FORGING A NEW PATH,
SWEET BRIAR
TURNS TO THE FUTURE
Dear Sweet Briar Alumnae,

Throughout this spring semester, distinguished women musicians, writers and policy makers have streamed to the campus, in a series dubbed “At the Invitation of the President.” As you will read in this issue, the series started in January with a remarkable all-women ensemble of scholar-performers dedicated to excavating little-known string trios from the 17th and 18th century, and it ended the semester with a lecture by Bettina Ring, the secretary of agriculture and forestry for the Commonwealth. Sweet Briar was a working farm for most of its history, a fact that does not escape the secretary, both as an important legacy we share and cherish, but also as a resurgent possibility for the future — for Sweet Briar and Central Virginia.

Through this series, one learns stunning things about women who shape history. A graduate of Sweet Briar, Delia Taylor Sinkov ’34 was a top code breaker who supervised a group of women who worked silently — under an “omerta” never to be betrayed in one’s lifetime — to break the Japanese navy and army codes and eventually to help win the Battle of Midway. Ultimately, the number of code breakers surpassed 10,000.

While America is a country that loves and shines light on its heroes, women have often stayed in the shadow of that gleaming light; they are history’s greatest omission. “Do you like doing the crossword puzzle?” Navy recruiters would ask the potential code breakers. “And are you engaged to be married?” If the answer to the former was a “yes” and to the latter a “no,” then the women were recruited to the first wave of large-scale intelligence work upon which the nation would embark.

Do women exercise leadership differently than men? Scholars say they do. And should they exercise leadership differently? Ethicists say they should — for women, leadership is often more focused on accountability and more ethical.

I don’t know the answers to those questions, but it may be that the women of today, as they step out of the shadow of the light cast on male heroes, will invent a style of leadership that is a little *sui generis*. I hope so. That is what Sweet Briar’s new leadership core that replaces general education is designed to do. It is a set of 10 required courses that distinguishes Sweet Briar’s liberal arts education, which was instantly dubbed by The Chronicle of Higher Education as the innovative “integrated core with a theme.” The highlights include a focus on persuasive arguments and writing, artistic expression with visiting artists, “citizen science” to provide our students with the vocabulary to understand complex scientific challenges of our time, logical thinking with an emphasis on evidence and more.

Unusual in this series of 10 courses is an insistence that every woman at age 18 should have financial literacy — some understanding of accounting, analysis and marketing — as well as know the principles of managing organizations, big and small.

This leadership core will be launched in the fall beginning with an intensive three-week course, required of all first-years, called Design Thinking. It is a currently privileged way of saying “problem-solving.” In other words, how to define the problem, understand the objective, appreciate constraints and craft approaches to solving it. The course will be team-taught by a group of four scholar-teachers: a philosopher, an engineer, a psychologist and an electronic music composer. I hope it will open the eyes of our students and light the fire under them — the fire of learning that will burn brilliantly throughout their years at Sweet Briar and beyond. I wish I could be there in class with them, as I know you do.

Sincerely,

Meredith Woo
This magazine aims to present interesting and thought-provoking news about the College and its alumnae. Publication of the material does not indicate endorsement of the author’s viewpoint by the College. We reserve the right to edit and revise all material that we accept for publication. If you have a story idea or content to submit for publication, contact the editor, Amy Ostroth, at aostroth@sbc.edu.

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If you spend any time in higher education circles or following news about colleges, you’ll hear a lot of discussion about the problