, tutoring first-graders in reading. Because she speaks Spanish, she is the tutor for children who are completely non-English speaking. It really is difficult for them because they hear only Spanish at home. It has been fun and rewarding for Ruth because the kids are so happy to have help.

Ann Collins Teachout and Bill celebrated their 60th anniversary by renting a house on the California coast and having all the family from East and West coasts. There were 11 in all, and they celebrated Bill’s birthday and New Year’s Eve, as well. Besides fun, it was total relaxation for Ann, as the daughters planned all the meals, which were then cooked by teams of two. Ann is proud of our alums for all they have accomplished to rescue SBC—quite an astonishing effort, with much more to be done, of course.

Shirley Poulson Broyles writes she and Norris are still traveling as much as possible, although the level of activity has slowed a bit. They go to the Greenbrier Clinic every April for annual physicals and credit their doctor for keeping them in good shape. They took Norris’s children and spouses from London to Barcelona in October and then went to the Caribbean for Christmas with Norris’s sister and some friends. In March, they are going to New Orleans for a Jazz weekend with Ken Burns, and in November will celebrate with all their children and spouses a birthday of Shirley’s that ends in 5!! We can all relate to that! She has nine grandchildren, seven step-grandchildren, and six great-grands (all sons), with a seventh due in March. Shirley and I see notes from each other on Facebook. Are any others of you on Facebook?

Besides the nice note about Betty Gene, Sissy Morris Long mentioned that she and Bill spent Christmas on the road visiting their children in New Jersey and in Atlanta, where at the Christmas Eve service they sat next to Lamar Ellis Oglesby’s son and family. Later, at the airport, they ran into Lamar and her whole family on their way to Puerto Rico. Sissy also reports that Anne White Connell and Anne “Peaches” Davis Roane are thriving.

A Christmas letter from Erlend “Lynn” Carlton McCaffree tells of their busy life at Goodwin House in Alexandria. They are both deeply involved in QHA’s spiritual life, with Lynn providing piano accompaniment for many worship services and serving on the Health Services Committee, while Mike acted as the chaplain’s assistant, which became very time-consuming when the chaplain was on his three-month sabbatical during the summer. The facility is adding new residences and a new health care center, just as we are here, and they are finding the construction very interesting. Lynn continues working at the Amandade lane library as a volunteer and helped with two used-book sales during the year that netted over $100,000. They go to their time share at Massanutten resort in McGaheyville, Va., in April. Their granddaughter Rachel is now an experienced neonatal nurse and left Charlottesville for a medical center in Charleston, S.C., trading winter snows for the beach but then had to evacuate for a hurricane! I hope Lynn and Mike come see her and see us at the same time. There are six SBC grads at Goodwin House.

Peggy Jones Stieau called and we talked for a long time. She has 15 grandchildren ranging in age from 6 to 30 years old, the latter has been teaching teachers in Bahrain for four years. They all go to the Steuarts’ place in Jamaica at some time during the summer. Although still active in several garden clubs, the Historic Homes Committee and the Board of the National Cathedral, Peggy has given up all the leadership positions she held. She recently went to a dinner with some alums and various SBC dignitaries, including President Stone, who was the principal speaker, and Claire Dennison Griffith ’80, head of major gifts from the Alumnae Relations and Development Office. Peggy raved about President Stone as a speaker and the way he explained everything that had happened. She said she never met anyone more positive. Really phenomenal was how she described him. Peggy said she didn’t realize also how important the riding program was in attracting new students.

A nice card came from Faith Rahmer Croker. She and Peggy Hobbs Shaw, along with their daughters, celebrated Faith’s 80th birthday some years ago in Oakland, Calif. Faith also took part in Peggy’s memorial service in Garrison, Md., last May. Faith’s granddaughter graduates from SBC this May; so they will make it a family reunion with Faith’s daughters, Sue Croker Fisher ’84 and Sally Croker ’92, also. Faith sees “Bee” Pinnell Pritchard and “Maggie” Mohlman Deglar from time to time. She and Mary Jane Roos Fenn are always in touch since they both live in Williamsburg.

That brings me to Bill and me. We are thriving in our retirement community. Seems like there is too much to do. He exercises and I do water aerobics. He helps out the chaplain, and I’ve just been elected VP of the Resident Council. We’re in different book clubs, his naturally being the more serious of the two. Our three sons are fine—no news is good news—and our granddaughter loves her job with Epic Systems in Madison, Wis.

There will be another issue of the Alumnae Magazine in the Fall; so please send me a catch-up note on you and your family, especially if you haven’t seen your name in our class notes in a long time. We don’t want this article to be all obits!

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While writing these notes takes a lot of time and effort, it is a pleasure to make friends again with our wonderful classmates! Last time in the Class Notes, I did make two mistakes though, so shall correct now!

First, Sweet Briar has been notified that our classmate, Elizabeth Owens Fisher died on Jan. 9. As her obituary reads, she had been involved in numerous community activities and had worked in real estate in Washington, D.C., for more than 45 years, but her role as a mother gave her the most pleasure. She is survived by four children and six grandchildren. A reception in her honor was held at the Chevy Chase Club on Jan. 21.

Mitzi Streit Halla and husband Roman have two sons. I mistakenly had written that they have a son and a daughter. Son Kenneth lives near them in McLean with his wife and three children and is coordinator for Fairfax County Public Schools Online Campus. Brian is in Chapel Hill, N.C., with his wife and five children and works at the UNC Jaycee Burn Unit. Mitzi is a busy girl, enjoying family and friends, serving as class president, and traveling. After living in Europe and the Middle East for 15 years, she and Roman moved to Virginia, and Mitzi owned a travel agency in the 1990s. She is now happily associated with UFX Travel. She has escorted or planned custom tours all over the world, including Taherin, India, Nepal, Russia, Jordan, Israel, Iran, and more in Europe, Asia, Africa and the South Pacific.

Phyllis Joyner, of course, is the native Virginian who has been living in New York City for many years. She says she probably’s not identicably more than 20 years, keeping age a “blur.” I’d say that makes sense, because if we think too much about our actual age, we may just sit in a rocking chair and stop moving around! For years, Phyllis painted and had shows and sold her paintings. Now, she paints and gives the paintings to benefit exhibits and auctions. She enjoys New York’s museums, concerts, and readings. This past winter, she went to Santa Monica to meet a friend from Seattle whose brother is a screenwriter, so that party was fun. She also went to the Christmas party of the Knights of Lithuania. She adds that she welcomes all SBCers who come to the city, writing that “it would be fun to see you.” Phyllis and I have been together several times since college and feel close to each other, I’d say. It was silly of me to put her last name wrong last time.

Phyllis Herndon Brissenden is a classmate I have not seen lately but now feel close to, because I called to apologize for using her name in Class Notes when I meant Joyce! We had such a good phone talk. She has lived her whole life in Springfield, Ill., since 15 months old, in the same family home. After her parents died and she married Walter Brissenden, she and Walter lived there until he died. Now she is still happy there, enjoying traveling often to support operas in St. Louis, Santa Fe, Chicago, and New York!

Mary Amanda McThenia Iodice, in Rochester Hills, Mich., writes that she and her husband are planning to move from their big house to an independent living place nearby because her husband is not doing well. She said she hopes to attend the next Michigan SBC celebratory meeting. Manda has a married granddaughter, Amanda, who got her master’s degree at the University of Virginia while her husband was in medical school there; they are in Portsmouth, Va., this spring with plans to go back to the Northwest to a military hospital, as her husband is in the Air Force. Manda has other grandchildren in Rochester Hills, and all sound particularly smart. Well, offspring of a Sweet Briar graduate, I add! She sees Fritz Merriman Naylor about twice a year and Didi Stoddard, too, about once a year.
Anne Kilby Gilhuly has lived for many years in Greenwich, Conn., and has been teaching Greek history and Greek literature for 20 years. She teaches a fall course and a spring course through an adult and continuing education program in the school system there. Before that, she taught English at a school in Greenwich. Also she is traveling a lot. In January, she went to Antarctica and said it was paradise, the water so clear and sparkling, beautiful! Also she has recently been to Iran because of her interest in ancient times. And she went to Cambodia and to Vietnam. On one trip, she was with a daughter and on another was with her son. For 56 years, she was happily married to Bob, which she says is the best thing she ever did. He died three years ago. She has five children and 13 grandchildren. What fun hearing from classmates who I have not kept up with such as, in this case, Anne, whose life sounds extremely exciting and active and productive, too.

Sue Lawton Mobley is in Atlanta, as always, and connected with so many people and activities there, as always. For the past few years, she has been living at Canterbury Court on Peachtree Road, which she describes as a wonderful retirement home. She has a daughter living nearby with a grandchild attending Agnes Scott. Her clear happy voice tells me she is enjoying life and knowing her, she is helping others, too. She sees many of our classmates, including Newell Bryan Tozzer and Camille Williams Yow, both in Atlanta.

Newell Bryan Tozzer, in Atlanta forever, too, has a son and daughter living with their spouses and children. Newell has four grandchildren and one goes to Washington and Lee, but at this time is doing the Sweet Briar Junior Year in France program, just like her grandmother Newell did years ago! It seems that many colleges are involved with that Sweet Briar Junior Year in France program.

Bexie Faxon Knowles is still loving her condo in Naples, Fla., with its panoramic view of the Gulf. She belongs to two books clubs and avails herself of a wide range of cultural events there. She has had a recent knee replacement but is getting back to the tennis courts! She says she has enjoyed playing tennis for 70 years, making so many friends through the game everywhere she has lived. A year ago, she said she moved into a beautiful retirement community with 300 feet of gorgeous oceanfront in Scarborough, Maine, and has made wonderful new friends there, but she is not quite ready to return there for Maine winters. However, at some time, she does plan to be there full-time.

Anne Lyn Harrell Welsh is living in Sterling, Va. She writes that all four daughters live nearby in Northern Virginia except for Lyn who is in Atlanta. She adds that her daughter Carol is facing brain cancer with spirit and support from so many friends and family. I add mine to Carol, whom I do not know but realize she is fortunate to have a mother who we do know is kind and caring.

Derrill Maybank Hagood and husband Ben are enjoying Charleston as always and also their country place, Lavolere! near Charleston, and their mountain house in High Hampton, N.C. They have four sons, five grandsons, eight granddaughters, and one great-granddaughter. And almost all of them are in Charleston. Derrill is close to her cousin Mary Pope Maybank Hutson ’83, who left her big position in Washington, D.C. with the Land Trust Alliance to help with development at Sweet Briar. She works closely there with President Stone as Sweet Briar is prospering.

Charlotte Taylor Miller writes that she does not have a cell phone or email, but she sounds very happy! She and husband Andy sold their Virginia farm a year ago and are now living quietly in a place in Leesburg. She has a son, Keene, who lives in Atlanta, and a daughter, Helen Hale, in Alameda, Cal. She said she enjoys reading about her classmates and friends! All well with me here in Virginia Beach. I have been on more national radio shows discussing the importance of “parenttogether,” the word I made up, and how it helps the child as it lessens the number of unhappy people. We know that those who try to hurt others, emotionally or physically, and, sadly, almost always unhappy with life. Writing and speaking about parenting takes up a lot of my time, but I hope it is helping. As our Sweet Briar president said to us when we were there, “When you educate a woman, you educate the world.” Maybe that started me delving. I would add now that how a woman treats her child matters to the world. Thank you, Sweet Briar, for getting all of us together. What a wonderful class we had at a wonderful college.

1956

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Thank you! Thank you, for all the news you have sent! Let’s get right to it! Bunny Burwell Nesbit writes from Sarasota, Fla., saying she is living in one of the best retirement communities in the country, Palmer Ranch. She is able to do a lot of volunteer work, which keeps her happy and healthy. Her daughter, Katherine, and son-in-law, Larry, both retired at the end of 2016 and live near Charlottesville. They plan to do a lot of traveling, including coming to Florida, which Bunny heartily applauds!

Mary Ann McPherson Oliver says that this is her first time ever writing because she is inspired by the saving of SBC and is delighted to find her freshman roommate is alive and well! She is working on the history of conjugal spirituality as a follow up on her theoretical book on that subject. Her husband is a retired professor from UC Berkeley. Her son is an attorney, and her daughter a professor of French. She has two very artistic grandchildren. She concludes by saying, “That’s it in a nutshell!”

Lee Chang Crozier says her life goes on happily and smoothly. She is active in many aspects of leadership in her church. She still sings in the choir and helps coordinate the music program. She also enjoys playing the piano and reading good books. She knits for a group called “Knit Wits,” who knit shawls for comfort or joy according to the circumstance, as well as scarves, hats and socks for the homeless. Her family of five is thriving: Two grands have university degrees, and two others are completing theirs. One is married. Her doctors say Lee “is one of the healthiest patients!”

Nancy Salisbury Spencer says they are all doing fine and staying as engaged as possible in their favorite hobbies and organizations and of course their children and 12 grandchildren. Nancy’s daughter, Betsy, and her husband, Bill Blue, live in Charlotte. They shared their work in this excerpt from an article (in the Charlotte Observer) “When most people encounter a problem or injustice they grumble about it and do nothing. Then there is Bill Blue. Blue and his wife, Betsy, didn’t just grumble when they discovered an appalling lack of mental health services in the Charlotte region. They did something about it. They did a lot about it, actually: they created The HopeWay Foundation, raised $27 million, bought 13 acres in south Charlotte and established the only residential and day treatment center for people with mental illness in the Charlotte region.” Learn more about the foundation at HopeWayFoundation.org.

Paula Purse Pointer notes that it is always fun to read news of classmates! In addition to being to be a gracious octogenarian, she has developed her “sit down” hobby of making jewelry in workshops in nursing homes. She says it is a lot of fun to see women who have no experience with beads create necklaces of their own design. “Fun for me and fun for them! And it gets me out of my head for a while!”

Barbara Brown (Page) McFarland has finally decided that she had done the world of divorce law all the good she could, so she retired last year from the practice of law. She also moved to an over-55 golf community and has been happily playing golf, raising a new little Havanese puppy and just plain doing nothing. Living nearby are her two daughters and two of four grandchildren, whom she sees frequently. She and her daughters love doing Barre 3 and hiking, all adding up to making her life good.

Joan Broman Wright has moved from Charlottesville to Coral Gables, Fla., after the death of her husband, Jim, to be near her daughter and her family. She recently moved into a newly renovated house. She had fun decorating her new abode for Christmas and sharing the holiday with daughter Elise, son-in-law Richard, son Jim and granddaughters Helen and Hunty.

Lottie Lipscomb Guty was deeply saddened by the deaths of two of her dear SBC friends—Marinann Wilson Lyon and Virginia Self. “A sad thing about growing old has been a shrinking number of friends.” In 2016 Lottie published Alligator Creek, a historical novel based on her Civil War ancestors. By donating 10 copies to the SBC online auction, she raised over $200 for SBC! Her happiest events concern her grandchildren, Mary Shannon and Rob Guty, who are both honor roll students. Rob has received a large scholarship to Centenary College in Shreveport, La. Grandson Dabney gave the Gutrys a new great-granddaughter, Khole Guty, in October 2016. —Lyon and Virginia Self

Caroline Robinson Elberle thinks that her life is too boring but says the fact that she is still here and that she and Frank have been married for 60 years is maybe a bit unusual. They have two sons, six grandchildren (all grown) and one great-grandson. Frank and Caroline winter in Columbia, S.C., and summer in Highlands, N.C. Caroline plays golf and bridge and now a little croquet, being very thankful for good health.

Ann Greer Adams expressed her shock at so soon being 82! Now in widowhood, she is blessed with three attentive and responsible children. Two sons and their families live in Mobile near her. Her daughter, a Presbyterian minister, lives in Cincinnati with her husband, also a minister, and three children. Her daughter is an in-house chaplain at a hospice facility. Ann and Carolyn Ross Pannell often swap and compare books. Ann is busily involved in her church, reading and playing the piano. About once a year Ann gives a recital for friends in her home, amazed that her guests actually enjoy the
performance of an 82-year-old! Ann’s eight grandchildren are good kids and bring her great joy.

Helen Turner Murphy wrote that life changes little for them as they grow old together on their farm of many years on the lower Potomac. Ann, their only child, lives in Richmond with her family: granddaughter Grayson (12), who attends St. Catherine’s, and grandsons Blake (16), Hayes (9) and John (3), who all attend St. Christopher’s. Taylor still practices law and, although no longer in public service, is frequently called upon to share his environmental expertise via speeches. Helen stays busy as a lay Eucharistic minister and serving on the altar guild at her church. Her true joy is raising and showing llies, of which she has about sixty varieties. She also belongs to a Kayak group, loving that all the “divas” are younger than she!

Mary Koonz Gunn wrote from her farm in Indiana, having retired from farming two years ago. She is now doing her own yard work and volunteering to help others. Last summer, she took a golfing trip to Scotland with some girlfriends and she still enjoys biking! Her family numbers but eight—but “the best, closest family ever!”

Betty Forbes Rayburn writes that she recently traveled to Rio de Janeiro with her daughter, Lucy, and son-in-law, who teaches at UNC Charlotte and has students in many foreign places. Several years ago they took her to Portugal, where they stayed in old castles. On her farm near Rome, Ga., she tries to keep the fish growing and to stay ahead of the Pine Beetles. She belongs to a DAR chapter in Rome, has a nice garden in Birmingham, Ala., and one of her daughters and I traveled to a Kayak group, loving that all the “divas” are younger than she!

Karen Steinhardt Kirkbride was delighted to have her daughter-in-law, Britt, accompanying her to our 60th Reunion! This gave Karen’s husband, Dick, and their three sons (Steven, Kevin and Trevor) the opportunity to gather at Karen and Dick’s home in Northern Virginia for a great visit on the same weekend. In July, Karen and Dick visited Trevor, his wife, Sara, and their children, Penelope and Silas, in New York City and again in December in Houston while visiting Sara’s family. Other family gatherings occurred on birthdays or holidays or trips to the beach in Delaware.

Kitty Harrison writes that she has been busy gathering family letters, pictures, accounts of ancestors, etc., on both sides of her family, a huge job that she had intended to do for years. The highlight of the year for her was our 60th Reunion, where she saw her freshman roommate, Jean Dowdy Schilling, beautiful and charming as ever, who was accompanied to Reunion by her delightful husband, Dutch. She and Jean had a telephone visit at Christmas time and promise to stay in touch!

As for me, for the past 20 years I have lived in the home in western North Carolina that I grew up in and am indeed blessed with much, including great health. I stay busy, having just completed a three-year term on my church’s vestry, still have my gardens (100+ roses) and have been able to travel in 2016. Rose Montgomery Johnston and three of her daughters and one of my daughters and I traveled to Portugal in November to learn about textiles, tiles, castles, etc. What fun! I spent a glorious Christmas time in Italy with my NYC daughter and her family.

By the time you are reading this you probably have received a fundraising letter from the college. Last year we, the Class of 1956, had over 25 percent participation! Cheers for feisty alumnae who said, “No, Sweet Briar is NOT closing” and along with many more of us, turned an enormous—and some said impossible—idea, thanks to every ‘56-er who contributed! Sweet Briar still needs your financial support. Can we exceed 26 percent in 2017? With your contribution we will be the oldest class (at least that is the most current information I have) to be a living presence of history and continuity of Sweet Briar on campus June 2 to 4. And currently, the fact IS that we are living and striving and thriving as a four-year, single-sex, liberal arts college despite the shameful and baseless effort to eradicate Sweet Briar in March 2015.

Well, that was then, we are all about now. We exist in both the present and the future. Those who have not been back since leaving, with or without a diploma, will still recognize and feel comfortable on the campus. Mind you, there are physical changes since we arrived in 1953: A chapel, new dorms, a new dining hall, a science building, state-of-the-art gymnasium and theater building were built over the years; the Old Refectory is now Pannell and houses the art center; Academic is now called Benedict; there are students living in the so-called Green Village where farm headquarters were once located; and there is a fine equestrian center up the road. Actually this is an excellent list of brick-and-mortar accomplishments for a college that has struggled historically with endowment and funding.

We Are Sweet Briar. I stole this motto from The University of Texas. Please do not sue me.

We have a core of class members coming: Charlotte Heuer Watts of Bailey Price and Fort Lauderdale, triples around the country, Pennsylvania one day, Villerfranche, the next with Vermont fallsack, and oh, yes, California. She and husband Robert epitomize there is no such thing as being old. Charlotte continues her generous giving to the college.

Flo, she the funny one with a great sense of humor, clearly has taken to the southern modus vivendi after a New Jersey upbringing, has some health woes but takes them in stride, is upbeat about life and has

1957

Carol McMurtry Fowler
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In his famous song “Mrs. Robinson,” Paul Simon was looking for Joe DiMaggio; “where have you gone,” he asked. I have the same question for the Fabulous Class of 1957, who led the college in annual giving for umpteen years until bested by the smarties of 1964, who continue to rub it in. This was the class that Betsy Muhlenfeld, now a member of our group, always said if she could but “clone it,” would have no difficulty fundraising.

Okay, okay, this is a long and reasonably contrived opening for the first Class Notes I have written in several years. And the plain fact is that I sent out at least 100 emails and received disappointingly few replies. My genuine hope, and plea, is that we have a better response and information forthcoming when the fundraisers call in the next few months.

This is our 60th Reunion, and there are more of us alive than dead. This is great news! We will be the oldest class (at least that is the most current information I have) to be a living presence of history and continuity of Sweet Briar on campus June 2 to 4. And currently, the fact IS that we are living and striving and thriving as a four-year, single-sex, liberal arts college despite the shameful and baseless effort to eradicate Sweet Briar in March 2015.

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We have a core of class members coming: Charlotte Heuer Watts, class president, Nannette McBurney Crowds, Anne (Chips) Chao Pao, Flo Barclay Winston, Sandra Stingly Simpson, Cynnie Wilson Oottway, Dee Robin, Jane Pinckney DeButts, Jackie Ambler Cusick, Mary Landon Smith Brugh, Ninie Laing, Anne Ford Melton, Judith Ruffin Anderson, and moi, your keeper of the flame. There are many more, and cross fingers, that will show up.

Looking back over the years of writing notes we have lived through engagements, marriages, husbands, children, while living now in the era of lost spouses, friends, classmates, dementia, once a warm bionic parts, cans and hearing aids. Well, so what. We are part of the no-surrender generation, thanks, thanks, thanks. Our parents lived through the Depression; we lived through World War II, Korea, the Cold War, Vietnam, Gulf War I, Gulf War II. We were called the Silent Generation, but we had stability and knew a nation united.

From the responses I did receive, the focus is clearly on the future. I call it the Grandparents Generation. We will not see several classmates whose grands take precedence over our 60th: Babes in the Woods, who has graduation obligations for college and law school. Carolyn Swift Fleming, still in Omaha and I hope playing bridge with the Wizard, who noted “our days at Sweet Briar were truly special,” is off to see a grand graduate from Harvard with an MBA.

Coming and high praises for grands are Cynnie, who still divides time with her passel of grands between Michigan and Florida, unless she is off in some foreign seaport, which would include both Ireland and Cuba; Nannette, in Madison, Va., who has a passion for Italy, which she visits if not spending time with grands in D.C. or Connecticut, or in good works; Classics and Renaissance scholar Dee, scholar-in-residence at Newberry Library in Chicago, now publishing her 10th book, with four grands all in highly complex college degree programs; Sandra, who has three grands, including one exceptional lad at Yale, and one granddaughters, still prefers painting bridges with the Wizard, who noted “our days at Sweet Briar were truly special,” is off to see a grand from Harvard with an MBA.

My nomination for the Peripatetic One from 1957 is Charlotte Heuer Watts of Bailey Price and Fort Lauderdale, triples around the country, Pennsylvania one day, Villerfranche, the next with Vermont fallsack, and oh, yes, California. She and husband Robert epitomize there is no such thing as being old. Charlotte continues her generous giving to the college.

Flo, she the funny one with a great sense of humor, clearly has taken to the southern modus vivendi after a New Jersey upbringing, has some health woes but takes them in stride, is upbeat about life and has
greatly supported the college.

Chips Chao Pai, who had 57 wonderful years with husband David, before his long battle with heart disease ended last year, credits their sons, their wives and grands with being the lifejacket that keeps her floating in Davidson, N.C. She is completing her autobiography, dedicated to David. Together they are creating a scholarship, possibly completed, for Chinese students who attend Sweet Briar.

Ninie Laing, retired SBC art prof, still lives up the road from the college, stays exceptionally young with myriad interests including gardening, horses, dogs and travel. She relays that Judith Anderson, Winchester, Va., and Anne Ford Melton, poet and author in Lookout Mountain, Tenn., are coming to reunion, as is she. This is confirmed by Mary Landon Smith Brugh, who lives closer up the road to SBC, as this trio will be staying at her house, which she is renovating, having cleverly dodged back surgery.

Among those who just cannot get there, health not great, or other conflicts are Elaine Kimball Carleton, Athens, Ga., who made it to the mini reunion held in June 2016. Anne McGrath Lederer in Earlyville, Va., who is conquering health problems and Marguerite McDaniel Wood in Montgomery, Ala., who has a McDaniel family reunion a week after ours and questions whether she is up to back-to-back trips. Baba Conway Debecki, now of Nashville, Tenn., was on the line about making an appearance, but is supportive of the college.

The funniest response came from Marie Whitson Aude, in Phelps, N.Y., still loaiconic, playing card games, doing good works, reading and brooding on Shelley’s “Ozymandias” after the election and reporting that Fritz still plays geezer basketball. She won’t make it down for reunion, but is serene. Also Jane Campbell Englert remains in Pennsylvania and has a son living with who keeps her on her toes, and young, to boot.

I continue in Austin, appreciate opportunity to again serve on the SBC board, still spending summers in Maine, cooking school (where I do not) in Sicily this year, writing a good deal and living with the famous Golden Retriever I have had among nine over the past 50 years. Dudley’s children are grown and married, and he is a great-grandfather three times over. My health is super, and I laugh a lot. We all should. I drink good wine. I read good books and play complex head challenging games on the computer. All of the above are young keeping. Believe me.

We started with 177 of us in September 1953 and added several classmaters over the final three years. A total of 34 from the original have died, making the saddest part of writing notes relaying word of classmates no longer with us. Ruth Ellen Green Calhoun in Natchez, Miss., wrote that Fran Childress Lee, Jacksonville, Fla., died in January, Sally Groce of both Houston and Victoria died in 2016, as did Mary Stoll Cross of Princeton, I believe, and Elaine Floyd Fisher, Fio Potter and Susan Ragland Abrahamson of Fla., died in 2015.

As a final word, I have long understood that Paul Simon was writing about Eleanor Roosevelt, but at Art Garfunkel’s request and realizing the meter between Roosevelt and Robinson was equal, revised it for the great Mike Nichols hit of the late 1960s.

Mrs. Jane Shipman Kuntz
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Cornelia Long Matson: After 10 years at the Ritz Towers in Sarasota, Fla., we bought a 1948 Spanish-y house and guesthouse on Sarasota Bay. The renovation has taken a year out of our lives, but we love it and the broad water views. Got Christmas notes from Dana Dewey Woody and Sandra Elder Harper. Just went to NYC for two granddaughters’ debuts! Their mother, Julia, now staging houses: www.Graysondevere.com. Hope we get back to Paris before I turn 81!

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travisani808@gmail.com
Thank you to everyone who wrote in! It is nice to hear what all you folks are doing.

Let’s hope we hear from some more of “y’all” next newsletter. Some good pictures were sent in also, which I always appreciate.

Passings:
Evelyn Moore Horton died in April 2015.
Trudie Jackson Smith died in the fall of 2016.

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Ginny Robinson Harris has new addresses: 134 Williamsburg CT., Highlands NC 28741—email: ginny-harris2@icloud.com
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Judy Nevins LeHardy has a new email: wardjudy1956@gmail.com
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Caroline Blake Whitney: My story continues to be a very helter skelter one even though I thought the New Year would bring me a clean slate. It seems as though all I thought I left behind in 2016 is piling on in 2017. I look after my mother (she is 102), her caregivers and finances. I am also in charge of our family’s summer house, with all of its upkeep, summer renters and family renters. None of the above I mind doing, but it would be nice to have some real time to return to my creative energies: porcelain painting, writing, and environmental interests. At this stage in life, a bit of panic sets in. I have never been on a river excursion and I’m really looking forward to it.

Marshall and Pat Davis Sutker ’59
Morning Star by Penny Fisher Duncklee ’59
Rew Price Carne says here is a picture of family gathering last July. Daughter Elinor on right (striped dress). I’m in front of her in black.

1958

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Sally Beattie Sinkler: I see Betsy Brawner Pittman and Ann Pegram Howington every Wednesday at our Atlanta SBC Living Room Learning Program where they offer some wonderful lecture series. Betsy and Ann both look hale and hearty. My daughter and I are going on a Viking cruise. I have never been on a river excursion and I’m really looking forward to it.
Betsy Colwill Wiegert: I have very little news to report which at our age is good news. Have finally tired of the snow and ice in Vail after 23 years of winter there and am now in Palm Beach, Fla., for a few months. Last fall I had surgery in Tampa, all is well!!! But I am in Florida and had emergency lung surgery in Sorrento, Italy, in June, flew back and my husband spent five days in a hospital there. So, California here we come!! Exciting news for our 18-year-old granddaughter, Rachel Cooper. She was accepted early decision at Wake Forest in North Carolina for the coming school year. She is so happy! So it seems the family that came from Illinois back in the 50s is moving its way South. One family is in Marietta, Ga., and the other in Columbia, Md.

Penny Fisher Duncklee: I will be doing an Open Studio two weekends in February and a driving trip to Wisconsin in late May and early June. I am glad I finally updated my website. Ed. Note: check out Penny’s website (www.pennyduncklee.com)...I found it delightful. This picture of hers is named Morning Star. Penny (my former roommate), is coming out to visit us in March…...I haven’t seen her since we stopped by in Colorado just about a month after we were married and were moving to California back in 1959.

Meriwether Hagerty Rumrill: Sad news that Evelyn Moore Horton died April 2015. I’ve been in touch, but it didn’t register in my somewhat chaotic life that I didn’t hear back from her in 2015. So I just got notice from her second husband, Bob Richert. She was a devoted godmother to my third son, Charlie. It feels terrible not to be in closer touch with friends.

Susan Hight Rountree: The Rountrees are settling into our new place in Kings Mill, a golf community outside of Williamsburg. We have had a busy winter so far starting out with decorating the Christmas tree at the Williamsburg Inn. Thirty years ago they decided to put a tree in the lobby, and I was involved in designing ornaments based on details found at the inn (fabrics, Georgian furniture details, urn designs, etc.). We use the same ornaments each year, and several of my friends have been doing this from the beginning. A few days after tree trimming, our statewide unit of the Herb Society of America arrived. This group comes here for a wonderful Christmas themed luncheon every year. We also are involved with the big herb sale at Maymont House in Richmond in late April.

I’m still making miniature furniture based on objects from the Colonial Williamsburg collection. Each mid-January we have a five-day study program here with members of the International Guild of Miniature Artisans (IGMA). We have five instructors and each “student” selects one of the five classes and makes a miniature of this object….amazing things are done in these few days! Summertime finds us in New Hampshire at our place in North Sandwich (we love visitors!) Local quilt and knitting shops along with the New Hampshire League of Arts and Crafts shops are fun. Joe is a guide at an historic house up on the mountain outside of Wolfeboro on Lake Winnipesaukee called Castle in the Clouds. It offers a beautiful view of the lake, wonderful restaurant, and it’s a fascinating house with an interesting history. I’m supposed to spend my free time making miniatures for Colonial Williamsburg, but it’s a great place to do puzzles and read, too! We have a beautiful view of the Sandwich Range Mountains. We stay through the October foliage season, happily avoiding the heat back in Virginia. As for family, children and grandchildren (five) are in Richmond, Va., and Jupiter, Fla.

Elizabeth Johnston Lipscomb: Lloyd and I continue to enjoy a full life at Westminster Canterbury Lynchburg. I’m currently serving as a resident representative to the Board. We are looking forward to spring visits to our children and grandchildren in North and South Carolina and New Mexico.

Nita Mixson Cox: No exciting or great information coming from South Georgia. Have just been busy trying to...
devise something to save birds that are crashing into our sunroom windows. The other problem is cleaning up after the terrible storms and tornadoes that have been really persistent and damaging. Thankfully we just have a mess to clean up, are dealing with TV and internet on and off, etc. We’re grateful the worst of it didn’t take us out, but so sorry for the people who lost so much. Granddaughter in Portland has been buried in snow, plus a broken foot, plus shoulder surgery while trying to read X-rays as a second year resident. Gosh, sorry classmates! I promise to have some good news next time.

**Liz Myerlink Lord:** I am finally contributing a family photo for the SBC magazine. This was taken last summer at Lake Tahoe and was our Christmas card in 2016. It is a rare moment when we were all together—our daughter, son, their spouses and two grandsons.

**Judy Nevins LeHardy:** I enjoyed reading all the class news in the latest SBC magazine. I am sorry I didn’t get to add mine—we switched to gmail, and I never got the plea for news this time. Please note our new email: wardjudy1956@gmail.com. We celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary this year. And another great-grandchild was born—our family is up to 30 members.

**Fleming Parker Rutledge:** Our grandchildren—Dabney, 26, and Riley, 19, marched on Jan. 21. They had to go to a family wedding in Florida so missed the NYC and D.C. marches, but they joined the one in Jacksonville. Very proud of them!

**Ann Pegram Howington:** It was so fun to see the Freshman show (it was awful) but all those names! Nostalgia! How about a reunion in Atlanta (without the show)? We had a Sweet Briar Day but they had it SO far out of the city (i.e., here) that we grewups did not try to go. The sun just came out—what an improvement—hope all is well.

**Rew Price Carne:** I had a great trip to South America and Antarctica a year ago. I also made some short trips to Fort Worth (TCU graduation), Chicago for wedding shower and Winnipeg for hockey games. That was it. COPD caught up with me. Oxygen and rehab since Nov. Getting better—long journey.

**Ginny Robinson Harris:** I am fine and working on my daughter’s wedding in late September or early October. The grands (all three) are fine. The oldest is looking ahead to college and likes UVA but still has 2 years to go…just passed early SATS easily. New email address is ginnymharris2@icloud.com and new mailing address: 134 Williamsburg Ct., Highlands NC 28741

**Betsy Smith White:** My Bill is not well and has round the clock nurses who take care of him here at home. He will be 87 in early February, and we have had such a good life together (almost 56 years!). Our daughters are so good about coming to see him (and me) and have been buried in snow, plus a broken foot, plus shoulder surgery while trying to read X-rays as a second year resident. Gosh, sorry classmates! I promise to have some good news next time.

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to all! My latest is that I am taking my first Uber to march in the Women’s March for Social Justice (Naples/Fl. Myers) on the same day as the big march in D.C. My two Greyhounds keep me pretty close to home, where I am working on a life project of a website I’m coding myself (unfortunately the aging process is not helping to make me faster or smarter!)

Elizabeth Meade Howard: "My book, Aging Famously: Follow Those You Admire to Living Long and Well, will be published this spring by Jef- ferson Park Press. This will eventually be available on my website and from Amazon.

Gwen Speel Kaplan: For the past five years we’ve have a spring get-together in Richmond when Anne Reinecke Clarke comes from Wilton, Conn., to visit me. The group has expanded to include Jane Ellis Cov- ington, Patti Powell Pusey, Carolyn King Ratchiffe, Ginger Newman Blanchard, Grace Suttle, Anita Per- rin Towell, Mary Ellen Dohs Avey and Issac Burch.

Laura Coleman Wampler: We enjoyed a family reunion last summer in Greenville, S.C., to witness and celebrate the marriage of our oldest daughter. Now we look forward to seeing Lucy Martin Giano as she stars in a mid-winter production of “Driving Miss Daisy” at the nearby Bristol Riverside Theater.

Patti Powell Pusey: Thinking of all of you on our first Snow Day in Richmond. President Stone is supposed to be here tomorrow, but the weather may not cooperate. I visited Ginger Newman Blanchard in Amherst this past fall and also our beautiful campus. She and Bob have a lovely home and a very fruitful veggie garden. I enjoyed a VMFA trip to the Hudson River Valley recently and am planning a trip to Italy in the fall. Here’s to a happy and healthy 2017 to all!

Sue Styer Erickson Cahill: I will be skiing Park City and Deer Valley with Bessie Bulkeley Bradley (‘51) as well as visiting son Tom and 5-year-old grandson Houston and 10-month-old granddaughter Ava the first two weeks of February, then will head to Pawleys Island, S.C., for a few weeks with husband Ed to golf... feeling very fortunate, as many friends are sidelined from enjoying life due to health issues.

Kathy Knox Ennis: A warm hello
1965
Sally McCrady Hubbard
52 Sherwood Trail
Sewanee, TN 37375-0216
sally@hubbard.net
Susan Strong McDonald: I am just in the process of putting up an exhibit at the P.A.S.T.A. Gallery in St. Augustine, Fla., of my botanical paintings. It occurred to me that this painting of an early spring rose reminds me of Sweet Briar. So I am sending it along as a picture to share.

1966
Penn Willets Fullerton
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PennHome@aol.com
Susan Sudduth Hillier
4811 Garrison Rd
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ssdh22@yahoo.com
Jane Nelson
407-C North Hamilton St
Richmond, VA 23221-2026
jwnelson44@outlook.com
Keenan Colton Kelsey
101 Hawthorne Ave
Larkspur, CA 94939-1305
keenanckelsey@comcast.net

Evie Day Butler reports: In 2016, Geoff and I celebrated 50 years of marriage with a Baltic cruise, including St. Petersburg and the Hermitage, a long-time dream of mine. We also celebrated with a family Thanksgiving gathering in Destin, Fla. We went to Geoff’s 50th W&L reunion in May followed by the Lee Society meeting in Williamsburg. We spent August in North Carolina, and will be in Cashiers again this August/September. In April, we’re off to Amsterdam preceding a Rhine river trip.

1967
Gail Robbins O’Quin
2651 Kleiner Ave
Baton Rouge, LA 70806-6823
cgrobins@ix.netcom.com
Greetings Classmates in the year of our 50th!!! Our fearless president, Judi Benson Stigle, has asked that I post an important message for all of us. Here goes: “Reunion Planning Time!! At our 45th reunion many of you offered to help rally the ‘Troops’ for our Big 50!! Those that offered are: Benson Stigle, Fite, Ewalt Coleman, Lyle Bullard Barber, Hickey Nelson, Randolph Barr. Monroe Renger, Barnhardt Chase, Blew Piere, L Smith Newcomb, Robins O’Quin, Sanders Thomas, Ford Kelley, Dalton. If you are still interested please let me know at judistigle@gmail.com. It involves contacting 8-10 of your friends. I have almost 100 who need to be contacted so please help if you can. This will be a wonderful time to renew friendships and memories.

Blew Piere, myself and our men have already made plans to head north from Florida. * Please do get in touch with Judi. We’ve got to start contacting and planning for our June 2-4 BIG ONE. And, guess what? We are being housed in the Florence Elston Inn on a first-come, first-served basis (age does have its benefits) so don’t delay. Make those reservations now! Judi signs off with, “I look so forward to seeing you all. From your Class Pres. Judi”

I heard from Sandi Hoag Ippolito. As she explains, she’s been “dealing with a ‘massive rotator cuff rupture’ (doctor’s words, not mine). I got tossed aside by a retreating horse and landed on my finger muscles. As I said initially—not much news.” Yes, Stephanie, we can tell what a boring life you lead! Hope you manage to stay upright better than I do!

Mary Gillespie Monroe has moved from 1826 Grove Avenue in the Fan of Richmond, Va., to a two-bedroom apartment just west of Carytown. She now has more flexibility to visit Alison’s family in Charlotte and Anne’s family in Baltimore. She’s looking forward to our 50th reunion (Ed: as are we all)!

Celia Randolph Barr reports: “The Barr family enjoyed 2016 with family, friends, a little travel and lots of fun. We started the year realizing that we were working on our 50th wedding anniversary, so, in true Barr form, we celebrated throughout the year. In March we went to Charleston, SC, with another couple also celebrating 50 years of marital bliss and loved everything that Charleston has to offer: beauty, history, wonderful vistas, and of course fabulous food and drinks. After three nights at the Wentworth Mansion, Mike and I went to Kiawah, where we visited with friends and golfed, biked, walked and again just loved the area. Kiawah is my favorite of all of the barrier islands. While in Charleston, I called Jacqueline Stephenson Bennett and though she was busy getting Bill to the airport, she invited us to come see her gardens—which we did and she was sitting on the patio reading the newspaper. We met Bill and then were off to more sightseeing… what fun to see her and her wonderful home! “Summer found us in Michigan still celebrating our 50 years together with family and friends. In the fall we culminated our celebrations with an amazing trip to Nova Scotia with Michigan friends. We played golf at Cabot Cliffs and Cabot Links, which are two of Mike Kiser’s courses and they are simply fabulous. The vistas are awe-inspiring and the golf is the best. I really will declare that it is the best golf trip I have ever taken and I would go back again anytime I have the opportunity. "Angus and Erin (son and daughter-in-law) moved from Charlotte to Powhatan in February, and we have really loved having them so close. Michael and Ali continue to love Larchmont, NY with Eloise (5.5) and Reid (almost 2). They come home for Thanksgiving and stay in N.Y. for Christmas but we will see them sometime in March and then they come to Michigan—this year for two weeks—so we do get our grandparent times. I stay in touch with lots of Classmates and though Mike thinks I should give up and go grey, there is no chance in hell that I am going to do that until I cannot walk, play tennis, and golf…. Hoping everyone is considering two things: 1. Making a 50th reunion gift to SBC…. (I love the plan below!) 2. Coming to our 50th reunion which is June 2-4.” Please consider Carroll’s suggestions; we only have one 50th! One classmate really made a very generous donation—$5,000, $100 per year. Clever and meaningful! You might want to think about a similar gift!

Marion MacRae’s fun news “is a cruise around the Seychelles soon by which time she will be out of her cast (she was injured in a tennis game which she supervised);” She is really looking forward to Reunions in May! While she was “laid-up,” she had all her windows and doors replaced the first week of January. Fortunately, she’d already had her trip in Nov. (2015);
Harrison House activities “menu.” He is also the owner and caretaker of one horse, two calves, two sheep, and five laying hens that live in the barn on the Harrison Estate. Tim is working for the Kennedy Forum, based in Chicago. He lives near us in Bala Cynwyd, and he completes much of his daily work at the Thomas Scattergood Behavioral Health Foundation in Philadelphia. The Foundation often sends him to various cities around the US to speak about parity. He is a Key Member of Parity Track, a collaborative forum that works to promote fairness for individuals who suffer from mental health issues and addiction. I would love to join our class for our 50th Reunion, but this is a decision that I’m not prepared to make at this time. Even if I am not physically at SBC in June, I’ll be there in spirit! Much love to all our classmates! PS: I lost all my hair months ago, but it has already grown back to about shoulder length, and it’s still brown! We are all praying for you, Jill. Keep up the good work! I’d like to trade in my gray hair, or at least drop the monthly dye job but I guess I’m blessed to be able to live with the silver threads among the gold.

Victoria Baker has had a fascinating past year “of travel (Southeast Asia, southwestern U.S., visiting my son in Holland and Spain), teaching an occasional anthropology course, ballroom dancing and enjoying retirement with wonderful partner Lee (together 6 years now), and doing what we can to support local causes, especially women’s rights and social solidarity. Will be giving the ‘enrichment lectures’ on a cruise to Hawaii this spring—which I’m counting my blessings. Looking forward to our 50th Reunion!”

Eleanor Crossley is entering her 82nd year, and reports that she is “pretty healthy.” David, my fiancee, and I are still travelling a lot with the latest trip a transatlantic cruise to Lisbon, Madeira, Malaga, Gibraltar, ending in Barcelona, where we stayed for a week. We loved the city, especially Gaudi’s fantastic architecture. On my 82nd year, 2016-2017. May also marked my retirement after 10 years as Episcopal deacon and parish coordinator at Ascension Church, Amherst, home of the Daisy window and bell given by Elijah Fletcher. Husband Bob has been a retired professor since 2010. Now we can travel almost at a whim—we have been to the beach twice, he has fished in Scotland, and together we went to Turriff Flats off Belize for quite an adorable adventure in fishing and snorkeling in early December. We are both active in a new grassroots and county-wide food ministry that since May has provided hot lunch at two different sites weekly with a self-select food warehouse to open sometime the end of March. We continue to see our friends from SBC and go to various events there. In fact, I found myself once again in the chapel role at Founder’s Day. Lynchburg, to all our surprise, has developed quite an art and theatre district along with some good restaurants. We continue to rejoice that we can be so involved in our 16-year-old grandson’s life as he lives in Lynchburg. He and Bob attend many a UVA football game and basketball games unless he has to work or is involved in his high school theatre productions; then I get to go to the games. His mother, our older daughter, is an SBC alumna and has worked in social services. Our second daughter has left social services to become a certified Bikram Yoga instructor in Winston-Salem, NC. Yoga, pottery, and some drawing keep me flexible and centered. We are so looking forward to our 50th Reunion to be with all of you again!”

Barbara Timlin Kelley sends a quick report: “We are all healthy and happy. Carlton and I are going to Cuba for nine days in April. My grandfather invested heavily in Cuba in the 1930s and went down there each year. He was in Cuba in 1945, where he died shortly after I was born. So Cuba has always been on the ‘bucket list.’ I still volunteer every morning, try to stay in shape, and pretend I am not surprised when I look in the mirror. Looking forward to our 50th!” There’s that mirror reference again!
Pat Neithold Hertzberg is still working: Pat in portfolio management and Mike in consulting on import, export business. She played golf with Mellie Hickey Nelson and Paul Nelson at the Colgate 50th last June. Now Pat, if you can go to Mike’s 50th, you’ve got to come to ours! She reports, “Mike and I are living in Florida now for about seven months of the year. We still go back to Bethesda, Md., in the summer and fall where we see our son, Carter, daughter in law, Lisa, and two grandchildren—Caroline (15) and Graham (almost 14).”

Atlanta’s Sweet Briar 1967 graduates, friends of over one-half century, continued their tradition of gathering to celebrate the holidays. Here’s their news: Mimi Harrison Vickers raises award-winning dahlias and takes care of lambs, sheep and her farm, all the while doing beautiful arts and crafts in Union Point, Ga. Flossie Collins Mobley volunteers as a leading Forward Arts Foundation member to raise funds for the visual arts, and travels the world with her husband Tommy.

Diane Mann Lanford works on interior design projects in Atlanta and throughout the state, while enjoying having her two children and grandchildren in Atlanta near her and husband Frank. Kay Trogdon Hightower is a leader in the Georgia Botanical Society and a major volunteer in Thomaston historic and community organizations. She and Neil love to travel the world and are off on a Panama Canal Cruise this winter. Melissa Sanders Thomas travels from Sea Island to Barcelona, Rome and European ports of call with her husband Boyce, and has fun with her son and grandchildren in Newman and daughter and her children in Rome, GA. Susan Tucker loves her work at Tucker & Associates PR, is on the Board of French organizations and National Museum of Women in the Arts and is an active Forward Arts Foundation member. You can certainly tell these are Sweet Briar women with all their community involvement—way to go girls, or should I say Ladys! Glory McRae Bowen sent her usual fantastic Christmas letter. To summarize, she had a lovely Christmas with her two boys who are doing well; she’s still amazed that these grown-up gorgeous people are her children! Her son Derick is with the Millennium Challenge Corp., in D.C.; for Christmas he gave her a heavy publication in which one of his documents was published (She did not admit that she did NOT read his treatise, but I’m sure it has a place of honor in the bookshelf!) Her son T.J. and she have had quality time together; her daughter Glory is a “chip off the old block,” producing a theater festival and directing plays and projects with the La Mama International Theatre Group. Glory has had some health challenges, beginning with a right knee replacement in February. She contracted a cellulitis staph infection; she had planned to have the left knee done midyear but has postponed the surgery until her recovery is further along. In spite of her knees, Glory did not let grass grow under her feet. She took a few local bus tours which included a cruise on the Manasquan River in Pt Pleasant, NJ, lunch and entertainment at Doolans in Spring Lake, NJ, a Hudson River ‘Foliage Cruise’ following lunch at Beekman Arms in Rhinebeck, NY, and a trip to Pennsylvania’s ‘Grand Canyon.’ She also went to Boltz Castle in the Thousand Islands of the St. Lawrence River on the NY side. She had the opportunity to visit Lynn Lyle and her significant other, Jamie Sheridan. Those of us who live in old houses can sympathize with ‘the falling apart of everything.’ Her house is 103 years old and tried her patience from September until Christmas, an experience she hopes not to have to endure ever again (hopefully everything has been repaired).

Pamela Ford Kelley (pictured above) had her 70th celebration with a Woodstock party. Her husband Brendan was a good sport but ended up looking more like Ozzie Osbourne. At the moment they’re escaping the winter cold in Key West, looking forward to Linda Fite’s arrival. Pam’s fully retired but still misses working so she continues to volunteer on a board or two and sporadically consults for small businesses in Newport. Words of caution from a retiree: be careful or you’ll find yourself busier than you ever were while employed and even wonder how you ever had time to work! Bill and I are still here in Baton Rouge with our two dogs, a seven-year-old adopted snoodle and a nine-month-old standard poodle. We did get rid of the chickens, which I miss terribly (Bill has threatened me if I get anymore) but it was getting difficult for us to find chicken-sitters when we go out of town. The puppy is about to do us in—neither of us has a pair of shoes that has not been chewed and she just cannot make the connection between potty and outside—hopefully, maybe one day. Our grandson (14) and granddaughter (6) are three blocks away and are convinced the dogs are their sisters; our family events include the entire crew, children and dogs! We did have a fabulous trip to Capetown and Victoria Falls in November. Bill still prefers Kenya but this was my favorite African trip. We managed to make it through the holidays without any major traumas so we feel blessed in that respect. He and I will both be at the Reunion! See you there!

1968

Anne Kinsey Dinan 8 Peter Cooper Road Apt 11-F New York, NY 10010-6711 akdnan@rcn.com

Many thanks to all who submitted news. I hope everyone will read, enjoy, remember our years at Sweet Briar, and then make plans to attend our 50th in 2018!

Jennie Lyons Fogarty: “I’m probably one of the few in our class still working full time. I still enjoy planning lectures, classes and trips for seniors at a nearby community center. As most are in their 80s, it makes me feel young! No fancy trips, but I love our annual trekks to Wyoming with grandskids. And since inauguration Day, I’ve pulled out my marching shoes and joined nearly weekly protests here in D.C. Often there are three generations of us.”

Barbara Baur Dunlap: “As I write this I am trying to outlast two little granddaughters who are spending the night. Charlie and I celebrated 50 years of marriage, possibly because of divine intervention and it all started at SBC. I discovered at Charlie’s 50th UVa reunion, that Blair Walker Lawrence’s husband and Charlie roomed together at The Hague before we were married. Love SBC’s revival!”

Mary Matheson: “I enjoyed a wonderful Christmas season with three generations of my North Carolina family and am looking forward to beach trips with them in the spring. Hope to see everyone June 2018!”

Suzanne Torgan Weston: “Since retiring (from scientific software development and Steve from computer applications to geology), we’ve traveled at home and abroad on our BMW motorcycles. Steve makes some of the best sawdust in Colorado, building jewelry boxes and other items, while I keep busy with several organizations. Like everyone else, we were shocked by the March 2015 news, and we wish Sweet Briar continued success.”

Emmy Savage: “I am just starting a stint in Nogales, Mexico, where I
Frances Kirven Morse with grandkids on the San Francisco waterfront during a 5K Walk for Bay Area Food Banks at Thanksgiving (Bay Bridge in the background).

Ann Biggs Jackson’s daughter Win, local champion adult jumper at Washington International horse show on her horse Mr. Pike.

Ann Biggs Jackson’s daughter Cary, son-in-law Chris, and grandchildren Sophie and Dillon, all cyclocross racers.


Steve and Suzanne Torgan Weston on Chief Joseph Highway in Wyoming.

Pamela McConnell Post-Ferrante and husband
will be volunteer teaching for some months. It is ferociously cold here, with no heat in the buildings. I am looking forward to summer. Hoping my classmates are well.

Christine Witcover Dean: “I’m finally a grandmother—he’s 2 now. I still ride my horse. And I’ve been retired for 10 years! Really been a great time—that’s how I can ride so often! Makes growing older fun. Now if only time—that’s how I can ride so often!”

Conover Hunt: “I am living on the Chesapeake Bay in Hampton, engaged in some cultural nonprofit fundraising and writing. Thinking about the 50th and would love to see old friends.”

Pamela McConnell Post-Fer-rante: “My professional life has been focused on writing, mindfulness and healing. I worked with children and then had cancer: eight surgeries and two rounds of radiation in the 1990s. Divorced, remarried, MFA, CAGS in expressive therapies and new work for those with cancer. Wrote Writing and Healing: A Mindful Guide for Cancer Survivors (Hatherleigh Press) and 25 Women Who Survived Cancer: Notable Women Share Inspiring Stories of Hope. Best things are a great husband, two children and five grandchildren!”

Martha Bennett Pritchett Con-ner: “I had a wonderful 3-day visit in Sausalito with roommate Betsy Wolfe. C.V. and I still enjoy living in Durham, N.C. and selling real estate. Both of my daughters live in the area, and one is expecting my first grandson in May. Sons are in Houston and Davidson, N.C. I enjoy golf and volunteering at The Center for Child & Family Health and at the 30-acre Durham Public Schools Hub Farm.”

Ann Biggs Jackson: “I went grouse and woodcock hunting in northern Minnesota in October, a first. Really challenging hunting! Then GR and I traveled to England in mid-December. We took a side trip to Guernsey to see the remnants of WWII German fortifications. Totally fascinating, beautiful island! I am busy as always with garden club stuff and writing. Thinking about the 50th and would love to see old friends.”

Lisa Walker: “Almost two years ago, I semi-retired, meaning I let go of my employees and now I only design and consult in horticulture and landscape design. Having worked with immigrants most of my life, I have great empathy for the asylum seekers coming to our country. I volunteer helping them travel to their legal destinations. A great blessing: I have 10 grandkids! Not many of you can probably say that. They are lots of fun.”

Nancy Hickox Wright: “My news is about all of you!! I have had so much fun touching base with so many of you! Oh, the interesting roads you have all traveled, from raising racehorses to being the one to give the ‘Go’ for a rocket launch! I know most of us are now silver-haired, but you sound just the same—seriously your voices and laughter are very identifiable from 49 years ago!! Our 50th in June 2018!”

Sara Granath: “Retired from the University of Sodertorn, Stockholm, I now teach criticism at the U of Gothenburg, and write theatre reviews for the Svenska Dagbladet. Will soon publish a chapter about teaching writing in the University and am currently working for a biographical lexicon about women. Every year, I go to theatre conferences around the world: 2016 in Stockholm; 2017 in Sao Paulo, Brazil. I truly enjoy my international network of friends.”

Frances Kirven Morse: “I am eagerly awaiting the start of blue bird mating season to start monitoring 24 nest boxes in nearby Edgewood Park. Nature soothes my soul in these chaotic times. John and I are planning our next summer trip with our two grandkids. It will be hard to top the dude ranch trip last summer! Be on the lookout for the debut of The Little College That Could—a book I wrote about saving Sweet Briar. It’s a cute takeoff of The Little Engine That Could. It is upbeat, positive, and will leave you
feeling very proud of our college! Anne Kinsey Dinan is doing the illustrations. (See, that art history major is still relevant). Looking for help from anyone who has knowledge of self-publishing. Contact me or Anne.

Susie Brush Croft: “Laurie and I are enjoying being in Richmond, Va., with our children and grandchildren close by. Looking forward to next year’s 50th class reunion. So excited Sweet Briar is back on track!”

Melinda Brown Everett: “Married 24 years to second husband, Vincent Klos—high school sweethearts who finally figured it out. I keep in touch with Phoebe Brunner Peacock in D.C. My older son, Philip Everett, is senior director for Food/Beverage at the Oxford, Maine, casino and hotel. Younger son Jeff is senior art director for the NIH and is a well-known D.C. gig poster artist. I am also a 27-year breast cancer survivor who loves reading, retirement, NYC museums and Captiva Island.”

Marshalyn Yeargin-Allsupp: “I am a member of the ‘new’ Sweet Briar Board of Directors. It is an honor to be a part of this history-making chapter in the life of Sweet Briar College. On another front, I am still at the C.D.C. For the past year I have been involved with the Zika virus response. After the Sweet Briar Board meeting Feb. 23-25, I am headed to WHO in Geneva for a Zika meeting. Life is good!”

Helen Cato: “A year after graduating, I went to London with a letter of introduction that got me an interview and then a job with a publisher. I then went to Ottawa, worked at a local radio station, then for a national news network. Back to London to join the start of the first legal independent U.K. radio station, LBC. As mother of three, stepmother to four, I have worked in schools with children who have had various learning challenges, physical disabilities and particularly children on the autism spectrum. I now live in Chichester, West Sussex, with my husband and a rotating number of family and visitors. I look forward to catching up on decades of your news.”

Anne Kinsey Dinan: “Christmas and grandchildren—my favorite combination. As always, we saved a day to visit Macy’s Santa Claus, delight in the Lord & Taylor windows, climb on the be-wreathed and be-ribboned Library Lions, ride Bryant Park’s carousel, and follow Rockefeller Center’s angels down to its signature tree soaring over Prometheus. Final stop is always the Christmas model train display in Grand Central Station. Highly recommended!”

ALSO, please note that Frances, Nancy and I are still fervently hoping to find email addresses for fifty “missing” classmates. To that end, I implore anyone in the Class of 1968 who receives this Alumnae Magazine but did not receive an email from me requesting news, to please email or write me with your email and/or mailing address at: akdinan@rcn.com or Anne Kinsey Dinan, 8 Peter Cooper Road, Apt. 11f, New York, NY 10010. Many, many thanks!

1969

Nancy Crawford Bent
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Bryan Alphim Bente (Landenberg, Pa.) has been enjoying retirement since 2015 after working for the same company for 40 years, and she hopes Paul will follow suit soon. Daughter Katharine is taking over management of the company Paul started and she and Nathan will be moving it to Denver. Bryan is busy with vestry and choir at church and with hiking the many local trails, but she also finds “being leisurely (lazy) and relaxed is fun.” She attended Reunion 2016 for Prof. John McClendon’s memorial service and says, “there are so many good memories still there. Whatever becomes of SBC, my life was enriched by the experience and my life as a professional scientist was started there.”

Martha Brewer says there’s little new in Atlanta except worries about Trump appointees. “Sixties style protests are back in fashion.” The good news is that she and Anna got married on 1/1/16 and are enjoying life together, and Martha is still working. They have been attending the wonderful Atlanta Jewish Film Fest and they find parallels between the Holocaust and today’s refugee crises. She concludes, “Hopefully my marriage will remain legal, although I’m worried about that, too.”

Eric and Peggy Davis Mo-lander have moved to Portland, Ore., motivated in part by the 110 inches of snow that fell on their Massachusetts driveway in 2015. Also, their daughter and son-in-law live in Seattle, and their son has followed them to Ore. Living on the banks of the Columbia River, immersed in the casual atmosphere and extensive food culture, they work off the indulgence with golf, hiking, working at vineyards, and enjoying Oregon’s fabulous Pinot Noir. On a trip in 2016, they met 60 new Molander cousins in Sweden and took part in an all-women classic car road rally; then on to Norway where they cruised the fjords and attended Eric’s sister’s wedding. Alaska, easily accessible for them, is on the docket for 2017.

Giana dePaul, living in Dallas since 1973, is still marketing portrait photography and supporting The Arboretum and the SPCA. Her family is three rescues: a dachshund, a schnauzer, and a pit bull.

Kay Giddens Glenday and Ian continue happily in Washington, D.C., happily in touch with Nigel and Betsy in Old Greenwich, Conn., and terrific grandson Connor (2?). They recently took a dream trip on the Sea Cloud with extra days in Antigua, enjoying wonderful beach time and a dinner visit with Bill and Lucille McKee.

Clarkson, D.C.’s Colonial Dames has been a focus for Kay for a decade, especially towards preserving Sulgrave Manor, England (the Washington family’s ancestral home). A book club provides fellowship for her kind of reading (biographies and other histories of recent scholarship); and art history, exhibitions, and some research get her attention, too. Fitness club (and PT) and Christ Church are centered routines. “We manage what’s wrong, and celebrate what’s possible, is my approach, right girls?!! Love hearing from old friends, and better still seeing your photos for fun visits!”

Cathy Hall Stophel (Louisville) writes that daughter Marshall has identical twin boys (1). She had lunch in Boston with Nancy Crawford Bent this fall and they had a lot of laughs. “She is just the same as when we were roommates.” [Ed.’s note: So is Cathy!] She also enjoyed seeing Carolyn Mapp Hewes in Florida recently.

Claudette Harlcoe Dalton (Landenberg, Pa.) is still involved with the AMA, the local and state medical societies, national medical licensing board issues, and physician assistant certiﬁcation, “all boring topics to anyone outside medicine.” She lives with a partner and grandkids, all of whom live in Ore. Living at Kemble Interiors (Palm Beach) and now runs her jobs for her, while she also pursues her sales with Rodan & Fields Skin Care and raising four active boys. John and Kelly continue to work hard, Kelly successfully selling her paintings in showings and on Etsy, and doing her decorative painting, and John opening another facet to his Accessibility Solutions company, Lifetime Renovations. Almena’s mother lives independently, “challenging every preconception of ‘nonagenarianism.’”

Liz Medaglia (Alexandria), enjoying retirement and its flexibility, has visited Cuba and France and walked on El Camino de Santiago this year. In 2017, she anticipates visiting England to mark the 800th anniversary of the Charter of the Forest, and to walk the Cornwall Coast. She enjoys ballroom dancing with Joe, and works at fitness, outdoor puttering, and Italian lessons. Liz continues involvement with the Cosmos Club in D.C. and with the American Bar Association Standing Committee on the Law Library of Congress, which she chaired for six years. She serves on the ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary which conducts peer evaluations of the President’s nominees for federal (lifetime) judgeships, and then publishes its rating. With over 100 vacancies, this committee anticipates a lot of work! Friends who knew SBC’s incoming president through academic and Korean circles describe her to Liz as “aggressive” and “smart”, noting that her strengths in international academic circles make her an interesting choice.

On January 1, Carol Moseley Tash (Winston-Salem) retired from husband Gary’s law firm where she worked part-time as business manager and bookkeeper. After having served in 2015, having been his paralegal and bookkeeper since 2005 when Gary and another lawyer started the family law firm. Gary has early stage Alzheimer’s, and Carol finds it best now for them to be together as much as possible. In August, 2016, she had her left knee replaced, and in February her right knee, after which she was anticipating taking long walks again and keeping up with their four grandkids. She is also hoping to meet up with roomies Sally Boucher Megaeath, Carolyn Jones Elstner, and Midge Yarlee again this year. Carol feels blessed to have such caring friends and family.

Keithley Rose Miller says the apple doesn’t fall far from the tree in her family. Daughter Tory is now working at Kemble Interiors (Palm Beach) with her, running the shop three days a week (and raising baby Emma). Like many of us, Keithley is cutting back at work and has taken on a young partner who interned in the New York office and now runs her jobs for her, while Keithley gets Emma every Wednesday. “My wonderful brother Tanner, who
and her husband have moved to a retirement "village" and "LOVE IT! It's like being at SBC again! Beautiful campus, fabulous food, activities galore—and classes too! I highly recommend this to all. Don’t wait till you’re geezing and can’t enjoy all that this kind of place has to offer!" She is also 30 minutes closer to her daughter, son-in-law, and grandkids in Baltimore.

Maria Ward Estefania (Chevy Chase) has been seeing "a great guy," a retired Episcopal priest, for over five years and went to Beaches, Jamaica with him and his son’s family (three under 8) this summer. “First time being embraced by the Cookie Monster for me!” Granddaughter Ava (8) and her father Ray in Miami continue to thrive and give much joy, spending their annual vacation together this year in St. Thomas. The preschool for homeless infants and toddlers where Maria volunteers has broken ground at last for a second center, allowing them to help 100 additional children from the waiting list. Maria is chairing the board’s committee overseeing the expansion, so if you know of possible capital funders, a plea: please put her in touch! With the caveat that she knows not all of us would agree, Maria wrote, "Bob and I went to the Women's March and had great fun; a crowd of millennials, moms, and grandmoms like us. I marched for those of you in our Class who would have wanted to be there, and for those long-ago women who started and nurtured SBC, hoping our generation will be the last to hit glass ceilings and worked without equal respect and pay."

Betsy West Dripps (Martha’s Vineyard) loves island living, playing lots of golf and running on the beach with her lab puppy. She plays in a teachers’ bowling league, has taken up pickleball, swims a mile two times a week, and teaches environmental science at the Polly Hill Arboretum to about 700 island elementary school children. Just retired from 38 years of coaching varsity girls’ lacrosse, she joined the Cape Cod Women’s golf league so she gets to play lots of great golf courses on the Cape. Craig is the master gardener, photographer, and keeper of the lighthouses on Martha’s Vineyard. All four kids are great, as well as the seven grandkids. They have a wonderful 10 days in Eleuthera with them this Christmas. Betsy would love to see anyone who is visiting Martha’s Vineyard, Mass.

Peter and I (now retired) and the dogs (always were) are renting in a 55+ community near Boston, having sold our house in August. Our offer on an 18th-century house in western Massachusetts was accepted, but then our seller had a change of heart and pulled the house off the market.

Nothing we can agree on has popped up since. Arrgghhhh! Instead of traveling, socializing, and exercising, I am becoming a certifiable curmudgeon while obsessively scanning Zillow. Adele is starting her private clinical LICSW practice in Los Angeles after years of working in psych hospitals and clinics. Charles is moving back from Hong Kong after three years there with Sotheby’s. No job yet, but wife Stobhan has a job at Phaidon Press in New York City so there will be a paycheck! I’ve stopped watching the news since 11/8/16. Please Google “Reichstag fire” if you don’t know what it was, and make sure your passport is up-to-date.

Our 50th Reunion is only two years away. It will be a great thing to have a big turnout from the Fat City Class!”

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Hi Everyone,
Well here we are, at 2017. Despite various replacement parts, we’ve made it to another year and, with luck, some of us are still on our post-holiday diets. Travel seems to be the main theme here in this batch of news. And best of all, many of us are traveling to see our classmates. Others attended 50th high school reunions, though I confess I missed mine because I was traveling. And the rest of us apparently moved.

Vieve Minor Moeckel and Stuart Camblos took short trips to meet up in Atlantic Beach, N.C., to celebrate Vieve’s husband’s 70th. I applaud his daring gallantry, as when it comes to approaching momentous birthdays, I timorously believe in letting friends and family go first. Vieve lives in New Bern, N.C., and Stuart is now back in Asheville, her home town where she recently purchased and totally renovated a “mid-century” ranch, taking it down to the studs, moving walls, busting out ceilings, and having such fun doing it all! Stuart still had time for travel though, taking a back roads hiking trip to Ireland last summer with his youngest daughter. Her next trip will be Israel, “so I’m pulling out my SBC art history book from Miss Barton’s extraordinary class. Can’t wait to see a few of the things we studied!”

AnnAdare Wood doesn’t need to travel, she already lives in Aspen. But she traveled anyway, trekking in Nepal and then adding a trip to Cuba. More exciting than those trips, however—"This past year I was ecstatic to have my first grandchild, precious little Elise.” And somehow, in addition to all this, she continues working in Aspen as a real estate broker with Sotheby’s.

Heather Tully Click bucked the usual trend by relocating north. “After 32 very happy years in Georgia, Richard and I have moved to a condo in Alexandria, Virginia. The attraction was the relocation to the area of both our children and our new grandbabies. It has been wonderful to be within just a few minutes of them. We also love the D.C. area and all it has to offer, including its proximity to Annapolis and Sweet Briar!” Also in Alexandria for now, Mardane Rebentisch McMellor is visiting with her mom.

Candace Bucker Chang writes from the Boston area, “I keep in close contact with my SBC roommate, Jo Shaw Lawson. We took up scuba diving together after turning 60, when surfing turned out to be not as much fun as we had hoped. Since then we have enjoyed three dive trips to Fiji, and an annual girls trip to St. John. This year Jo and I went with friends to Hawaii to do a night dive with manta rays, an awesome experience! Candace’s daily life revolves around work and four grandchildren—two local and two in St. John. So she makes frequent trips to the Virgin Islands (not exactly a hardship).” I also see Laura Sickman Baksa who lives on Cape Cod, and
whose daughter lives not far from me in Boston. Laura is still an amazing artist, now focusing on creating mosaic pools, stone structures and water features. Check out her website: http://www.laurabaksa.com.” I’ll second that from Candace, Laura’s work is magical! Also in the Northeast, Put Mundy Ebinger writes that after 42 years in the energy field she decided to formally retire in January from Brookings though she will continue to be involved in energy affairs running a global electric utility roundtable in conjunction with the Atlantic Council and the Edison Electric Institute. “I also look forward to spending more time in Nantucket and welcome classmates to visit.”

Betty Rau Santandrea is moving soon to get warm. “Our R and R in Monterey, Carmel and Big Sur, after helping with grandkids, has come to an end. Back to reality in Corning, NY: 30 degrees and snow showers. We are preparing for the Sante Fe, NM, closing on our new house, and continuing to try to sell our NY home.”

More travel and another New York connection in Jane Richley Rafal’s report. “Marshall and I spend a lot of our time in London, Hawaii (both Maui and Kauai) and our long time summers in Montauk, NY. We have lots of grandchildren all over the Northeast that we also spend time with.” They took three of them to CATS in New York City at Christmas, but discovered it is not really a kids show in today’s world. “Probably too slow paced compared to Aladdin or other current shows.”

Beautiful photos of the fall harvest under a wide blue sky, and then, later ones of a blanket of winter snow on her illinois farm arrived from Mary Kelley. She reports that although there is always something needing attention on a farm she is keeping up with her line dancing and frequently visits museums in the city, and friends in Tennessee.

Sticking with warm, Wallis Rame- ner, Jessica Holzer, Lorie Harris Amass, Connie Haskell, Mary Jane Brock, Katie McCadle Webb and May Humphreys Fox congregated at Sunnylands, the Annenberg estate in Rancho Mirage, Cali. Their photo says it all.

Katie Harris writes from the sun country too: “Southern California’s alumna rep (Stephanie Pratt McKinney ’91) has worked hard to bring alum together in our vast terrain. I’ve only been able to attend two events, but each time, I’ve been impressed—and proud—to meet dynamic women from the classes before and after ’70.” In mid-January, Marvin and she had a great visit in Tampa with Susan Lykes Mueller and her husband, John. “We cherish that friendship, as Marvin and I met at their 1975 wedding,” she says. Two weeks earlier, they traveled to Austin to see their daughter and spent time with Annie Compton, who has moved to Austin. “Annie’s as wonderful as ever and painting up a storm. Check out her website (anniecompton.com) to get in touch!”

Moving up the west coast to Portland, Denise Mullen continues as President of the Oregon College of Art & Craft.

Nia Eldridge Eaton is still working and headed out to Phoenix briefly for a client kick-off. She also has “two trips to Las Vegas for IBM conferences coming up, with 20,000 of my closest friends. It was such fun to meet up, at my 50th high school re-union, with Lyn Barr Hoyt, Fran Grashaw and Tricia Hodge.” High praise to so many of our classmates who gave so generously of their time and money to save Sweet Briar. Hoping to be able to get down to reunioj this spring. Joy to everyone.”

Also travelling to the Southwest, Terri Eoff Walsh landed in Albuquerque and was trying to contact Ann Gateley. For once Gateley was not in two places at once, she was in Italy with Ira, celebrating their second wedding anniversary. I guess for one’s wedding anniversary it is appropriate to be only in that one place. Terri comments that the “Sweet Briar journey has been incredible. I lived in Harrisonburg, VA, for 42 years, and Phil Stone was the most respected lawyer in town. Small world.” The rest of us haven’t known President Stone for quite that long, but we fully concur.

Deb Jones writes that she and John, after a trip to Sante Fe, did manage to have dinner in Albuquerque with one of our grads, Gateley and Ira back in November— ”what fun!” Deb continues, “We put our Maine house on the market in February, thinking we would have months to clean out, close it up for Thanksgiving and then finish up in the Spring. It was under contract within 6 weeks and then we had 6 weeks to get out and find our new condo in Delaware.”

“We’re trying to get more settled after our move to the Northern Neck of Virginia last fall, Betty Glass Smith reports. Still have some projects and renovations going before it will all be said and done, but truly enjoying retirement, our new place and “viva country” living.”

Deborah Ohler Bowman has also been racking up miles. “I’ve been able to travel to Tahiti in January, and to Texas in July (who does that?) and to the Frank Lloyd Wright homes in Pennsylvania with friends or family. My 50th high school reunion was magical because of the people there. We had such a good time planning and reconnecting. The other super meaningful event for me this year was training to become a Stephen Leader.”

“I’ve loved the in person connec- tions at SBC with Ann Gateley, Kate Schleich, our faithful Kris Herzog, Katie McCadle Webb, Barbara Hastings Carne and Jonna Creaser Clarkson.”

In addition to her Italy trip, Gateley came east to meet up with Kate Schleich at SBC for the Sweet Work Weeks this past summer. And then she’ll make up for anyone who won’t be traveling by throwing another big trip with Ira, this time to Germany in April, in celebration of her birthday. She has sent photos of Ira and her at the Women’s March in Albuquerque.

Also marching for women, but in our nation’s capital, Kate Schleich gives us eye-witness on-the-ground coverage. “First time marching since November 1969’s anti-war outing. Am pleased to report that this time, unlike 1969, I did not get tear-gassed. A wonderful event—pleased to see multi-generations and lots of men showing solidarity with the womenfolk. Signs were phenomenal. Two faves—I can’t believe I’m STILL havin to protest this s**t!” and another that simply said “Free Melania” both examples of keeping one’s sense of humor. Think we ought to dust off and take another run at getting the ERA passed.”

Jane Gott chimes in from the D.C. area, too, with, of course, more travel plans. “I helped to organize my 50th high school reunion this fall, and Ron and I had a fabulous time talking to my classmates. I was fortunate to take a five-day workshop from a well-known master artist this fall. As a result I am experimenting more with my painting. During these cold gray winter days I enjoy knitting crazy colored wool socks for Ron and me in front of the fireplace.” They were planning a trip to sunny Kauai in March and after the trip were planning to renew their ballroom dancing lessons with the Arthur Murray dance school.

And rounding out the contingent here in D.C., where the local sport has become trading sign slogans from The Women’s March, I just took down my art show at the Arts Club of Washing- ton. The Club is housed in two lovely historic townhouses and all the paintings look beautiful there. This was the first showing of my eight Saving Sweet Briar abstracts. The response was very positive, and of course I got to tell our story to many new people. After a quick trip to Charlotte, NC, to see the fabu- lous Women in Abstract Expressionism show, I came home to the news that I was one of 10 winners, out of 2,300, in a national competition run by The Artist’s Magazine. So I’m now, briefly, a little bit famous, in their March issue. You can see the painting on my website http://janschleich.woebly.com.

Before I close, do think about Reunion this June. At our age, five years is just too long a wait to see each other. It’s not “our year” but the college is welcoming everyone and it’s a great opportunity to catch up with other classes and see progress on campus. And if you can’t make Reunion, I can’t emphasize how much fun Sweet Week Works is. Think one big week-long party. So if you come bring wine. It also helps the college enormously (our work, not sure about the wine).

If you are interested in either event, write to me and I’ll try to put people in touch with each other. Or you can always just contact the alum office.

I’ll sign off echoing Nia’s “Joy to all.” Yes, it’s a new year; let’s all make it one of joy.

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Wendy Norton Brown is enjoying her three precious grandchildren, age 5 and under, who live in town! She says, “we are so blessed!! I LOVED going back to Sweet Briar for our 45th in June—we all agree that we want a huge turnout for our 50th!! Please consider coming back in 2021 and renew friendships, catch up on all of our news, and rejuvenate yourselves on our magnificent campus! What an amazing story we all have!”

Brooke Thomas Dold is still in Houston working for a small law firm that specializes in municipal utility districts and water authorities, but she is planning for retirement. Brooke attended both the 2015 and 2016 Reunions and was delighted that there was a 2016 Reunion! Go Vixens!!

Mimi Fahn has had a great year. She says, “Working on the SBC Board of Directors has been incredibly fulfilling and challenging. It’s been an honor to work with such dedicated faculty, administration, board members, and alumnae.” In a demanding year, the timing worked well for a sabbatical last spring: 2 1/2 months in Asheville. In between SBC meetings and work, Mimi got better at fiddling. Back home, Justice Sonia Sotomayor joined Mimi and her band, the Mudflats (all were thrilled!), on stage on July 4th. Mimi is looking forward to an exciting SBC year ahead!

Last year was a “tad unpleasant” for Judy Brown Fletcher. In February, in New York City for Westminster, she fell on ice and had a serious con- cussion. She fell again in May and dislocated an ankle and broke two bones in her foot. After eye surgeries,
Judy can now see her feet. The one bright week was the long-anticipated marriage in St. Petersburg of their son Will to Janessa Cobb. Judy had fun meeting her family and seeing Will’s friends from college and graduate school. Steve’s cardiac disease has worsened, with additional restrictions put on his activities. He is allowed to fly, but not to drive long distances. At least three months were spent nursing their dogs, Dauphine and Dot, after various complex operations for large growths that were benign. Their late Dame now has great-grandchildren in the show rings in the South. Judy continues to co-breed with a friend in North Carolina. Judy’s mother turns 99 in February; she lives at home and teaches watercolor painting despite a growing dementia. Judy has increased her involvement at church, chairing the Stewardship campaign, helping rewrite the constitution and bylaws, and joining the pastoral search committee. She continues to sit on the Foundation Board.

Carol Remington Fogelson had a wonderful year of travel and adventure in 2016, starting with 18 days around the bottom third of South America, their son’s wedding in New Braunfels, Texas; Provo, Utah; a Florida beach getaway; reunion at SBC; Memphis, Tenn.; Dubuque, Iowa, twice; Santa Fe, N.M.; six to seven trips to Baltimore to visit her mother (Ann Moore Remington ’44); plus another trip to Baltimore for Thanksgiving; and Texas for Christmas. In the first quarter of 2017, she will retire after 25-plus years at the Orange County Comptroller. Carol is keeping her bags packed, with many more plans to travel, plus ancestry searching/documenting and watercolor painting!

Kathy Pegues Garcia and her husband just returned from ten days in Vienna, Austria. Their trip coincided with their daughter’s daughter’s trip for the National Gallery of Art. She is getting closer to completing her dissertation. Their son is deployed to Bahrain until July. They will visit grandchildren in South Carolina, then New York City to see a former student sing in Carnegie Hall!

Frances Barnes Kennamer became a grandmother on Sept. 26, 2015. Catherine Barnes Hogson is, of course, the most beautiful granddaughter ever!

Kathy Wilson Lamb and Rex are happily living in Lexington, Va. Retirement has been great. They just got back from a tour of the maritime provinces of Canada. Last year, they did a tour of the Canadian Rockies. They love being grandparents and doing volunteer work in their community.

Sally Uptegrove Lee retired from teaching in 2012. Their daughter graduated from Trinity University in San Antonio and stayed, so they moved to be with her and her family in San Antonio. Sally spent a year and a half renovating a 1920s house there. She loves being retired and has joined the San Antonio Assistance League and the Trinity University Women’s Club. They now have two grandchildren, Liesl and William.

Mim Washabagaegl Megan recently moved from her mountain aerie of the past 20 years to a beautiful neighborhood in downtown Frederic, Md., close to friends. Mim is still playing the organ and is now on the board of the Frederic Children’s Chorus.

Anne Wigglesworth Munoz and Milton celebrated their 40th anniversary this year with trips to Mexico’s Copper Canyon and France, and they will be grandparents to daughter Maya’s and Adnan’s child in November. Their daughter Alizia is getting married in December, then they are off to Portugal and Spain for Christmas and New Year’s.

Barb Wuehrmann has moved to Green Valley, Ariz., full time, no longer a snowbird from Michigan. She is spending summers in Frisco, Colo., to escape the heat. Having worked part-time for the last 15 years, Barb is now a fully retired family physician. She is doing a little traveling: in 2016, she went birding in Belize and to Andalucia, Spain, with the Sierra Club. She met up with Betty Rau Santandrea ’70 in Santa Fe in March.

2016 was a great year for Bev Van Zandt—especially the Sweet Briar Reunion. She continues to love living in San Miguel de Allende. Her daughter, Roberta, and her husband, Chris, are now from New York City for Christmas. To top it off, Mimi Fars arrived in January, and they had a wonderful time catching up and playing tourist. Now Bev is anxiously awaiting her first grandchild, Evangeline, due in February. Beverly and Tom will certainly be busy since Beverly will continue in medical school. Bev says, “Begin your plans NOW to attend our Reunion 2021!”

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Marion Walker has been practicing law in Birmingham, Ala., for 40 years. She is Of Counsel with an L&E boutique law firm. In June 2015, she celebrated the 90th anniversary of Magna Carta in London. Her SBC little sister, Nan Robinson Clarke ’73, was there! In Birmingham, she shares many fun hours with friends shooting skeet, playing golf, working on her house (new since Nov. ’15) and giving dinner parties. Life is good and will be great at Reunion!

Betty Works Fuller continues to enjoy her retirement in Corpus Christi, Texas, where she serves as a supply priest in small churches in the area. Her mother, Lucy Robb Winston Works ’38, died Nov. 7 at the age of 100. She was probably one of the oldest Sweet Briar alums. In going through her mother’s papers, she has found photos of the graduation of the Class of 1938!

Carol Cody Herder and husband Charlie are the proud new owners of an Australian Terrier puppy. It’s even more time-consuming than they remembered, but the good news is that Carol has no trouble completing her 10,000 steps every day. They are really enjoying their granddaughter who is almost 1 year old. Charlie wants to retire from commercial real estate in Houston but says that it is too interesting to completely retire right now. Although Carol is busy with several volunteer groups, she is primarily volunteering with the DAR. They continue to love spending four months in Colorado each summer, as well as taking time to go skiing during the winter and spring. They are golfing together regularly and love traveling with friends to play at different golf resorts. They feel truly blessed. They wish a joyful and healthy 2017 to each member of the class of ’72 and their families!

Sarah von Rosenberg continues to live outside of Houston, Texas, with her husband Stan Smoot. They still work full-time in the psychology practice, doing a significant amount of work with law enforcement personnel. On the weekends, they enjoy their six acres, although the unexpected hard freeze this year wreaked havoc on their citrus crop! Their kids and grandkids are spread from Texas to Ohio to North Carolina and are, for the most part, thriving, which is heartwarming. The grandkids bring a great deal of joy—they’re high energy, but are great fun to be with. Sarah works 15 to 25 hours a week for Sweet Briar as co-chair of the Alumnae Alliance, although that work is expected to increase again for the spring admissions push. Sarah has found it rewarding to reconnect with classmates and near-classmates and to connect with alumnae across the nine decades of Sweet Briar women. The joint determination to work together to preserve SBC’s strong women’s liberal arts education has forged a bond as alums address the opportunities and challenges for the future for our alma mater. She has appreciated the opportunity to serve Sweet Briar.

Martha Holland and husband Chris Ible have decamped to Key West for the past two winters. They have a very low-maintenance apartment there: no grass to cut, no leaves to rake. Otherwise, they split their time between D.C. and Virginia Beach. They went to Australia and New Zealand in spring 2016 and had a great time touring. Two of their three children are married, but no grandchildren yet. They are planning to move from their D.C. house to a townhouse in Alexandria, Va. Again, low maintenance: Someone else will shovel the sidewalk, no grass, no yard at all! Martha enjoys lunch with Jill Johnson and Mary Heller, as often as they are all in D.C. at the same time.

On Jan. 15, 2017, DeDe Conley met with seven alumnae and one Junior Year in France student at a wonderful Sweet Briar Day in Paris hosted by Lorie Teeter Lichten ’82. All enjoyed connecting, and DeDe gave an update on SBC and answered questions. In addition to DeDe and Lori, the event drew Jennifer Campbell Koehl ’85, Bryanna Colvin ’18—a current JFY Paris student, Taler Echols ’12, Christine Jaboula Hubac—French exchange student ’86 -’87, Taylor-Kate Ryan ’10, and Catherine Vette ’93.
May May Brian Gay, Debbie Wilson Hollings, Bev Horne Dommerich, Sade Dabbs Fryer, and Elizabeth Williams Bowman enjoy “Girls Just Got to Have Fun” on the Soque River, GA.

Debbie Wilson Hollings, Elizabeth Williams Bowman, and Bev Horne Dommerich attired for fly fishing in GA.

DeDe Conley and others at Paris Sweet Briar Day

Christine Hubac, Taler Echols, Bryanna Colvin, DeDe Conley

Lorie Lichtlen, Jennifer Campbell, Taylor-Kate Ryan

Marion Walker ’72 and Nan Robinson Clarke ’73 in London, June 2015.

Bev Horne Dommerich and husband John in Hanoi.
Georgene Vairo sends a short, sweet note: “Still doing my best to finish the job of Saving Sweet Briar!”

Beverly Horne Dommerich and her husband, John, spent three weeks in January traveling to Japan, Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand. It was a fabulous trip but it required some ingenuity due to the drastic change of temperatures from Japan to Southeast Asia. They packed a “cold” suitcase for San Francisco and Tokyo, which they left at their hotel, and a “hot” suitcase for their cycling tour of Southeast Asia. They returned to Tokyo, picked up the “cold” suitcase and returned home three days later. Later in 2016, Bev and classmates Debbie Wilson Hollings, May May Brian Gay, Sade Dabbs Fryer, and Elizabeth Williams Bowman spent a “Girls Just Got to Have Fun” week at the Lake in Georgia.

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Anne Major Gibb: Ernie and I spent a wonderful Christmas in Philadelphia with our son, his wife, our daughter and grandchildren. I keep busy working as a grant writer for a small town and serving as president of my Rotary Club.

Glenys Dyer Church: I retired 6/30/16 from Northrop Grumman after 34 years. The first several months were spent getting the house back together after remodeling the kitchen. Now I am enjoying spending my time doing things that I like to do, like making cards and scrapbooking.

Robin Harmon O’Neil: I started an art school last year and am loving painting again! My two partners are professional artists and instructors in the school … check out MSArt.org on the Web!

Renee Sterling: Had a wonderful visit with Cary Davis King while on a business trip to New Orleans; can’t wait to get together with her and Linda Lipscomb for a girls trip! Enjoyed time with Jill Steenhus Rufafa ’80 during one of her annual art trips to Dallas. Lunched with Ann McKie Kling ’74, Melanie Bowen Steglich ’78, Lisa Wray Longino ’78, Ellen Sellers McDowell ’77, Cissy Humphrey ’76 and Tennessee Nielsen ’76. Jill brought her son, Sergio, along on this trip, and I purchased a wonderful bronze that he had created. Talent runs strongly and freely through this family!

Scottie O’Toole: Lots of news in 2016 … as you can see I got married to Ed Goss in Sept. We met online in 2013 and built a house together in early 2016. We now live in Flowery Branch, Ga. I retired from my corporate HR role last Dec. I am now a part-time corporate coach, and I facilitate employee development and provide HR consulting services. Life is good!

Marion McKee Humphreys: Hunter and I celebrated our 40th anniversary last Aug. and I wonder how that is possible. We are still busy with work/life and the wonderful addition of 6 grandkids ages 1-9. He is still practicing law and teaching a Real Estate Transactions course at the U of M law school. I am teaching a wonderful Chronological Bible Study and learning more than our group for sure! I continue to swim etc. and am trying to include some yoga to stretch it out! Loved seeing Jane McCutchen McFadden this past Oct. at my niece’s wedding. She seems to be as busy and wonderful as ever!

Laurie Norris Coccio: I am missing my sister Lynn Norris Pfeiffer ’75, who passed away in July 2016. But keeping in touch with her roommate, Janet Sheppard Kelleher ’75, has been a wonderful connection. Hearts and prayers to Janet. My husband and I are moving from one house to another in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., so if you want to come to the races in Aug., give me a call! Chris is still running a business in the Hudson Valley, so we travel there each week. I also have had fun playing mahjong with Sue Dern Plank and hope for a visit from Ginger Woodward Gast in spring 2017.

Kristin Howell: In the past year or so I’ve traveled a lot, as I love it. Went on a photo workshop windjammer cruise in the Grenadines, Dominica, my usual Texas and Germany visits to relatives, my Howell family reunion at Wrightsville beach (we’re 50+ members now), and I love to go camping when I can, especially in Fla. I had a little heart blip in which I ended up with 3 stents but glad to be feeling better! Back in Key West now for a while and getting on the water as much as possible. Also still with the same guy, a record for me!

Susan Hancock Duke: It was 1 degree in Franklin this a.m. I have no memory of temps this low before, ever! I’m still working for Prime Media/ Cable TV and Digital Sales.

Christine Eng Leventhal: I teach science at Darien High School, as well as tutor and teach one fitness class a week, take 2 ballet classes a week, volunteer, and love being a Mommy! Peter is retired and stays active with Spanish class, Tai Chi, and fighting back against Parkinson’s disease. We have one grandson, Milo (3), whom we adore (Army & Giovanni, VT). Nick has moved back from Maui to Conn., and Jon lives and works in Denver.

Diane Dale Reiling: Our son, Steven (32), got married in Seattle in July 2016 & daughter, Erica (28) will be married in Long Beach, Calif., in May 2017; so we are busy, busy with the delightful details that accompany these joyous celebrations. I have also started the Master Gardener’s program locally. Planning to be at our 45th reunion in 2018 and hoping to make several side trips from Va. to the Carolinas and Ga. then.

Sandra Schwartz Tropper: The art appraisal business continues to grow, and I have been active in appraisal organizations. I am now on the Board of Governors of the American Society of Appraisers and chair the Personal Property Advisory Council for The Appraisal Foundation (the organization that sets standards and qualifications for appraisers in the United States). Between those activities and teaching valuation theory, I stay very busy.

Molly Dunn Martin: William retired from his law practice in 2016, and we enjoyed trips to China, Portugal and Maine. We’re fortunate that our two grands (almost 4 and 1) live nearby, and we babysit a lot! I continue to enjoy
judging AKC dog shows and travel quite a bit doing that. Home is still Ala.

Mary Buxton: An eventful year ... My sweet mom passed away last Feb. We were lucky to be there with her. I am mulling over and practicing retirement. Continuing Education classes at Stanford are helping me define a new role as an involved citizen, particularly in environmental advocacy. For adventure, I hope to visit Jane Potts in Charleston and the National Parks.

Evelyn Carter Cowles: Life is pretty much the same ... riding, fishing and painting. Reynolds is the president this year for the Am. Assoc. of Equine Practitioners; so we get to do a little traveling for his "job." I am actually sitting on the beach in Grand Cayman as I type, while he is in a meeting! Going back to SBC in March for a riding clinic and then hope to see as many as possible of you all in 2018!

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Barb Ashton Nicol: Had a great time at a Sweet Week of Work in August with Liz Thomas Camp. Ellie Plowden Boyd, Robin Christian Ryan, Ruthie Willingham Lentz and Lee Wilkerson Warren. Robert and I are celebrating our 25th wedding anniversary this year. My younger son, Ben, was married in Mobile last March. My older son, Chris, lives Tuscaloosa. Robert’s son lives in Atlanta and Corpus Christi, Texas. We enjoyed visiting our two grandchildren, Grace and Parker, in Atlanta.

Lee Wilkerson Warren: I retired from Stop Hunger Now in 2014 and love retirement. After completing the two-year Living School program in Albuquerque at the Center of Action and Contemplation, I kicked back and picked up watercolor painting with similar zeal. I’m also a charter board member of an NGO focused in Nicaragua and travel there twice a year. During the school year, I volunteer at the elementary school and tutor non-English-speaking children. Life is good.


Ellie Plowden Boyd: A great year for catching up with housemates and getting down & dirty on campus at Sweet Weeks; Pulled weeds and caught up with Liz Thomas Camp, Ruthie Willingham Lentz, Barb Ashton Nicol, Lee Wilkinson Warren, Robin Christian Ryan, and Mary Witt Will. All pretty for the new students! Bennett Coleman won "Spring Vixen," the oil painting I submitted for SBC’s online auction. What would you like to see your vixen doing this year?

Mary Witt Will: I have officially stepped down from work and am so enjoying free time. I’m spending much more time with family and friends (such as our classmate Sandra Taylor). I’m also volunteering at St. Mary’s Hospital and as a broadcast reader for Virginia Voice for the print-handicapped.

My commitment to the University of Virginia School of Medicine continues as a trustee and class representative. Hoping all are well and happy.

Jane Hutcherson Frierson: I am retiring from MITRE Feb. 2 then celebrating with a week of skiing in Lake Tahoe.

Mary Comb: I am delighted to announce that Arthur Jackson “Jay” Wheeler and I were married on the beach outside my condo in Naples-on-the-Gulf, Fla., on 12/12/16!!!!! We knew each other 20 years ago and have not seen each other for the last 17 years! We ran into each other again at Trump headquarters working for the election, and our first date again was on Election Day!

Jennifer Smith Hanes: Thank you for your faith, courage, dedication, and determination to secure your future. SBC’s brightest days are ahead! Our college will adapt to a changing world with imagination and purpose. Tom and I now live in Richmond, Va., closer to our children and six grandchildren! Tom continues to practice law. I stay active with grandparenting, community/church activities, choir, handbells. I will always remain in love with SBC! Hello to all my very wonderful classmates.

Susan Stephens Geyer: I can report that after 3 1/2 years of a home renovation project, we are moving back into our house in mid-February. I will host the Friends of Art board members here next fall for our meeting. I am very excited that I will soon be seeing Elizabeth Andrews Watts, Jane H. Frierson and Leslie Elbert Hill in Virginia in late April. Elizabeth has invited us to join her for the Eastern Shore Garden tour. We still have no marriages or grandchildren to report, but our adult children are engaged in their various job endeavors and seem quite content and productive.

Mimi Hill Wilk: Thanks to Penelope Lagakos Constantindis’s amazing family business, I had fun selling Kastania Extra Virgin Olive Oil at the Plaza luncheon with daughter Liz Greg and I enjoyed seeing Emory Maxwell and husband Charles. We shared grandparent stories. George turns 3 on Groundhog Day.

Tricia Barnett Greenberg: I’m thrilled to finally have two grandsons five weeks apart!!! Brody, 10 months, is in Atlanta with Patty and Drew; Phillip, 9 months, is in Florence, S.C., with Heather and Barnett. Phil and I still split our time between Florence and Charleston. I am busy with my antiques business at Terrace Oaks in Charleston and on Instagram, Patrician Antiques. Phil is retired and wants to travel as much as possible. We leave for India next week.

Mary Lee Burch Doering: I’m still living in Folson, Calif., near Sacramen-
to. I tutor several students in French, writing, SAT and ACT prep and love it!!! I also am a member of the local Alliance Francaise and The French Class on Sutter Street in San Francisco. My older three adult children are married and doing well. My boys live in upstate New York and my daughter Marissa near Philadelphia. Deanna, who recently turned 21, works at the local In-N-Out part time and attends classes for her general education at a junior college nearby. She will enroll in UC Davis in the fall. All is well with us. I did have a minor cardiac issue a few weeks ago, which got me going to the gym daily!! I feel great. Joining a new Lifetime fitness center that will open in April.

Sarah Johnston Knoblauch: I just had a Sweet Briar Snow Flake Luncheon on January 15. We had 15 ladies attend, including Chris Weiss Pfeil’s dear mother! Priscilla Newton Carroll ’87, Alumnae Relations, came from Sweet Briar and gave us an update on campus news. We had Chris Weiss Pfeil, Betsy Biggar Hellmuth and me from our class. I am still enjoying riding my Polly Wolly Doodle and showed her in some hunter classes at the beginning of December. My watercolor art classes continue as well as my commissions. I still can send my Sweet Briar watercolor to anyone who wants to donate $120 to Sweet Briar. I can send an archival print of my painting for $30. I also have note cards for $3/card. The painting is shown on my Facebook page.

Kathleen Kilpatrick: I retired in the fall from public service and am enjoying giving more attention and time to my several historic preservation and land conservation boards and
commissions at the state, national and international level. Son Ian graduated from UVa in 2015 and is gainfully employed in marketing while also serving as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Virginia Army National Guard. It’s lovely to no longer have tuition fees after 13 years of St. Christopher’s and then college; the breather won’t last long as years of St. Christopher’s and then Virginia Army National Guard. It’s lovely serving as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Navy in February, so we are looking forward to having a full house for a time. Sorry I missed Drea Peacock Bender, who was snowed in at the Grove Park Inn down the road a couple weeks ago.

Janie Reed Short: I recently made a big move from U.S. Trust to a new company—Waypoint Advisors, a small private wealth management firm based in Virginia Beach—as Executive Vice President and Partner. Loving it!!

Jan Renne Steffen: I’m a widow living in Fallbrook, Calif. Moved here 11 years ago after living in Orange County for 30 some years, from the city living to country living. I am currently working in my jewelry business, JRS Designs. I have 1 dog, Fabio, an 11 year old Lhasa Apso. I have my masters in business administration and my MBA in project management. Being president of A.S.G of San Diego takes up a lot of time. I have a boyfriend.

Mary Landon Darden: I retired from serving as dean for a university center in San Antonio in 2015, and husband Bob and I moved back to Waco, Texas, where I started a company—Higher Education Innovation, LLC—and Bob continues at Baylor as a full professor. I work with universities and schools to help build enrollment, programs and initiatives. Bob’s Black Gospel Music Restoration Project that he started at Baylor has just become a part of the Smithsonian’s new Museum of African American History and Culture in D.C. We both continue to write books, blogs and more and, in our time off, enjoy our grandchildren—Asa, Elian, Rhett and Archer.

Wendy Cherry: Thank you Sweet Briar family for giving me the liberal arts foundation for an abundant life: an internship with the Guggenheim Museum, three years as a Peace Corps volunteer (in a mud hut) in Zaire, an MSW, 10 years as a financial adviser with The Ohio Company, 15 years as a financial adviser with Edward Jones. The phenomenal female role models of the Chicago Art Institute. I stay busy shopping and go to the Field Museum and Chicago to see the play “Hamilton,” to grow organic tea at Kilauea. Went to Antarctica and Argentina for three weeks over Christmas and New Years. I gave my mom much love and support from knowing that we are giving up the will to stay alive. For anyone experiencing the hollowing out, the fading away of your loved one, part of our strength and comfort can come from knowing that we are giving love, safety, and as much comfort as possible on this horrendously long, last chapter.”

Cheryl Lux has been busy; here’s her update. “Despite the freefall in producer cattle prices we have done okay. We continue to see increases in demand for our breeding bulls, which we anticipate to continue in 2017. Went to Hawaii in December to visit family, who grow organic tea at Kilauea. Went to National Western (Live) Stock Show in Denver with daughter Elizabeth; stayed with Sally Berriman and her husband Steven Brown, had a great time with them and sampled several of Denver’s fine cuisine spots, including Sally’s of course. Elizabeth is moving to Kansas City, Missouri, to take a job there. The rest of the three of us here at the ranch, my husband John and son Adam are all healthy and doing well.”

Robin Heller writes that she is “happy to be in Detroit at this time with its exciting rejuvenation. It is hard to keep up with the new restaurants, new commercial/residential development, and cultural activities. After retiring (for the second time) from my position at an environmental health nonprofit, I taught me “I can do hard things.” As for me, Nancy Mortensen Piper, my husband and I have been spending a lot more time at our house in Rehoboth Beach, Del. My oldest daughter, Kate, is living and working in Berkeley, Calif., and loves it. My youngest daughter, Liz, is a Sophomore at Elon University in N.C. She loves the school and her sorority, Alpha Chi Omega. I have been active with the D.C. Sweet Briar Alumnae Club, and we had a very successful Sweet Briar Day in January; we are planning a fundraiser with Talbots in the spring.
continue to be immersed in charitable activities, mainly focused on children, gardening, and historic preservation. I sit on several nonprofit boards as well as two local foundation boards. We continue to work on our historic home built in 1903-04—always a fun adventure that reminds us to enjoy the journey as much as the end result. (It is on the National Register of Historic Places.) Our daughter is a grad student at Loyola Chicago, so we travel to visit her. Our son is back in the area, and we enjoy having him closer."

Sally Mott Freeman is "thrilled to report that my son Christopher got engaged over Christmas to his girlfriend, Kamis O’Farrell. Thoroughly enjoying wedding planning conversations, which are in full swing. No date yet, but Christopher tells me it will be after the launch of my book, The Jersey Brothers, officially May 9 at Politics and Prose in D.C., but which kicks off a week before at the annual author dinner in Richmond (May 4). Then off to Dallas and points west..... I hope to catch up with some 76ers along the way!"

Susan Verbridge Paulson is still working as principal of an elementary school in Colorado Springs. Her husband is officially retired, but works often as supply clergy. Their children and grandchildren are all nearby in Denver.

Meg Shields Duke’s first grand baby arrived last Valentine’s Day -- Madeleine "Maddie" Marguerite Simpson (Mary Beth Hamlin Shannon’s birthday buddy)! "I'm so pleased that our beloved Sweet Briar will continue to educate young women in the future. We should all be proud of those who participated in #SaveSweetBriar. The power of our alumnae and strong women should never be underestimated."

Lynn Kahler Rogerson is "thrilled to report that Olivia—now at Senior at Foxcroft School in Middleburg, Va.—has accepted SBC’s invitation to the freshman class of 2021! Viva la SBC! It took tremendous control not to lobby 24 hours a day to this desired end, but happily she has come to the decision on her own. The SBC Admissions Office did a tremendous job with their admissions weekend—after the various presentations, I wanted to sign up again! And I have more happy news—I am engaged and will be married in the summer. I enjoyed SBC Day with the Washington, D.C. chapter, and was delighted that four enthusiastic members of the class of ’76 were present—Sally Mott Freeman, Nusrat Aygen, Maureen O’Hearn Slowinski and myself."

Kari Shipley volunteers as a fundraiser for four local charities and capital campaign for her church as well as serving on two boards and helping her youngest son start his environmental nonprofit; this keeps her busy all year round. Her husband retired in January, "so a new chapter in our lives has begun and we will spend summers in Lake Toxaway, NC. Painting and swimming for fun and exercise Heated SBC swim team at our home in Delray Beach last night. Go Vixens!"

Linda-Jean Smith Schneider reports from lovely Bucks County, Penn., that she was sorry to have missed reunion. Her granddaughter Kiley (then 18 mos.) came from Dallas to stay with her while her parents attended a wedding. Lisa Nelson Robertson (Honey), Sally Olds Kitchin (Saint) and Ann meet regularly to whine and wine. "Keep the faith with SBC! Continue your generous support of time, talent and treasure. Hugs, Kevy (my granny name)"

Due to technical issues, updates from Ann Stryker Busch were not received. I know that part of her news included updates on grandchildren, so hope that she will be able to tell us all about what’s going on in her world in our next update. Thank you all who submitted; keep those cards and letters coming!

Debbie Koss McCarthy is winding down toward retirement. She has stepped down as the executive director of the Augustine Literacy Project and will spend 2017 focusing on replication chapters in 15 other cities. She and David LOVE spending time at their mountain house at Lake Lure, playing with the “Adorables,” their two grandchildren who live 2 1/2 hours away in Charlotte. They are considering moving there, but it won’t be easy to leave after 39 years in the Triangle! Jean Romanske Zaniewski remains happily retired from a long career in federal law enforcement, and with husband Ken is enjoying late in life parenting to three teenagers (“What were we thinking?”). Jean is also enjoying late in life athletic pursuits. She completed a full Ironman triathlon in 2013 and again in 2015; and now (worn out) spends tons of time with
her younger daughter, her daughter’s Welsh pony, and her own Hanoverian/TB hunter.

Carolyn Williams Seeling is enjoying family, friends, and work in the Philadelphia area. She plans to retire soon and move to the Delaware coast.

Harriet Dinegar Milks moved with her family to Alaska for a “two-year adventure” that has lasted for 13 years. Their daughter is a ski instructor, and their son is a professor at University of Alaska. Harriet and husband Bill are both assistant attorneys general for the state of Alaska; she is the attorney for the state’s marijuana program. Harriet says “it’s fascinating and challenging work, and I’m proud to be working in this cutting-edge area. My kids are alternately amused, horrified and proud. I’ll take it.”

Suzanne Stryker Ulrich 820 Waverly Rd. Kennett Square, Penn. 19348 suzulrich@aol.com

So, do we all feel a year older? Sixty is just a number! And we have already moved on! Our next hurdle? Our 40th!! is just a number! And we have already moved on! Our next hurdle? Our 40th!!

One of our Globe-trotting classmates, Carolyn Ennis, reports in from Geneva, Switzerland, where she is now stationed with UNHCR after 4 years in the DR Congo and 3 years in Iraq. Her daughters are grown up, working and studying, which gives Carolyn time to run 3 marathons as well as starting a little archery. She also stays in touch with Jeke Oisinga Scully and Jane Hemenway Sullivan.

Anne Doolittle is happy to announce the birth of a granddaughter, Ellen Maddux Cotton (Maddy), to her daughter and son-in-law in Fairfax, Va. She is the “beautiful, precious, new love of my life! That makes grandchild #7.” Anne has been painting up a storm and had an art show in December where she sold five paintings, as well as several sets of hound drawing notecards. While Anne has enjoyed reconnecting with classmates on Facebook, “I would love to see the real faces at Reunion in the future!”

Another classmate has joined the ranks of grandmother-hood! Mary Page Stewart’s daughter Ellie had not one, but two last June! How lucky! One of each! “They live all too far away, but we’ve managed to spend some good time with them.” Mary has also seen Catherine Statinchek Prillman ’76 in Vero Beach, Fl.

Katie Renaud Baldwin is about to become a grandmother again, as well! Daughter Amanda (an RN) and hubby were expecting again in March with little second-grade-sister Addi very excited! Daughter Emily is still in California, but Katie says, “I am still trying to get her to move closer to me!” Katie and Cary are still living on a farm in Oregon, where retired Cary never runs out of things to do, and Katie looks forward to the day when she can retire, again! After retiring a year ago, she was asked to return to fill in after the loss of a fellow teacher. Many students had been Katie’s previously in a split Kindergarten/1st grade class, so it was a natural fit with many former students. But Katie remarked, “Second grade has changed a lot from two years ago. There is not one curriculum that I had the year before!” However, teaching just 2nd grade is much easier. “I am spending a lot more time on Pinterest!”

Betsy Moore Conti and husband Gene are enjoying life and work in downtown Raleigh, N.C., with daughter Molly and son-in-law and grandson Liam right around the corner, “which has been a BLAST!” (The rest of us grandparents are envious!) Betsy and Gene also get to spend a lot of time in Ashevile, N.C., where they visit son John Reiley, who is a chef at The Wick- ed Weed! The BCG news for all of them is that after an eight-year courtship, John finally proposed to Leigh! Other big news may just benefit all of us at some point! Betsy and Gene recently purchased a 900-year-old stone purchased a 900-year-old stone...
cottage in Tuscany, which has been the source of frequent trips, adventures, and Italian lessons! “Class Reunion in Italy?” I think there might be a few takers on that one!

There will be many weddings coming up for our classmates in 2017! There will be lots of ‘MOGs’ and ‘MOBs’! Ann Key Lucas will test the waters as MOG when middle son William marries “an adorable girl from Cleveland.” Fortunately all three sons (oldest John and youngest Hunt) will be living in the St Louis area (all gainfully employed!), which makes Ann very happy! There are the requisite three-hour coffee breaks about three times a year with Becky Mulvihill McKenna, and Cathy Mellow Gortlerman is on speed-dial! Ann had recently attended the simply wonderful wedding of Didiee Himenez DiLeao’s daughter. Did you pick up any pointers, Ann? Deb Davison Klein had to trade her MOB hat in for a MOG hat! Son Bo was getting married in March. Married daughter Whitney is in Atlanta, and Peter is in Washington State. A visit with Mason Page Stewart, Kathy Jackson Howe, Cannie Cryster Safer and Dru Springer Oswalt in Florida was a blast, and riding and the beach also keep her busy!

Lisa Wray Longino had also been busy planning daughter Fleming’s wedding to Matthew Huckin in May (“so excited for them both!”) and also helped sister Bridget Ward Gardner ’79 welcome her first grandson last October; Joseph Duffie Ratterree IV! Congratulations to all! Lisa also fills her time working for Sweet Briar and a few non-profits in Dallas, and feels it “a great blessing to get to know so many more extraordinary SBC women!” Another trip, “though a very sad occasion,” brought Betsy Ryan Glenn, Kathy Jackson Howe and Tucker McGowin Slaughter ’79 together for the celebration of life service for classmate Eve Jackson London. “What a testament to courage and strength!” Eve will indeed be missed. Her movies taken during our years at SBC will be but one of her legacies!

Carrie Ruda Clark is still in member communications at the American Bankers Association, where she also spends her time managing the director’s publication, but also takes a lot of the photographs of meetings and does copy editing for marketing collateral. Son Andrew, 28, moved back from North Carolina and was renting a basement apartment while becoming certified to train dogs for service in hospitals and for disabled patients. Son John is now in Baltimore managing the marketing for Terra’s Kitchen, an online meal delivery service that he started with some partners. Carrie ended her notes with “So glad that 60 is the new 40! My best to all of you.” Isn’t that the truth, Carrie! So much talent out here!

Lee Corollo continues to teach chemistry (39 years), doing some consulting on the side, and walk dogs, but decided to give up the riding “because I do not do it often enough to stay in shape and at this age ‘once in a blue moon’ only makes me sore!” Instead, she keeps up with ballroom dancing “when I can get my hubby out there!” Lee’s son is working at Stanford University as the residential education manager, including student affairs, and residential life, all keeping him busy! Working with students gives Lee the opportunity to entice a few girls to consider SBC, but finds it a tough sell to get California kids to go East! Keep trying Lee! You never know! . . . No reunions with classmates . . . sigh! Okay, West Coast, take that as a challenge!

Empty Nesters, Ieke Osinga Scully and husband report, “Two kids OFF our payroll!” One is in Chicago working for Deloitte, while second son is a physics/math teacher and crew coach at the Hill School in Pottstown, Pa., near Philadelphia. Son #3 is at the University of Denver, studying and skiing! Ieke spends lots of her time volunteering with the local historical society and tagging along on her husband’s volunteering with sustainable energy efforts.

Audrey Townsend reported that she and husband Scott were on a small island in the Bahamas having a wonderful time! After that she was meeting up with classmates Emily Dick McAlister, Michelle Tarride Frazier, Missy Powell Adams and Helen Sher Bruckman in Nassau for a long weekend! “I’m sure I’ll have lots of news after that!”

A number of our class are involved with Friends of the Arts Board, meeting in various cities. Mary Page Stewart, Kathy Jackson Howe and Barbara Behrens Peck always enjoy going to those meetings so they can catch up! Barbara also enjoys her public art consulting, particularly a recent installation of part of a 10-year project along the Downtown Greenway in Greensboro, Woven Works Park, inspired for the area’s textile industry, all part of “Creative Placemaking” in her city! Barbara also reflected on the fun times she had in Florida with other ‘78-ers while at Mary Page Stewart’s in November, and looks forward to other SBC ‘78 mini-reunions to come! Family is all fine, with hubby Jeff still with International Textile Group, daughter Haley, 22, living in Charlotte and working at Bank of America in their finance training programs.

It was great to hear from Claire Vaughn, who has moved to San Antonio, Texas, where she has a ranch, and hosts photography groups! Road trip?!

Cassandra Smith Babbitt has left her job at University of Maine, and isn’t quite sure what she will do with herself! Having more flexibility while helping out her mother in her late 80s is important, as well as time to visit her two little granddaughters, Eloise and Clementine, who will be moving back to North America from Hong Kong this summer! “Victoria, B.C., but still a lot closer!” Yes, Cassandra . . . Victoria is beautiful! Another goal? Starting up a small quilting business! (All you quilters . . . Road trip to Maine, eventually!)

Katherine Powell Heller is grateful to have both daughters living and working in Atlanta, so she can see them regularly. Celebrating the “Big 6-0” in Italy on a Uniworl River Cruise was a highlight, one that Katherine highly recommends!

Lots of news from Lauren Place Young! She was able to attend “the best graduation,” celebrating Jean Beard Barden’s completion of a 22-month-long intense program at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y., complete with an award in management! Jean actually got to enjoy again the fun times of living on “campus” during the week, returning home to Bob on the weekends! I’m sorry, do any of us remember having an oriental rug in our dorm rooms? Well, Jean did this time around! Creature comforts! All kidding aside, it was very intense and KUDOS to you Jean! Now . . . when will you lend your talents to the Wailes Center on campus? Back to Lauren: After being away from the slopes for a number of years, Lauren and husband report, “Two kids practice! Daughter Catherine is deep into her college search. ALL of them are working on the 2nd annual All-Ohio Alumnae Luncheon this April. They have also been attending college fairs in the Central Ohio area and alumnae events with the Northeast Ohio SBC Club (two hours away!). Muffy also has fun talking to our classmates throughout the country, as we continue to meet our goal of reaching ALL class members! (Please send updated contact info to school or Suzanne.)

Anne Taylor Doolittle’s son and daughter-in-law have moved to Columbus, so they all had lunch together in early fall. Their oldest son, James, just started a new job in Akron, Ohio, working for the Cleveland Indians AA farm team, and Spencer is working in Boston for campus banner in Columbus, Ohio, where they are working on the 2nd annual All-Ohio Alumnae Luncheon this April. They have also been attending college fairs in the Central Ohio area and alumnae events with the Northeast Ohio SBC Club (two hours away!). Muffy also has fun talking to our classmates throughout the country, as we continue to meet our goal of reaching ALL class members! (Please send updated contact info to school or Suzanne.)

Elizabeth Jane Hemenway Sullivan continues to support SBC in every way she can! In February Jane gave her Daisy and Indy <3 NYC Tour to the SBC history students, organized by SBC’s Dr. Kate Chavigny, What fun to see the sights of New York that were the neighborhoods, parks and churches the Williams family loved. “We forget that they were really sophisticated people of their time, and that they loved NYC as much as they loved Sweet Briar.” In January Jane attended a wine tasting with Wendy Weller ’71 in Grand Central Terminal featuring wines by SBC’s own Leah Jorgensen ’96. “Leah’s wines are phenomenal, so I hope everyone will be able to order them and sample them for themselves!” In her spare time, Jane continues renovations on the 1840s farmhouse in Eatonton, Ga., heading there for a week every month. (The farmhouse belonged to a War of 1812 veteran who was a surgeon’s mate and then later went off to medical school in Philadelphia. He returned to this farmhouse to practice as a country doctor.) Eatonton calls itself “the briar patch” as well, “so now I have two!” The area is rich with well-known authors . . . Joel Chandler Harris’s The Song of the South, Alice Walker’s The Color Purple, and Flannery O’Conner all came from this Lake District in Georgia. (Hmm . . . good place for a literary getaway!) Daughter Elizabeth is a junior at Williams College, and son John is deep into his own college search. ALL in the family are healthy and well!

Cathy Mellow Gortlerman is still teaching pre-school and doing extended care at a second school. That’s how she gets her “grandchildren” practice! Daughter Catherine is teaching also, but nursery school, while Christen is getting her master’s in counseling, and Woody is interning at Sindel, Sindel and Nobel law firm. “We are all busy.”

Muffy Hamilton Parsons and Cindy McKay are carrying the SBC banner in Columbus, Ohio, where they are working on the 2nd annual All-Ohio Alumnae Luncheon this April. They have also been attending college fairs in the Central Ohio area and alumnae events with the Northeast Ohio SBC Club (two hours away!). Muffy also has fun talking to our classmates throughout the country, as we continue to meet our goal of reaching ALL class members! (Please send updated contact info to school or Suzanne.)

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Barbara Mendelssohn Price

wonderful. Thanks to all of you for your support!"

Barbara Mendelssohn Price: Grateful for a healthy and happy family. I’m a Florida resident and in Washington, D.C., as well. My husband and I travel as much as his work schedule allows. Just went to the Galapagos and June will be Paris and August Gstaad. Anyone interested in doing girl travel trips abroad?? I’m in touch with favorite French teacher, Mr Artinian, and I’m still working on my French everyday. As for now … there have been the ups, and the downs, that we can’t escape. Eve Jackson London lost her 22-year-long battle, all too soon on the heels of Maria Rixey Gamper’s ended battle. Collectively we have lost children, parents, siblings, and other family members. But the bottom line is that we are all here for each other, and we mustn’t forget that! Please continue to be in touch with each other however you can, not just for Reunions but continuously. Don’t wait for “someday”

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Karen Meredith Black is still working as a real estate agent in Santa Fe and was honored to be named the Women’s Council of Realtors’ Member of the Year in 2016. She writes: “We are traveling more. Robin and I took a month-long trip to South America (Chile and Argentina) this past November. My 81-year-old father joined us for the 1st half of the trip, which was a lot of fun.” Lisa Carangelo writes that she sees Cary Dollar on a regular basis.

Jamila Champisi is working as an infectious Disease physician at South San Francisco Kaiser Permanente. Her daughter started her freshman year at UCLA this fall and her son is in the midst of the college application process. She is so happy that Sweet Briar is thriving and wants anyone to email if they are in the area.

Nancy Rae Delach writes that she is remarried, living in Virginia and is very proud of those who helped Save Sweet Briar.

Martha Fruehaufl writes from Charlottesville that she misses her Sweet Briar Board friends and everyone SBC related. She is busy with family commitments, splitting her time between Charlottesville and Florida to be with her parents. The upside is the beach! Martha is hoping to connect with some alums in Florida while she is there this winter. Time just keeps flying by, writes Carolyn Hallahan Salamon. Thomas is a senior in high school and off to college next year—he is hoping for MIT, Yale or University of Chicago. Meaghan is a sophomore, is into kickboxing and got back into figure skating where she is jumping and spinning like a top! Carolyn adds: “I am still a project manager at Wells Fargo and also try to stay involved in my wonderful Frederick, Md., community as much as possible.”

We are officially old! Garrow Hudson Crowley writes that their first grandchild, Nora Garrow Hepner, was born to Elsa and Oliver Hepner on May 18, 2016. Sadly, she lives in Brooklyn.

Emily Quinn McDermott writes that she and husband Ed are empty nesters. Faith started college in the fall at Scripps in Claremont, Calif., while Elizabeth is finishing up her senior year at Denison. Elizabeth has a job lined up for next year in Washington, D.C., where she will be working for a management consulting firm. Ed is still working full time, while Emily stays busy with her board work for a local arts center, her role in town government and her bridge classes.

Betsy Thomas Rook did another book signing for “Senator: 1876-1965 The Life and Career of Elmer Thoms” in November 2016 at the museum of the Great Plains in Lawton, Okla. She may add another one for sometime in 2017 in Oklahoma City. Her website is www.etrook.com. Her son Wiley (23) is still living in Vermont and majoring in business at the Community College of Vermont; Kirby (19) started Pasadena City College last fall and is now on the men’s basketball roster! He’s majoring in Kinesiology. Betsy adds: “I’m auditioning for acting roles and taking an acting class to keep up those skills! I also got a commercial agent last fall. My retired husband, Roger, is doing well, keeping busy with the house, the yard and everything else in between. He also tends to our Lynxpoint Siamese cat and 4 snakes. I loved getting to visit our new French teacher, Mr Artinian, and I’m still working on my French everyday. As for now … there have been the ups, and the downs, that we can’t escape. Eve Jackson London lost her 22-year-long battle, all too soon on the heels of Maria Rixey Gamper’s ended battle. Collectively we have lost children, parents, siblings, and other family members. But the bottom line is that we are all here for each other, and we mustn’t forget that! Please continue to be in touch with each other however you can, not just for Reunions but continuously. Don’t wait for “someday”

Myth Monnich Bayoud and Amy Campbell Lamphere recently and made a new SBC friend, Patrick Sagasti-Suppes ’93, at the Woman’s March in January.

As for me, your class secretary, Myth Monnich Bayoud … my senior in high school keeps me busy and I am the director of business development in August for WY with Worth, which is fun! I spent a fabulously fun weekend last August in Vail with Diane Dilworth Gates and Mary Callahan Arnold. Being on the retail team for the Sweet Briar Book Shop ensures that I get to go to Sweet Briar frequently and work with Sharon Watts Turner ’81 and spend time with Claire Dennison Griffin and Mary Pope Maybank Huntington ’83! While getting the Book Shop ready for Christmas in October 2016, I was able to have lunch in Amherst with Scott Michaels, a pal from W&L. I got to see Phyllis Watt Jordan and Mary Callahan Arnold in November 2016 on a quick trip on the way home from NYC. In December 2016, son Charlie and I took a Mom/sen trip to D.C. to take in museums, Wizards and Capitals games as well as lunch at the famous Tune Inn! We missed alum Kate Schleich ’70 at the Library of Congress that trip. We also got to see former SBC president Barbara Hill. I spent time skiing in Vail with Janel Hughes Wiles and her husband, John, in February 2017! I keep in touch with classmates Carolyn Birbick Thomason and Tish Longest Tyler.
1981

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Hello Classmates,

Harriet Harrison Leavell is living in Houston, Texas, and working as the tax manager for an electronics company. Playing in a tennis league is keeping her busy as well. Her husband, Whitney, is still with Merrill Lynch and hunting and fishing as often as he can. She writes that their son, Walton, graduated from Rhodes College and is an IT Consultant in Houston, while daughter Brooks has graduated from the University of Georgia and is in commercial real estate in Atlanta. Harriet adds, “Now that we aren’t traveling for UGA lacrosse games, we are skiing more often and thinking about retirement…soon!”

Liz Seacord attended the 2017 Women’s March in D.C. with Lelee Frank Hazard, Stephanie Stitt Fitzpatrick and Stephanie’s husband, Dirk. They enjoyed a fabulous Gals’ Weekend at the Fitzpatrick home in Tacoma Park, Md. In NYC, Liz hosted another large annual Robert Burns’ Night celebration. She has hosted the party at her NYC apartment for the past 30 years and says that it is an immeasurably rewarding experience. Liz writes that the Women’s March was “the most wonderful and passionate four hours of my life, marching with my beloved classmates and others. Totally pumped by the fact that many other SBC alums were also down there on the Mall with us. Stephanie Stitt Fitzpatrick writes, “Dirk and I had a great weekend with Liz Seacord and Lelee Frank Hazard in Washington for the Women’s March. Solidarity and activism in the year ahead! We have a senior now at UM and a freshman at UWI! Working with an artist’s estate here in D.C. and enjoying the spontaneity of an empty nest!”

Susan Clay Russell and Fred still live in Richmond, Va., where they just finished a house renovation. Susan writes, “Our children live in Denver, NYC and Charleston. All nice places to visit.” Susan sees Barrie Jeffrey Mcdowell, Terrell Luck Harrigan and Carol Searles Bohrer ’82 periodically. She also keeps in touch with Cammie Bethella Mills, who just summitted Kilimanjaros! Susan shared Cammie’s Facebook post: “We began summit day around 5 am. It was the hardest thing I have ever done. Cannot prepare for the altitude but with encouragement from all our guides and each other we did it. I am so proud of all 13 women and grateful I was a part of this.”

Susan Campbell is taking a gap year after 35 years in financial services. She writes, “It started with rest (mentally sleep), the holidays (which united my entire family), riding and catching up with friends. One more month of being lazy (post-35 years of being crazed), and in March, I will begin exploring what I want to do work wise. An unexpected development is that Sarah (30) is living with me temporarily as she is between apartments. It’s nice to have the time together. It was a tough decision but decided to forgo my Florida riding this year and stay on the home front.”

Molly Davis Garone’s studies at the Art Students League continue with a pastel class on Saturdays. In November and December, she helped her mother recover from a cardiac procedure. Molly is training for triathlons and her husband, John, is trying to get her interested in shooting clays! She has also resumed bridge classes, which she enjoys. Their son, Tom (22), graduates from Bates in May, and daughter Maddie (23) is very busy with her career in the stationery business. Molly says, “John, my hubby, is working superhard and doing a lot of business traveling, so we do a lot of reconnecting hiking, snowshoeing and watching HGTV rehab shows!”

Sue Richerson lives in Earlysville, Va., and works in Charlottesville for Teledyne-LeCroy, writing software for Bluetooth test equipment.

Sam Masters Durham writes, “Had a most wonderful time in Richmond for my son Arch’s wedding in October to Katie Branch! The party was filled with HSC, SBC and Sewanee guests. All is well in Corpus Christi. I am gearing up to be the event manager at the Texas State Aquarium, which is getting ready to open a 71,000-square-foot expansion. Completed my Facility Management program this summer, which was a nice personal accomplishment.”

Cathy Cook Leinert is still busy saving Rottweilers and running her nonprofit dog rescue.

She enjoyed a nice cruise to the Bahamas with her parents in the fall. Cathy writes, “Just returned from NYC, where I attended the Masters of Foxhounds Annual Meeting and BaII held at the Pierre. Had a fabulous time… until I slipped and thought I broke my ankle! Luckily, only a very bad sprain, so I should be in a riding boot for March! Counting down ‘til spring!”

Martha Brouse writes, “Steve, Vivian and I have had a crazy year with a lot of musical and horse involvement. Vivian has been very busy with her horse, pony club, flute, band and choral events. Steve is enjoying his new road bike, and I am recuperating from doing the lead in the opera, The Medium, along with numerous recitals and concerts. I still teach voice at the University of Alabama in Huntsville and have a full private studio. We enjoy riding with our hunt club and keeping up with the farm. It’s been a fulfilling year! I miss my SBC sisters!”

Carol Hays Hunton and Tom are enjoying Charlotte. “It is January, and I have daffodils blooming! Our second daughter just got engaged, and we are looking forward to planning our first wedding. Hope to see more of my former classmates in the Charlotte area this year.”

Carrie Maynard Nicholas sends news also from Charlotte. “It’s been 7 months since my double knee-replacement surgery. It’s taken some time to get used to my titanium knees, but it was totally worth it. I am pain free! I got a new job in November. I am the 5th grade assistant teacher at an elementary school in Charlotte. It’s me, seven teachers, and 192 students. Needless to say, I’m very busy. Tommy and the boys are good. If anyone is passing through Charlotte, give me a call.”

Anne Grosvener Evrard and husband, Walter, are so excited to be grandparents! Their daughter Constance gave birth to a little boy, Raphael, just after Christmas, and they are absolutely thrilled! Anne writes, “We have just sold our house in Briarcliff and are going to build a larger one for all our growing family! It’s Walter’s new project and hopefully will keep him busy now that he is retired! I am still tutoring English and enjoy it thoroughly. Please come visit!”

Lori Faust Williams’s daughter, Shelly, got married in October to Danny Westendor. Shelby is a teacher’s assistant at Sacred Heart Academy in Winchester, Va. Her new husband received his MA in English in September and plans to teach as well.

Kearsley Rand Waggner and her husband, Ed, attended their wedding. Meanwhile, Lori’s son, Ted, left the post office for a full-time maintenance position at Sacred Heart. She writes, “Both my kids in Catholic school all day long… life is good.”

May Carter Barger has returned to college. She is enrolled at Queens University of Charlotte as an arts leadership major and is loving every minute. May says, “In addition, I am chair of a local committee challenged with purchasing several major sculptures for a new $20 million YMCA! Daughter Josie (21) graduates from SMU in May and son Ben (19) is a freshman at High Point U. I still immensely enjoy volunteering on the SBC Friends of Art and really enjoyed dining with President Stone when we were in NYC!”

Liz Winson Sweeney and Tom are healthy and happy in Pittsburgh. They are headed to Roatan, an island about 40 miles north of Honduras, for their annual sun and diversion vacation.

Sigrid Carlen Veasey is a Professor of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and runs an NIH funded research lab examining lasting brain injury from chronic short sleep. All three of her boys are in college: Campbell (22) at McGill, Carlen (22) is at Trinity College and Wylie (20) is a freshman at Penn. She is getting used to the empty nest and writes, “Doug and I still live in Philadelphia but now fit our tiny home better.”

Tiffin Hartman Fox and husband, Trent are celebrating the birth of their third grandchild, Annabella. She is the daughter of Tiffin’s oldest son, William Trent Fox. Little Annabella and her parents live in Bavaria. Tiffin writes, “After our visit, Trent had a conference in Garmisch, Germany, where the World Cup was being held, and he invited me to come along and go skiing.”

John and I downsized last October and moved into an apartment in Annapolis and we LOVE it. We had a wonderful visit with our daughter Mary (23) in Telluride, Colo., in January, and we hope to visit again in the fall. Lizzie
continues her studies at Fordham University in the Bronx. Both girls have been very supportive of the move. The upside of Lizzie being in NYC is that she thinks that our apartment is palatial and does not miss the house where she grew up.

Thanks for writing everyone.

1982

Mary Ames Booker
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Angela Averett: My youngest daughter married a Tennessee boy this past year and we were all there to celebrate! (Her older sister, who lives in N.Y.C., and her brother, who lives in Bordeaux, France were there.) Thanks to the amazing success of only 18 months into my “ill skincare business” Rodan & Fields, my husband and I will be traveling to Spain & Morocco this year for two weeks!! I hope to see EVERYONE at Reunion 17!

Frances Mantho Belliveau: Everything is great with the Belliveaus! Ned, 24, is in Charlotte, Michael, 22, will graduate in May from Virginia Military Institute and will commission into the U.S. Army. Anna, 20, is a junior at Randolph. She has joined the National Guard and will do her training in the summer. I’m looking forward to Reunion!!

Lorie Teeter Lichtlen: I just celebrated 10 years with Burson-Marsteller Paris. Husband Dominique is still practicing corporate law & his tennis swing. Both kids are still living at home: Nicholas (24) is in film school; Lauren (20) just switched from Chinese to Korean studies. I hosted the first Sweet Briar Day in Paris on Jan. 15, bringing together eight alumnae from the classes of 1972, 2018 and in between! See you at the Reunion!

Mary Ames Booker: I spent the fall of 2016 in a non-weight bearing cast for a broken foot from a fall at work! I got to my job on the Battleship NORTH CAROLINA except when Hurricane Matthew brought flood waters to our parking lot and road. It was an adventure. I volunteered as your interim Class Secretary until June. It is so nice to hear from everyone and hope to see you at Reunion. Please stay connected with each other via email, Facebook, and SBC Banner.

Deborah Price Bowman: Daughter Kate (21) has switched to NYU this semester. Son Kessler (16) has started at White Mountain School in N.H., so I am an empty-nester 2-1/2 years early. I am planning to get Rory trained as a therapy dog and downsize my possessions for the eventual next move. I am planning some interesting travel starting with Delray Beach in February!

Jean von Schrader Bryan: Peter and I bought a home and 17 acres in Amherst just a mile from SBC last year. We love the country life! I am in contact with many of our classmates and can report on a few of our friends. Molly Finney Greer and daughter Grace are well in Alexandria, Va. Mary LaVigne recently moved to Asheville, N.C., and Lisa Blake is well in Charleston, S.C. Best wishes to recently married Consuelo Michelle Martinez-Quatrocchi. I had a nice chat with Lisa Church who lives in Utah and is battling cancer. Her spirits are high and hopes to attend reunion. Marie Engel Earnhart recently stopped by for a fun visit! I am excited about our 35th reunion and really hope all can try to attend.

Elizabeth Frenzel Casalini: Still living in Indiana spending time with family, working on my farm, Two Creek Hollow, teaching yoga and pilates to private clients and dedicating time to SBC. I have enjoyed the many road trips to SBC over the past two years and visiting classmates along the way! Eli graduates from medical school & Sophie graduates from nursing school in May, Amen! Happy to have made my last tuition payment! Liza, husband Ethan & three-year-old Harper Willow help with my farm. I love playing with granddaughter Harper several days a week creek stomping, splashing in rain puddles and playing games! Thank you to all SBC ’82 classmates who have donated and dedicated their time to SBC!

Martha Tisdale Cordell: David and I are busy building a home on the Mississippi Gulf Coast in Pass Christian, very near New Orleans. I hope all my SBC friends will come visit! I am still associate dean at TU College of Law, but have been increasingly active in the Oklahoma Bar Foundation and with Tulsa Lawyers for Children. Both Mary Louise (22) and Ryan (25) are at Tulane School of Law carrying on the Cordell juris doctorate tradition.

Alice Dixon: I still live in Richmond with a sweet black lab named Jackson. He makes me laugh every day! It has been the honor of my life to serve on the Sweet Briar Board of Directors representing you and all our other wonderful alumnae. I know how very hard we have worked to save our beloved College, and am very optimistic about our future. Please contact me if you have any issues that I can help with!

Polk Green: I am still in Dallas, working for Apple and loving every minute of it. This year looks to be a wonderful year and I hope for you, too.

I celebrated my first year of sobriety on December 6. Very hard road, but I am truly proud that I made the first year without slipping. My Mom’s leukemia is stable, which is a miracle but she is also the longest living patient on her clinical trial from MD Anderson. She is thin and at almost 81 uses a walker due to a bad knee, but is praised by every doctor at MD Anderson for her resilience and fortitude. Makes me even more proud to be her daughter! Melissa and I celebrated our third year of marriage in October and God willing, we will celebrate many more.

Rhoda Harris: My husband, Jim, and I have two sons, Carrick and Jarrod, in college, with another one, Quinton, looking at colleges now. The year has been busy with his cross country, fencing and lacrosse activities. One more year to go and then we will have that empty nest. Cannot wait to see classmates this June!

Liz Hoskinson: Besides friends and looking after family, my days are filled with, as they’ve been for years, horses and the horse world. But there is still time for gardening, book club, and environmental work. I’ve been involved with the USA, co-chairing the Membership Committee and co-stewarding the dressage phase at the Millbrook (N.Y.) Horse Trials.

Monika Kaiser: In 2016 I traveled to see my cousin’s family in Chile, then took my mom to her 65th high school reunion in Clevelan dwhere I met [classmate] Liz Kaufman. I accompanied my mom home to Germany, and checked off Machu Picchu, Peru, from my bucket list. Alex is constantly working at different theatres and Julius is in his last semester of pre-med bio. Richard is still with Pepsi and loving it. I still volunteer at the high school.

Lizbeth Kaufman: Keith & I live in Charleston S.C. Please, everyone get a timely 3-d mammogram (early detection= treatable). I just had surgery and am part way through radiation. Doing ok, but was a big surprise. I want classmates to take preventative screenings seriously, even if (like me) you have no risk factors.

Catherine Adams Miller: I am continuing to work at Riverside Behavioral Health Center as the Director of Pharmacy/IS and have added Director of Safety and Quality to my job profile. David’s dental practice is doing well. Madeline is close to completing her masters degree in education from Mary Washington University. She loves teaching elementary-school-age children. Ali is completing her undergradate studies in psychology at Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn. Looking forward to seeing everyone at Reunion.

Patti Snodgrass Borda Mullins: In August, after seven years as a reporter with “The Frederick News-Post,”
I began an exciting new job as public information coordinator for The City of Frederick, Maryland (www.cityoffrederick-ick.com). I am delighted with this new position: distributing information across all media platforms, promoting the city, supervising the audio-visual department, developing written and broadcast materials. At the same time, husband Earl is thriving in retirement after long service as an ordained Episcopal priest, and my daughter Virginia is excelling as a high school sophomore, exploring all sorts of career possibilities, soccer and a busy social life.

**Virginia Beverly Parker:** We moved back to Atlanta and I am enjoying being back in my hometown, reconnecting with old friends from high school and college. I’m working for Harry Norman Realtors in Buckhead. After moves to Rochester, NY, Spartanburg and Beaufort, SC, it’s nice to help others relocate and find the right home and neighborhood. We have three young men in college now and we are enjoying our empty nest! Come see us!!!

**Kit Johnson Parks:** Hoping to sell my rental development so I can semi-retire and travel more. I am also planning to start a Baby Boomer active travel podcast. If any of you have great hiking/biking/paddling travel stories, please contact me at bill_kitparks@yahoo.com

**Sally Shapard Peek:** With our last child graduating college in May we will be true empty nesters! They will be scattered—Irvine Calif., Birmingham, Atlanta and N.Y.C., so we will have great places to visit. We joke that our dogs are our replacement children. The human ones tell us there is a little too much truth to that! Looking forward to seeing everyone in June!

**Maryc Ramsey:** I’ve been working in gender and international development since Peace Corps days in the Philippines. I have my M.P.H. from Tulane in International Public Health and currently a Gender Advisor for a large humanitarian organization, based in our Bangkok office. I spend a lot of time working on gender-based violence. I’m currently supporting the Ministry of Higher Education in Afghanistan to roll out an Anti-Sexual Harassment Policy in universities. I travel there quite a bit. I’m also supporting the Ministry of Health in Indonesia to develop a GBV clinical services protocol and to introduce those services in health facilities in Papua. I support other programs in the region as well. My son, Sean Rich, will graduate from Roanoke College this May. He and I marched in the Women’s March in D.C. in January. In late summer 2017, I’ll probably move back to Virginia and work in our D.C. office. It’s time to take the fight for women’s rights back to the United States!

**Jennifer Rae:** Just want to share that the best decision I ever made was choosing to attend Sweet Briar College. The fortitude and stamina that our wonderful SBC instills in each of us is priceless! Life is good. Love you all dearly especially Class of 1982! Look forward to talking via phone with all of you. Yes, this is another decade. Social media is not as good as a phone call. Kudos.

**Gracie Tredwell Schild:** My amazing son, Christoph, graduated from my alma mater, Santa Fe Prep, in June and is now a freshman at Northern Arizona University, studying Information Systems Management. It must run in the family because I’m a database administrator and currently taking a class at the community college to get some of the more techie information under my belt. Come see me in my empty nest!

**Kashmir & Ann Sterling Hart ’83**

**Libby Glenn Fisher:** Still enjoying life in Northwestern Florida, the only place in Florida that is still the south. Both kids live & work in NYC; so we also enjoy getting to visit them in one place, AND having them off the payroll!! It was great to see Elena Quevedo on my last trip to NY and Suzy Ireland Dupree last fall while visiting home in Kentucky. Always a pleasure seeing fellow SBC alumni!

**Ann Sterling Hart:** Both of my girls are grown and on their own with fabulous boyfriends and good jobs! I still run Dressage Horse Shows and show my mare. And, I have just begun swimming in the dating pool! Nothing like a new challenge!

**Leslie Malone Berger:** I’m still living in Roanoke, Va., and enjoying my career as a speech language pathologist. Kevin and I are looking forward to a fall wedding for our son, Alex and his fiancée Elena! Barb Paulson Goodbarn and I had a great time volunteering at Sweet Weeks this summer. We had lots of laughs and had fun spending time with other alumnae! Wylie Jameson Small: Stuart and I have been traveling a lot this year to Maine, England, Scotland, Bermuda, and Hilton Head Island. I’ve been doing lot of running (I ran 519 miles in 2016!) to keep with my chocolate intake as well as becoming addicted to Mah Jong. Our son Rudy is finishing up his coursework toward a degree in Business. And we are still ruled by our two Jack Russells, Peyton (9) and Cleo (3).

**1984**

**Marian Roberts Wahlgren**

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**Holly Pflug Alport:** Hello from Winter Park, Fla. I continue to love teaching babies how to swim. Pete’s bank is still growing. We celebrate our 26th in a couple days. Peter is an app developer. He just launched NoteBear. Sarah is a junior in nursing school at the University of Florida. Kate is a freshman at the University of Louisville, were she was recruited to be coxswain. Julia is in 10th grade ... where does the time go? Miss you all!

**1985**

**Caperton Morton**

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**Barbara Tragakis Conner:** Loving my work as director of college counseling at Foxcroft School. Published in the NACAC Admitted blog (Campus Differences Matter) follow up to my NACAC Journal article (Five First-Choice Colleges, Spring 2015). Spring travel will include campus visits and professional conferences. Looking forward to seeing Suzanne Weaver Zimmer during my southern colleges swing in March. New Hampshire, Massachusetts travel in May. Looking forward to spending several weeks on Cape Cod this summer with the whole family! Visiting my favorite campus for Reunion in June!!

**Laura Fry:** Went from dream job (professor of nutrition at Le Cordon Bleu) to dream job—director of recipe research and development for Mary’s Market Cafe and Bakery. I couldn’t be more excited. Exceptional staff and visionary owner!!
Laura Fry has a new dream job! Anne Maus, Martha Shorter Dougherty, DeAnne Blanton, Stacy Zackowski Lukanski, Caperton Morton, Karla Kennedy Hicks, all ’85.

Class Notes

DeAnne Blanton: I married Dick Higgins in September 2016. A month prior, my son went off to Emory & Henry College for his freshman year. In January 2017, I invested in a good pair of walking shoes, since it appears my husband and I will be marching and protesting for the foreseeable future.

Caperton Morton: May 2014, Christopher S. Smith and I married at Mount Hood B&B and I moved to Kansas City, Mo., with my daughter. January-May 2016, interned at NPR affiliate KCUR—great experience. December 2016, I graduated from the continuing ed program at the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke with audio production focus. I LOVE it! Still enjoy writing, photography, and time with family and friends. (Chris and I had FUN at last two Reunions.)

Lenetta Archard McCampbell: Recently left Amtrak after almost 14 years. Now, searching for the work that will define the final phase of my career—very exciting to be following a new path. Spent an amazing week with five Vixens on St. Maarten, where we dreamed of never returning home, but did, and hung the Sweet Briar banner at the Gingerbread Cafe - thanks to Katie Hearn! Life is good.

Stacey Vilar Csaplar: It has been a busy year. We visited SBC in March to tour with my daughter. Arden will be applying in September for the class of 2022. We also moved to Salem, Mass. over the summer. Always willing to show folks around if you find your way to Salem in October.

Christine Diver Ans: Still in Tampa, with a thriving real estate business at Keller Williams Realty. Son, Aleks, graduated Indiana University with master’s in Russian/East European Studies in 2015, entered USMC, commissioned as 2nd lieutenant. Married in September 2016 to Jessica, criminal attorney in North Carolina. Daughter, Amanda, attending third year of University of Central Florida, International Affairs major, with Russian. She has been accepted to the internship program at Department of State for US Embassy, Riga, Latvia in 2017.

Lisa Tennant: I’ve recently relocated to Austin, Texas, where I’m working for a small oil and gas start-up.

Emmy Leung
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Amy Jenkins Millican and husband Jeff are now going on their third year living in South Korea. Her business, Flyga Twiga, is doing well and was the sole partner for the Kenyan Embassy in Seoul for the 2016 Travel and Tourism Shows in South Korea. She was invited by the Kenya Tourism Board to their Magical Kenya Travel Expo in Oct. 2016. For 2017, she’s been invited by the Uganda Tourism Board to the Pearl of Africa Tourism Expo (POATE). While there, she is looking forward to a trek to see some of the last 750 mountain gorillas left on Earth. After POATE 2017, Amy, her husband and several friends will be celebrating a destination 50th Birthday on Safari in Uganda. If anyone is visiting South Korea, please drop a line!

Raquel Hickman Thiebes is currently living Alexandria and working at George Washington’s Mount Vernon. Her Army husband, George, is due to leave his Pentagon post as Deputy Director of Special Operations, and it looks like this summer they will be headed back to Stuttgart, Germany, for a few years. Their eldest, Alex, is studying aerospace engineering at the University of Alabama and their youngest, high-schooler Matt, has narrowed his college choices to schools in Colorado, Virginia and Alabama. Raquel notes that she was the only ROTC scholarship student while we were at SBC and would like to be more involved with students interested in ROTC and the military.

Abby Carter is living in Frederickburg with husband Eric. Their son, Alexander, just finished his first year at Mary Washington University. Abby is running a small horse-training business, and in the past couple of years, she has written several articles for “Practical Horseman.” The most recent will be published in Feb. 2017. Through SBB, she has gotten to know a couple other SBC gals nearby, including Janette Rowe Cadwallader ’79 and has renewed ties with old SBC friends.

In September 2016, Courtney Kneee Grimm accepted the position...
of County Attorney for Clay County, Fla. Donna Meyer Hodgert has been in Lynchburg, Va., almost 25 years! For the past 10 she has been in and out of coaching and teaching. She was at Randolph College (formerly R-MWC) working part time as the head swim coach. She then took a full-time position at James River Day School in Lynchburg and worked in the 4th grade for a few years before taking on the role of athletic director and middle school PE teacher. In 2014, she heard that the swim coach position was open at Sweet Briar. Long story short, Donna is back on campus! She always wanted to return to coaching and is now in her third year as head swim coach / aquatics director for the Vixens and is also a lecturer in the PE Department. Former teammate Squiffy Walker’s ’91 daughter was in her class this past fall. The best part of the job is having the opportunity to be on the pool deck with her coach, Bonnie Kestner. Although retired, Bonnie enjoys coming to help a few days a week. She continues to share her knowledge with the team.

1990
Jean Spillane Benning
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Shannon Hetcel Dykes: Jim and I are still living in Florida and have enjoyed the opportunity to travel more now that we are empty-nesters. Son Carter is 19 and a sophomore in college, which is really hard to believe. We celebrated our 20th wedding anniversary last March with an amazing trip to England and Scotland and loved it so much that we went back for Christmas and New Year’s Eve.

1991
Allene Doucette
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Karen Holland Carlisle: Still working at Chicos and living in Fort Myers, Fla. My son is now 10 and very busy with activities. Please look me up if you are ever in the area.

1992
Amy Driscoll
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Meg Moss Guegan: Still at the Cato Institute in D.C. as director of communications and loving it. My two future vixens and I live in Ashburn with our hilarious Great Dane Ellie. The SBC Alumnae Alliance and amazing beau make for a very full life! Hoping to make it to Ecuador later this year.

1994
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Caitlin Sundby Russell
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Lorelei Bahret Mote has changed from full-time to part-time ultrasound technologist so that she can be more available to help her parents. Her children are growing like weeds and are both doing very well in dance. “My daughter will compete at a few dance competitions this spring. My son is following his sister’s dance lead by taking tap and hip hop classes. I enjoy catching up with many of our classmates through Facebook and working as an Alumnae Admissions Representative at a few horse shows and college fairs in Arizona.”

Chandra Garcia is still teaching on the southside of Chicago, down the street from the Obamas’ house. She has third grade this year and says her class is lovely. Some of them are being featured on WGN to share what they are learning in PilotLight. Chandra and her wife are enjoying the kids and are so proud of their Vixen, Eyelaser Coleman-Kitch ’20! Chandra writes: “I love keeping in touch with so many ’94s through Facebook, and I am eagerly anticipating a reunion with Celia Valentine ’95 and Nalini Mani ’93.”

Ashley Henderson Swigart says, “My son Preston (10) is in the 4th grade. We live in Raleigh, N.C., and spend a lot of time catching Pokémon these days! We had a great time catching up with SBC friends Liz Gilgan Bianco, Heather Bayfield Weidle, Allison Vollmer Douglass, Corinne Gaillard, and Amelia McDaniel at Lia DeSimone Colbert’s house in May 2016, along with husbands and kids. Between the pool, farm animals and cocktails, fun was had by all!”

Kim Bramley Estep wrote to say

Caitlin Sundy Russell ’94, Maria Thacker Goethe ’02, and Nicole File ’95 representing SBC at the Atlanta National College Fair.

“Morgan is 16 and Ryleigh is 15. I’m teaching Morgan how to drive a manual transmission now that she has her learner’s permit. Her favorite subject is Chinese, and she loves all things makeup-related (keeping Kylie Jenner’s cosmetics line in business)! She’ll be a counselor-in-training this summer at Camp Chinququa in Bantam, Conn. Her aspirations? Maybe a degree from Sweet Briar ... maybe a professional tattoo artist. Only time will tell. Ryleigh loves her social media. An avid fan of Netflix and YouTube, she spends her days studying and chatting with friends on Snapchat. She’s a percussionist in the band and isn’t crazy about being a freshman in high school. Scott is my rock. As a stay-at-home-dad, he manages the entire household and the property like a champ. The girls’ activities keep him busy, but he hopes once Morgan can drive, he’ll have a little more time to do some projects around the house. I’m still running Branic (since 1998), the loan placement business. I also run Convention Nation, the portal for people to sign up for conventions and conferences across the USA. We don’t make the events; we list the events in a directory. I think we’re finally at a point where the business model makes sense. We’d love to hear from any students looking for an internship this summer. We need help with data collection and marketing, social media and blog writing. As for fun, I go on walks on our property with our dogs. I’ve spent less time in the race car because building a startup is so time-consuming. I travel a lot to various conferences and conventions across the country. But I meet a lot of great people and experience so many thoughtful keynotes. It’s a really cool industry to be part of. Although in all of my travels, I’ve yet to run into a Sweet Briar alumna!”

Kelleigh Smith Sommer celebrated her 20th wedding anniversary with Richard in January 2017. They have been living in Bulverde, Texas since 2003. Son Sam (16) is a junior in high school. Sam plans to study music in college and wants to become a high school band director. Kelleigh and family are in the middle of scheduling college campus visits, and she can’t believe it. Kelleigh is a bookkeeper for a homebuilder four days a week and for a quilt shop one day a week. She says, “Quilting is my seriously obsessive hobby. So, working in the quilt shop tends to create negative cash flow. HA!”

Alexandra Stewart Manwaring writes: “I hosted the SBC day in January 2017 for the Philly alumnae. I love being able to get to know so many amazing ladies in our area. We are planning great events for the spring & summer, so keep an eye out for that! I traveled to Scotland, England and Denmark this past summer. Work has been busy, and I am thankful to still be riding and teaching part time at Pegasus Therapeutic Riding Academy.”

Katherine Lindsey Auclter let us know this: “I am doing well and enjoying my beautiful family in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. My daughter Anna (16) is driving. Julia (14) had her first song (she sings and plays guitar) produced and on iTunes. Son George (11) just went from being a Cub Scout to a Boy Scout. Two years ago, I got my real estate license. I am having tremendous success and just sold my 44th home. I see Heather Bayfield Weidle often. She’s been my inspiration to start a business and be my own success!”

Wendy Wall Nace is still living in Birmingham, Ala. She’s a licensed professional counselor (LPC) and has been working in private practice. She and husband Randy will celebrate 20 years of marriage this summer!

Beth Anne Nelson says: “I’m an elementary school teacher and engaged to a wonderful guy named Larry Bloom. I live on a beautiful horse farm in Chesterfield, Va. I have six kids, three of my own and three step-children. My oldest, Taylor, is a junior at Roanoke College and starts on their soccer team. My son, Will, is a junior in high school and will commit this summer to play lacrosse in college. My youngest daughter, Riley, is in 8th grade and is an avid rider on the local jumper circuit. I still keep close contact with Cindy Rakow Readyhough ‘96, my roommate and BFF from school.”

Kimberly Suszczewicz Sneed wrote in: “My husband, John, and I are still in Northern Virginia, where I am staying super busy as a baseball mom for Cole (14) and Grayson (12). I’m working full-time and doing real estate on the side if you need help in the NoVa area, call me! I love getting together with my SBC besties! Amazing weather in October allowed us to hike along the Potomac, then relax and enjoy ourselves at the winery.”

Nellie Kan Zamborsky is a stay-at-home mom of one and says she feels like a “glorified chauffeur” with a 5-year-old preschooler who missed the cut-off date for kindergarten. So they are focusing on some extra bonding time before she starts kindergarten next year. Her husband has been “working crazy hours lately so we miss him.”

Betsy Lanard Sullivan says: “I have a new addition to our family: Kingston, our pig. I recently became a trunk keeper for Matilda Jane Clothing. We traveled to Riviera Maya, Mexico and visited a monkey sanctuary. My girls are now 12, 6, and 4. I am still playing piano and teaching music.”

Hoptie Carter Avery let us know: “I’m busy with family, kids and work. My children are plugging along in school, Liza’s in 3rd grade, and Porter began middle school in 5th grade. I just published the 5th volume of The Scout Guide, Raleigh/Durham/Chapel Hill. This is a local guidebook that features businesses and was originally started in Charlottesville by two women. Follow me on triangle.thescoutguide.com or @TSGlobal to see what I am up to and learn more about this area! My job keeps me busy meeting and producing photo shoots with business owners and promoting their businesses. I also get up to Charlottesville (love seeing Beth Ike ’95) and Richmond with work. I love any excuse to visit with Kirsten Osmundsen Boyd in Richmond. I enjoyed a mini reunion in Memphis last spring with several V克斯. We gathered to celebrate Ginger Marks Collier’s ’92 post as “Queen of the Memphi” for the year with Maria Bergh Rodemacher ’93, Bonnie Insalaco Abrams ’93, and Muffin Steers Farese ’93. It was a very beautiful event and I cherish catching up in person with fellow Sweet Briar women. We’re all handling our responsibilities in our own ways, with the deep bond that we formed from our years at Sweet Briar. I hope to get a good dose of Ashley Celis Cavalier ’93 in June when we visit Sea Island. I am also thinking I need to pay a visit to her fab dermatology office there! I also hope to get to NYC to catch up with dear Kim Clayton Cohen with her twins (2) and daughter (5). People ask about SBC and I am so proud to say we saved it. They love hearing the happy ending. I know the work continues, but I do promote our beloved Sweet Briar at every turn.”

Liz Homoki Titus still lives in Albuquerque, N.M., with husband Paul and daughters Zeda (10), who is in 5th grade and Elizabeth (8), who is in 4th grade at ABQ School of Excellence. Since leaving her position as a senior attorney at HHS in D.C. nearly 8 years ago, Liz has been a stay-at-home mom who volunteers for the girls’ school and for their church. The Homoki grandparents took the family on an amazing European vacation this past summer, 13 cities in 23 days! They are all thrilled with Sweet Briar’s continued success, and the girls can’t wait to join their SBC Classes of 2028 & 2029! Amelia McDaniel says: “I moved to Richmond in 2015. I am the Director of Children’s Ministries at St. Mary’s Episcopal. Wyly (15) is a freshman and Jed (11) is in the 5th grade. When not serving as a taxi service for these two, I ... oh, am I kidding?! I’m just basically running a taxi service. I love catching up with our classmates when I can. And Eddie Flasche on Instagram is the best thing to brighten anyone’s day!”
Liz Gilgan Bianco says all is well in Boston. Isabella is in the 2nd grade and Nicholas is in 3rd. They keep Liz on her toes in the swimming pool and ski slopes. Last May, Liz met up with a few classmates in Boyds, Md., at Lia DeSimone Colbert’s house. Also there was Amelia McDaniel, Ashley Henderson Swigart, Allison Vollmer Douglass, Heather Bayfield Weidle, and Corinne Gaillard. Liz says her cheeks ache for weeks afterwards from all the laughing. That Sweet Briar laugh is the BEST!

Katherine Cook writes: “I finally sold my house in Orange, Va. Yay! I have downsized everything but the animals. How could I live without their antics to keep me entertained? I have ‘taken rooms’ in a lovely antebellum plantation house in Madison County, which I share with my pets, the owner’s pets, and the caretaker’s pets. There are free-roaming geese, ducks and chickens and a goat who wanders around with his pig-buddy. It’s a situation that would be considered pretty weird by most but then again, so would I, so it fits. I am still deciding where to go from here. I thought I was supposed to be a grown up by this point in my life, but I have realized that, no middle age is actually a great time to readjust your life path and start over. These days, when someone asks, ‘How are you?’ I can say ‘I’m good.’ And that’s a lot to have going for you.”

Katie Blak James writes: “I am enjoying being a real estate broker. I still keep my hand in law by helping a friend with his estate planning and probate practice. I stay involved in the community and sit on several boards. John and I celebrated 12 years of marriage in June. Elizabeth (8) LOVES school. Conner (17) moved in with us last fall and is a junior in high school. Jackson (15) is living in Arkansas with his mother and we still see him often. I am enjoying having a driver in the family! We spent part of last summer in Vail, Colo., with my mother and brother’s family. This April, we are surprising Elizabeth with a trip to Disney World. Four other families we are close with will also be at Disney; so all the kids will have a double surprise. (None of us are telling our children until we leave for the airport!) Hope they don’t read class notes.

Lorara Farrington-Sarrouf got her second-degree black belt in August 2016. The style is called “Uechi-Ryu”. She says, “I got my black belt in 2001 after about three years, which is considered fast. After that, I slashed off a lot and eventually dropped out over health reasons. It was the SBC crisis that got me thinking about going back. With all the polls and posts about alumnae accomplishments, I realized that as alumnae, our accomplishments are Sweet Briar’s accomplishments and, for Indie’s sake, I could stand to be a little more ambitious. I knew I had the hours in, I just had to relearn the material. My sensei initially thought that it would take about a year but after six months, he declared me ready and signed me up on the next testing cycle. Having a second-degree officially qualifies me to teach, not that I would open a dojo so close to my own sensei, but maybe someday. I am starting my third semester of assistant instructing with him (Bruce Witherell!) in Women’s Self Defense, a PE class at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.”

Elizabeth Thigpen Landry still lives in Pinehurst, N.C., with her husband, Aaron. Emma Gentry (16) is driving, and she drives sister Caroline (15) to school. Marshall (12) plays basketball. All three play tennis around the state, which keeps the whole family very busy. Thanks to Snapchat, Elizabeth is able to keep up daily with Allison Vollmer Douglass and Courtney O’Dea Plasted. Rebecca Nelson handed over the helm! “I got married in June and moved from Pasadena, Calif., back to Dallas, Texas. We’ve had a lot of life change in the last six months but I get to see Lesley Byers Bush pretty regularly. Holla holla and best wishes!”

As for your class secretaries, Molly Morris Flasche writes: “Eddie is 2 1/2 and just started going to preschool two mornings a week. I’m the coordinator of Bexley Moms, our community moms’ group—my co-chairs and I organize events for about 75+ moms and their young kids. I just completed my docent training again—I was in the docent class of 1998 and had to stop giving tours because of work commitments” at the Columbus Museum of Art. I’ve been writing art history papers and pottery training a toddler. My life is full.”

Caitlin Sundby Russell—“Scott and I are still in Atlanta, Ga., and we will celebrate our 14th anniversary this year. Our daughters Eva (11) and Julia (8) keep us busy with year-round swimming, singing in the choir at the Cathedral of St. Philip, gymnastics, and acting camps. I have a virtual private practice as a dietitian nutritionist and wellness coach. It is wonderful to get to help others achieve their health goals! I’ve been coordinating a high school visits for SBC Georgia alumnae to meet with counselors and drop off information about the college. It has been tons of fun reconnecting with alumnae through this effort like Heather Colson Ewing ’90, Dianne Hayes Doss ’93, and Karen Hott ’91. We’ve been able to reach out to about 90 Georgia high schools so far. Representing SBC at local college fairs has been rewarding, too, seeing high school girls’ eyes light up when we talk about SBC and our “comeback” story.”

**CLASS Notes**

**1995**

Katie M. Schellhammer 22914 Goldenrod Dr Brambleton, Va. 20148-6967 katie@schellhammer.net

Cynthia Harris is back in her hometown/birthplace of Boise, Idaho, as of July 4, 2015, after having lived and worked in different parts of Virginia (from August 2002 until July of 2015). She is an active force within the Boise branch of the Social Security Administration as a senior case manager. In May 2017, she will be traveling to Denver for month-long fun! “Holla-Holla to all in the class of ’95! God Bless You All,” she says.

Katie McDill Stover says, “We’re finally back in Alabama after my husband retired from the military. I’ve been a dog boarder for five years and have never been so happy!! I was able to hang out with my best friend Kate Steptoe Fisher in Baltimore in May.»

Tricia Lynn is now happily divorced and working at Palm Beach State College as an associate professor of developmental education. She is in the process of buying a new house, and her rescue dog, Red, is very excited about getting a pool in which to swim. She encourages visitors who want to come see sunny West Palm Beach!

**1997**

Molly Cameron Dreux 11601 Coachmans Carriage Place Glen Allen, Va. 23059 markandmolly@gmail.com

Rebecca Miller Moats: So excited about our 20-year reunion and can’t wait to reconnect!! My husband, Chip, and I are still in Warrenton, Va., on our cattle farm enjoying our three boys—Michael (8), Brent, (3) and Steven (9 months). Our real estate company, Piedmont Fine Properties, moved locations and we’re right in the heart of Old Town Warrenton in The Mural Building. So if you’re ever in Warrenton, come visit.

Katie Clarkson Robertson: I’m still here in Winston-Salem, N.C. Mark and I are hitting the teenage years (heaven help me) with Chase (14, loves sports, outdoors) and Gracie (11, loves riding). I’m still working away at Wells Fargo in technology (they still don’t allow me to handle the money) and trying to keep the balance. Loved, loved, loved having a mini-reunion in Tennessee with a few other ’97’s in November. We aren’t moving into “the older alum group” are we???!
1998

Chantel Bartlett
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Greetings one and all to the Class of 1998! Reminder that our 20th reunion will be in one year—I hope that all of you all have marked your calendars and you’ve begun planning for a party-a-aaaaaaa!

Leslie Farinas gave birth to princess #2 in Ibiza, Spain, on Nov. 25, 2016. Welcome to Lailah Lopez Farinas. Lily will turn 4 this March.

Dawn Everett Grobe shared that with the new year, came a new start! She got a Fitbit to help keep her accountable for moving more. The Grobe family is working on preparing their old house for a springtime renter (yes, they moved last year). Four months into the school year and Dawn is really enjoying her new role in Academic Support. Tony is getting back into theater, and Dawn is planning to take a pottery class again this spring. The family is counting the days to their yearly summer vacation at Star Island!

Isabel Jean-Pierre Myers also welcomed a precious girl, Safiya Isabel Myers was born Jan. 1, 2016. She was six weeks early. Additionally, the family moved back to D.C., where Isabel is a Senior Policy Analyst with the U.S. Department of Labor. Isabel said that while she will miss her Atlanta SBC sisters, she is very happy to be back in the nation’s capital!

Cynthia Bumgardner Puckett confirmed what I already knew! She shared: “It’s official: I am superwoman. I completed two graduate courses to renew my teaching certification while homeschooling five kids and ‘momming’ 24/7. The casualty—my love life. Darrin will be the recipient of all my attention for the next few months. In the meantime, I am planning for our 20th Reunion in 2018! Special thanks to Chantel for keeping us all together!” (Thanks Cyn, can’t wait to see you next year!)

Kelly Bowman Greenwood shared that she spent her 40th birthday paddle boarding in Kauai with her family! They spotted a number of humpback whales and watched a pod of spinner dolphins play around the boat while sailing the N Pali coast. She sent out a special Aloha to her Sweet Briar ‘ohana!

Congratulations to Bronwyn Beard! Bronwyn shared that she celebrated her 5th year as Human Resources Manager for Summit Racing Equipment’s Ohio operations. She spent the past 6 months leading HR functions for their new facility in Dallas, Texas (and hopes to hire someone else to take that over). The most exciting news is that she got engaged to Dennis Gartland on her birthday in November. Plans are underway to get married this summer!

Gretchen Gravley Tucker said that she and her family are greatly enjoying life in Shelby, N.C. Gretchen is super busy as associate vice president of Undergraduate Admissions at Gardner-Webb University. She loves serving a Christian institution! Gretchen even has a fellow Vixen, Yuliya Rigg ’13 working with her at GWU! Scott works at Facebook’s Data Center in nearby Forest City. Gretchen said that she so enjoys seeing dear Sweet Briar friends as often as possible!

Anna Meres Wade shared that life has been a beautiful and amazing roller coaster these past few years. Anna has 2 beautiful children (June is 2 1/2 and David is 4 months) who make life complete. They bring endless happiness, joy, and adventure into the world. Anna and Patrick love seeing the world through their eyes. Anna is working as the assistant director in the Center for Health Education and Wellness at the University of Tenn., working with distressed students.

Joelle Jackson Doss said that all is well in middle Tenn. She is chasing around their 9-month-old, Jackson. He has brought great joy to Joelle and Sherdrick! Joelle shared that she enjoys keeping up with SBC news through social media. Holla holla!

Heather Thomas Armbruster was on campus in October to train the ShopSweet students on the embroidery machine they had bought. Heather said that she can’t wait to see what products they will be offering us for sale! While on campus, she watched Amy Leigh Campbell ’97 break two bones in her hand in an unbelievably vicious game of dodgeball—OUCH. In December, the local alumns had their first Christmas party.

Catherine Zahrn reports that wife Shannon Bazar Zahrn ’99 threw her an amazing SURPRISE 40th birthday party in November at a Texas Hill Country winery! Friends and family flew in for the special celebration, including Sarah Herndon Sydnon ’01 and SBC dance professors, Ella and Mark Magruder. Catherine and Shannon stay busy in Austin teaching their three daughters that women’s rights are human rights and all people deserve respect.

And finally, from me—Chantel Bartlett. All is well on this end. I flew out to Seattle in early Oct. to help my mom finish the last few things of cleaning out the house that has been in our family for 80 years. While a new chapter, it was extremely difficult leaving behind a piece of our family. We had so much fun driving across the country. We went by way of Colorado Springs to see if that is where we might like to settle. On one stop in Cody, Kan., for a Starbucks (truly, if you blink, you’ll miss Cody), I, of course, had my Sweet Briar sweatshirt on. A young gal with a toddler on her hip asked if I went to Sweet Briar. Turns out her aunt went to SBC and was, in fact, a member of the board that shall remain nameless. My mom thought I was going to be not so kind to her when I found that out. Alas, I was my true self and said how I thought it must have been such a difficult time for her aunt. Turns out the gal was also from the Seattle area. Truly small world! We also made a stop in Leavenworth, Kan., to see where I was born. My mom had knee-replacement surgery just before Thanksgiving. At the two-week post-op appointment, it was discovered that they had fractured...
her femur while in surgery. So recovery has been agonizingly slower than anticipated. Yet she’s such a trooper and a rock star! We are now leaning toward staying in the D.C. area since I have a great job and opportunities. Lots of changes on the horizon!

1999
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Sarah Elkins Ince calls Concord, N.C., home and loves to open her home to Sweet Briar sisters that may be traveling to or through the Charlotte area. Son Asa is now 7 years old, he and husband Keith are doing well. Sarah is seeking classmatess to volunteer for leadership roles in our class. Finish- ing her third year as college counselor for Gray Stone Day School, the need for college opportunities like Sweet Briar is paramount to Sarah.

Constance Paris recently got engaged to her boyfriend Joe Tortorelli. She is working for Verizon Corp and is planning a Spring wedding with her two daughters, Emily (11) and Isabelle (8).

Lindsay Hicks Watrous is living in Gilbert, Ariz., with husband Tim and her three kids: Andrew (8), Owen (7) and Quincy (4) keep her busy at home. She will also begin teaching preschool starting Fall 2017.

Tara Hartnett is currently living in the White Mountains of New Hampshire with husband Rich raising their son, Jack, and doing photography consulting. She is ever grateful for the beautiful friendships of all her Vixen sisters. In the last year Angela Walton, Elizabeth Wells, Megan Glover, Jill Triana, & Sarah Dorminey have been an amazing support system, tears of laughter are the best. “Life is a blessing of joy! Enjoy lovely ladies — Until we meet again!”

Rachel Bratlie and husband Chris saw their oldest son Zachary (6) off to primary school this week. Rachel got a bit teary-eyed but Zachary took it all in stride. Younger brother Jake (2) is singing up a storm. If he turns out to be a performer later in life, they won’t be surprised. They are still living happily in Hamilton, New Zealand, with a trip to the U.S. planned for May 2017.

2000
Marilyn Sarian Crump
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Christine Bump was promoted to Vice President of Strategy at Goldbug Strategies LLC, a regulatory consulting firm for biotechnology companies. In addition to developing regulatory strategies for personalized medicine products, Christine now leads other consultants and project teams. She and her husband continue to live in Alexandria, Va., and celebrate nine years of marriage in 2017.

Meredith Eads
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Megan Thomas Rowe celebrated her 15-year anniversary working for the Navy as a physicist. It’s been a great career so far. 2016 was quite hectic for her family, while her husband, Matthew Rowe, ran for U.S. Congress in the First District in Virginia. It was a tremendous experience. Their son, Thomas, started preschool, Sylvia entered 1st grade, and Madelyn entered 4th grade. Megan occasionally gets to visit Angela Rodriguez Newman in Iowa. She also loves seeing all of the Richmond alumnae (including Meredith Taylor Eads) who participate in club events in RVA. Finally, Megan had one of the best experiences of her life participating in the Women’s March in D.C. Women’s colleges from across the country gathered prior to the march. “The entire day was surreal.” She will never forget it.

Angela Rodriguez Newman reports that her new life in Winterset, Iowa, is AWESOME! This school year she started working as a substitute associate for the Winterset Public School System and “it feels great to help out in the classrooms.” Since June 2016, she has been active with the Winterset Art Center, a 58-year-old local nonprofit. The center’s director had stepped down and the center was struggling to survive. Angela took the lead and started seeking out new members for the Board of Directors as well as artists and volunteers. She reports that the center is now growing like crazy, in a good way. As of January 2017, Angela became the Executive Director. They just hosted their first themed fundraiser, “The Mad Hatter’s Dinner Party,” and raised over $800. Angela is looking forward to an exciting 2017. Her husband is busy traveling the Midwest for JD Byrider, and her children, Hannah and Crosby, are doing wonderful in their new small town. Angela still misses her Virginia friends and family but loves her life in Winterset.

Megan Thomas Rowe and her family visited the Newmans for the Iowa State Fair this past August, and they all had tons of fun. Megan and Angela are planning another visit together in Winterset in March.

Jessica McCloskey is in the second year of her three-year doctoral program in clinical psychology; she is hoping to specialize in forensic work. She is still living in England, just outside of London, with her little dog. Jessica reports that there isn’t much exciting going on for her—but these adventures and new studies in England sound wonderful!

Christina Paolicchi reports that everything is business as usual for her, but she wishes all of her SBC sisters blessings!

Sarah Belanger Levinson gave birth to twin daughters, Claire McPherson and Evelyn Virginia Levinson, 18-month-old twins of Sarah Belanger Levinson ‘01.
but she’s extremely proud of this accomplishment. She says that it’s been great to connect with alumnae of all years through the RVA alumnae club, and she has enjoyed seeing so many of you at reunions for the past two years.

### 2002

**Brook Tucker Buck**
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Alicia McCartney: I moved to Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in February 2015. I teach English to Cambodian children and adults, run a business with my partner and try to learn a little Khmer in between! We are enjoying our adventure here in Cambodia and the year-round summer weather. We celebrated the new year at the beach in Myanmar and look forward to some smaller trips in Cambodia in the next few months.

**Kathleen McNamara Brown**:
Adam Leary and I were married on June 25, 2016, in the chapel at Sweet Briar College. The ceremony was followed by a reception at the Wailes Center. Daughters Carolyn and Emma’s many activities keep us always on the go, but we are loving life as a family of four. We reside in Falls Church, Va., and both work in Washington, D.C. See you at reunion in June!

**Alicia McCartney ’02 at Bayon Temple, Angkor Wat in Siem Reap, Cambodia**

### 2003

**Kristin Bergquist**
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sbcKristin@hotmail.com

Danielle Ross Oberg ran her first half marathon in October and in November started working at Boehringer Ingleheim Pharmaceutical in Ridgefield, Conn., as an associate with the HR Direct team.

Carolyn Eney Miller and husband Matthew welcomed their second daughter, Sloam McKeever Miller, on 11/06/16; big sister Annabelle is thrilled.

**Allison Funkhauser** visited Lisa Renfrow in San Francisco over New Year’s. They toured San Francisco and went wine tasting in Sonoma. Lisa is still traveling all over Central America for Fitbit and loving her job; she will be visiting Anna Fines Herbert in February.

**Ginny Wood Susi**
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No class notes this time, but Ginny Wood Susi looks forward to collecting class notes in a few months. She would love to hear from everyone about all “the amazing things they’ve been doing.”

### 2004

**Maggie McNamara ’12 and Katie McNamara Brown ’02**

**2005**

**Lynsie Watkins Steele**
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Mindy Wolfrom is very excited to report that she has accepted a position in Taipei, Taiwan, where she will be teaching Latin and Ancient Greek at the Taipei American School. She is excited for the new adventure: both to see a part of the world she has never before

**Kevin, Patrick, and Christie Sears Thompson ’05 in Mexico**

**2006**

**Heidi Trude ’07 with Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe (r.)**

**2007**

**Emily Nicole Olson**
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Jessica Hopson is currently teaching 3rd grade in Baltimore City Public Schools and will be finishing her 2nd master’s degree in special education in May. She plans to start in a new special education position in the fall.
Megan Meighan has spent the majority of her time in Panama over the past year but still lives in Charlotte, N.C. She recently joined a new company, Eye Care Leaders, as their North East Regional Sales Director and has enjoyed learning a new specialty, ophthalmology. She continues to enjoy her (almost) daily yoga practice and is always busy planning her next place of travel.

2016 was a busy year for Kathleen Companario: In the spring she traveled for four weeks on a solo service trip to Samana, Dominican Republic, where she volunteered in a local school for disabled children in the village. After returning in June, she began her re-election campaign for State Representative in Massachusetts. She successfully won re-election on Nov. 8 and was sworn in for her second term in the 190th Massachusetts General Court on Jan. 4. Fortunately, she was still able to fit in some vacationing with her boyfriend, spending two weeks traveling in Belize and a week in Miami. Now, Kate looks forward to making her way back down to Sweet Briar with Stephanie Norris Hall for our 10-year reunion in June!

Danielle Briggs-Hansen was happy to welcome her brother, Tyler, home from serving as an Embassy Security Guard in Pakistan in December. She will be celebrating eight years at Systems Planning and Analysis, Inc. in May.

Emily Jones Dent ’12. She found it represented SBC at a college fair with a local school for disabled children in the village. After returning in June, she began her re-election campaign for State Representative in Massachusetts. She successfully won re-election on Nov. 8 and was sworn in for her second term in the 190th Massachusetts General Court on Jan. 4. Fortunately, she was still able to fit in some vacationing with her boyfriend, spending two weeks traveling in Belize and a week in Miami. Now, Kate looks forward to making her way back down to Sweet Briar with Stephanie Norris Hall for our 10-year reunion in June!

Caitlin "Cat" Ashley Lizaragga and her husband, Hector, were married in June 2016. Betty Skeen Gorinson and Rosanna Hawkins Winner were co-matronas of honor. Rosanna’s children, Avarose and Wade, served as the flower girl and the ring bearer. Rosanna’s 3rd child, Henry, and Betty’s daughter, Ingrid, were also present and adorable, of course. In Sept., Cat and Hector learned that they will soon be starting their own family with a baby boy due in May 2017! In October Cat represented SBC at a college fair with Emily Jones Dent ’12. She found it energizing to spend time talking with young college-bound women about her experiences at SBC, and it reminded her of how special our college experience was and how she wouldn’t trade a day of it anywhere else. In late September Cat’s younger brother was in a serious car accident, which resulted in an extended hospital stay in the ICU. It was a scary time for her family, but he’s on the mend and Cat appreciates all the kind words and support from her Sweet Briar sisters. June 2017 will mark Cat’s 10-year anniversary working for the WV Development Office as an International Trade Representative. She has enjoyed a decade of assisting small business exporters in West Virginia with their international sales and growth. She has been able to travel to six continents, tour some amazing places, meet some incredible people, and she is looking forward to continuing with her role in the future.

Heidi Trude was named the 2017 Region IV Teacher of the Year. In October, Heidi and the other regional Teachers of the Year were honored at a ceremony in Richmond and had the chance to meet Governor Terry McAuliffe. Heidi has also been honored by both the Virginia Board of Education and the Virginia General Assembly. She is a finalist for the EF Comparative Global Education Summit. If selected, Heidi will have the opportunity to spend two weeks in Finland and Italy learning with other educators. Heidi has also returned to school. In January, she started a program in Instructional Technology with a concentration in foreign language learning at the University of Colorado Boulder.

Mary Dance Berry 614 Lafayette Drive Hillsborough, N.C. 27278 marysdberry@gmail.com

As per usual, the class of ’08 is staying busy!

Amanda Keener Wisz writes, “In November, my husband and dog and I made a big move from North Carolina to Denver. I was welcomed by fellow alumna and Colorado native Mallory Sherwood Engelstad ’09. I’m still working as a freelance science journalist from Denver. In December, my graduate research was published in The Journal of Immunology.”

Blake and Caroline Byrd Dozier, along with their 3-year-old twins, Luke and Virginia, just welcomed baby number three into their family! Annabelle Blake Dozier was born on Nov. 8, 2016, weighing 8 lbs., 8 oz.

Ginny Moncure will take on a new job in 2017 working with ExecOnline. She will be working alongside fellow classmates Sarah McLemore and Hallie Watson. Isaac and Mary Pat Jones Rodriguez welcomed Patrick Robert Rodriguez on Aug. 21, 2014, and on Oct. 18, 2015, along came Reese Isabella Rodriguez. Their oldest son Marshall (4) adores his little brother and sister. The family lives in Dallas, and both Isaac and Mary Pat work for AT&T in technology operations.

Amanda Prine Bryant and husband Eric (HSC ’06) welcomed their second child, a boy, Easton Boone Bryant, “Boone,” on Oct. 8, 2016. Boone joins his big sister Lillian Louise (4). The Bryants live in Lexington, Ky., where Amanda is the director of development for the Kentucky Equine Humane Center, and Eric is a Realtor.

Alexandra DiFeliceantonio writes that she is still working as a researcher at Yale, but has moved cities. “My husband and I just relocated to Manhattan. Moving over the new year was an adventure, but I love our new neighborhood. Are there any fellow Vixens in the area?”

Laura Tanner Bowrey celebrated son Tanner’s first birthday in February. Kristin Barnes was in attendance. Laura and her family will be traveling to N.J. and D.C. in June for the wedding of Lisa Ruffle (Laura, Kristin, and Meggy O’Neal will be bridesmaids) and to visit family and friends in the area. She’s bummed to miss reunion, but hopes to swing by SBC before heading home!

Caroline Byrd Dozier and Blake and with twins Virginia and Luke (3) and baby Annabelle.

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Lara Salyer D’Antonio and her husband Steven (HSC ’07) welcomed their second child, Kathryn, on Jan. 4, 2017. Their 18-month old son, William, loves being a big brother. After maternity leave, Lara will return to her job as coordinator of network operations for the Virginia Community Healthcare Association.

Katie Fish Lohr recently purchased a new house in Phoenix, Ariz. She and husband Christoph are staying busy with house renovations and running after their 16-month old son, Juergen. She regrets being so bad at keeping in touch and hopes to catch up with more Vixens in 2017.

Mary Susan Sinclair-Kuenning recently moved to Largo, Fla., where her husband, James Flanagan, is a
Mary Susan Sinclair-Kuenning '09 performing in the Cyr wheel.

Katie Fish Lohr '09 with son Juergen (16 months) and husband Christoph.

Krystal Ellis Harris '08 (left) and Meagan Bell '09 (right) at the wedding of Krystal Ellis Harris.

first-year resident physician at Largo Medical Center. Mary Susan recently performed, and did production management, in “Spun” at Jacobs Pillow’s Inside/Out festival as part of the first company to bring Cyr wheel to the Pillow! After living and performing in NYC for eight years, Mary Susan is now teaching aerial arts, modern dance technique, highland dance, and is the director of Cyr wheel at Bbs Dance and Circus Arts of Tampa Bay. She represents Spinnovation in Florida, and is a professional Cyr wheel artist, dancer, singer, actress and performer. She and her husband, Jim, were married on 07/13/13, her maid-of-honor was long-time college roommate and best friend, Lauren Andrews.

Elizabeth Zuckerman is in her second year as associate producer at Passage Theatre Company in Trenton. Her first book, All About Ben Franklin, was published by Blue River Press as part of their new series of young-adult biographies. She also had stories published in Timeless Tales Magazine and in 18th Wall’s anthology After Avalon. Jessica Baker writes the following: It’s a dark time for the rebellion. It’s so dark Jessica’s forced to use Star Wars metaphors. First, she joined Julia Patt to protest the dreaded National Policy Institute, which hides its sinister white supremacy behind pretty clothes and a boring name. Then, they stood with the people of Standing Rock to protect water from the greed of the Empire—the battle was won, but the war continues. At last, A New Hope: they were joined by Megan Maloney ‘08 and millions of other women (and supporters of women) as a sea of pink hats rose up to smash the patriarchy. The pink hats have now returned home, strong in the knowledge that the Force is with them.

Meagan Bell has returned home to Lynchburg, Va., after a two-year stay in Covington, Va., as a senior financial analyst for West Rock. She is back at Harris Corporation as a business intelligence analyst in sales operations. This fall she was able to stand beside her long-time friend, and SBC sister, Krystal Ellis Harris ‘08 as she married the love of her life! She hopes everyone is doing great!

Bethany Melendy moved back to America in August after living in Japan for the past two years. She had been teaching as part of a sister-city exchange program with Des Moines, Iowa and Kofu, Yamanashi. Now, Bethany is living in Omaha, Neb., and working for an amazing nonprofit, College Possible. She loves her work, and is looking forward to working somewhere where she can make a difference for students.

Julia Patt was delighted to see old Sweet Briar friends—and make new ones—at the Women’s March in D.C. Special thanks to Jessica Baker and Megan Maloney ‘08 for being her protest buddies. Also, she sends a shout-out to the Sweet Briar Twitter crowd; Even if we didn’t see each other, it was great to be in the same city for this not-so-mini reunion and inspiring day.

Jenny Walkiewicz Dill, recently purchased my first home with my husband, Jonathan. We are quickly learning about all the joy, and trials that come with owning a home! We are thankful to be living near family in Tigard, Ore., and look forward to raising out daughter here. As always, thank you for the class notes submissions, can’t wait to hear from you again in the fall!

Mary Susan Sinclair-Kuenning is in her...
Paint night fun with former SBC roomies. Anna Rij ’10 and Leslie Wertz ’13

Amanda Ryan Hudson’s ’10 baby girl, Sophie Rose

Amelie Drake Smucker ’10

Claire Voss ’11 at Lanikai Beach, Hawaii

Cassidy Jones ’11 and Ashley Winters Marot ’11 on Ashley’s wedding day on Oct. 1, 2016, in Richmond, VA

Allie Garrison Bridges ’10 and Alaina McKee ’10

Kathryn (Kat) Alexander Martinuzzi ’11 with Christopher Martinuzzi

Thomas James Aniolowski, son of Emily Maycock Aniolowski ’11, age 6 months.

Brittney Bolin ’11 and Garrett Casale celebrate their engagement

Matt DeWitt proposed to Cassidy Jones ’11 on their annual weekend getaway to The Biltmore Estate in Asheville, N.C.

Jessica Pilgrim Bender’s ’10 wedding

Victoria Trudeau ’11 and Colbert Lucey HSC ’11

By the Cliffs of Moher’ Jocelyn Stephens McDonald ’11 and husband Brandon

Claire Voss ’11 at Lanikai Beach, Hawaii

Kathryn (Kat) Alexander Martinuzzi ’11 with Christopher Martinuzzi

Ashley Hinkle ’11, Victoria Trudeau ’11, Megan Seeley Grasham ’11

Ethan, Grayson, and Laura Wheatley Russell ’11

Jackie Montero ’13 and Adriana Beckman ’82 at the Pre-Hispanic City of Teotihuacan in Mexico.

Mai McCarthy has come to call Houston home. She is responsible for developing client websites, executing digital campaigns and spearheading social media strategy. In her spare time, Lauren enjoys freelancing, volunteering for local animal rescues, and traveling.

Lauren Shoff is currently working as the director of interactive services at Otto Design & Marketing, an ad agency in Norfolk. She is responsible for developing client websites, executing digital campaigns and spearheading social media strategy. In her spare time, Lauren enjoys freelancing, volunteering for local animal rescues, and traveling.

2012

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2017 has already begun with a bustle of activity and achievements for the class of 2012. We have many weddings both recent and coming soon. Laura Madeleine Mooza, who resides in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., and is employed by the PGA Tour in sponsor relations, is engaged to Graham Johnson Shurley. He also resides in Ponte Vedra Beach, is a graduate of the University of Georgia and is director of scouting and recruiting for Wasserman Media Group, LLC in its golf division. They were to be married on March 4. Our best wishes to both of you, Laura!

Another recent wedding was that of Mandy Helms Griffin and husband Antonio, which took place on July 16, 2016. Three Sweet Briar sisters—Happy Lathrop, Carolyn Hicks and Molly Johns Van Den Busch—served as her bridesmaids. Mandy also passed her music therapy board certification and is now using that to work in the mental health field. All the best to both of your accomplishments, Mandy!

In the world of academics and careers, the swans are also moving along as a force. Emily Jones Dent has enrolled to receive a master’s in educational leadership and is still teaching and coaching swimming in Charleston, W.V. Just keep swimming, Emily!

Stephanie Prato has accepted a job as head of children’s services at the Simsbury Public Library, prompting a move from Syracuse, N.Y. to West Hartford, Conn. She is very excited, and we are excited with her! The weekend of Jan. 13-15, Cortney Lewandowski and her tap group won best in studio at a competition in Washington, D.C. through JUMP and The Red Shoes Dance Academy. The choreography for this piece was started back in the summer of 2016. Your team certainly worked hard and earned your title, Cortney!

Another award was recently earned by a swan. Emma Neave was chosen as teacher of the year for John F. Kennedy Middle School in Suffolk, Va. Keep earning your roses, Emma!

To every swan in the class of 2012—both mentioned and not—keep spreading your wings and solving the “impossible”!

2013

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I’m still working at St. Margaret’s School, an all-girls’ day and boarding school, and have really been enjoying it! I’m responsible for most of our international recruiting, and I’ve been to Mexico, Colombia, Panama, China, Hong Kong, and Korea this past year! Next, I’m off to Vietnam. I love spreading the message of all-girls’
and all-women’s education around the world—and meeting fellow Vixens around the world!

Elizabeth Hansbrough and her fiancé Jackson Riley (HSC ’14) have moved to Raleigh, N.C. They are getting married in Emerald Isle, N.C. this April.

Julie Dopheide started off 2017 with a new position as an inside sales specialist at Zoetis Animal Health. She is currently living in Garnet Valley, Penn.

Molly Harper completed her master’s of fine arts in Shakespeare & Performance at Mary Baldwin University. Her concentration was acting. She is now West Coast living in Los Angeles and is working on an all-female production of “Julius Caesar.”

Liz Koslow is graduating from medical school in May and then she is moving to Texas to begin a pediatric residency program at the San Antonio Military Medical Center.

Jessie Edington recently started a new position at Linder Global Events in Washington, D.C. and is now working with Alexandra Herrera ’11.

Jessica Murphy is currently a full-time graduate student at Texas Woman’s University and works as an adjunct tap dance professor at the University of North Texas. In May, she will graduate from TWU with her master of fine arts degree in Dance Choreography. This summer she will be traveling to Canada for the World Dance Alliance’s International Conference to present a Pecha Kucha of her MFA culminating project research on collaborative dance practices.

Sarah Lindemann accepted the position of environmental permitting specialist with Apex Clean Energy in Charlottesville, Va., in September and has relocated to Charlottesville. Sarah also maintains a portrait photography business in her spare time.

Cody Ann Anders Gross and husband Seth were married on Oct. 15 surrounded by family and friends at Fort Benning, Ga., in the Infantry Chapel, where her parents were also married. They immediately packed up and moved to North Carolina, where they are stationed at Fort Bragg. Cody is currently a lieutenant in the North Carolina National Guard at an aviation unit awaiting her next Army school, which will start in June.

2014

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Micheala Bryant Van Clief: Where do I begin … July 6, 2014, I broke both of my ankles in a horse riding accident that should have ended with a funeral. Since my accident, I was blessed with my wonderful—now—husband Thomas (HSC). Thomas not only helped me through double ankle surgery, but physical therapy as well. I met Thomas my freshman year of college. He proposed Jan. 24, 2014. Our engagement ring was the first ring debuted during our senior year. We moved into our new—to us—bought-and-paid-for house on six acres in Schuyler, Va. (40 minutes outside of Charlottesville), the first week of May 2015. Our home is inhabited by my husband’s 10 American Fox Beagles (that he hunts deer with), his dwarf black lab, and my four goldfish. Thirty minutes away is my husband’s horse, Ruckus, which I basically have kidnapped—except for fox hunting season, when he shares Ruckus with his father. We married on July 25, 2015, in Lexington, Va., at House Mountain Inn in front of 90 of our closest friends and family.

Afterward, we enjoyed a wonderful week at Smith Fork Ranch in Crawford, Co., horseback riding in the beautiful mountains, shooting skeet, fly-fishing, exploring the black canyons, and enjoying a rather peaceful couple’s massage. After we returned from our honeymoon, I received a phone call that my mother’s sister, Christine Deal, was fighting a liver disease. Aunt Christie was unable to attend our wedding; so my sister Skyped the wedding through her iPad for Aunt Christie. A month later, she passed away in an assisted-living home in Bangor, Maine. Two weeks later, Thomas and I spent 48 hours next to a hospice bed in my grandmother’s home for my grandmother’s passing.

On July 25, 2016, I surprised Thomas with a small bag. Inside the bag contained a pregnancy test that read, “Pregnant.” Thomas and I are expecting our first child, a girl, in April. I have high hopes that she will follow in my and her aunts’—Trisha Van Clief ’72, Ana-Elisa Bryant ’11, Rachael Van Clief ’15—footsteps and join the Sweet Briar College Vixen legacy; I also have high hopes that she will become a wonderful rider and fox hunter like both of her folks.

Morgan Harris Brannan: A lot has happened since graduating in 2014: I married my high school sweetheart, Gregory, this past October at New Kent Winery. We just purchased our very first home, in Norfolk, Va., where we look forward to growing our family. Currently, I work for the Department of Defense as a nuclear physical scientist. Everyday, I am so thankful to able to put to use the laboratory and research skills I learned during my time at Sweet Briar.

2015

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Allie Raifsnider: I got a new job … and a puppy! In November, I accepted a great administrative position with New Penn Financial, a nationwide, multi-billion dollar mortgage company based in Philadelphia, focusing on recruiting and human resources. During my first few days, I put my Sweet Briar education to use, as I was charged with the planning of our office Christmas party that would put any Boathouse party to shame (think the recently released movie of the same name)!

Jackie Montero ‘13 and Helen Compton-Harris ’80 recently met at a high school fair in Maryland! It’s always fun to meet new Vixens!
In 1899, Indiana Fletcher Williams founded Sweet Briar College through a visionary planned gift.

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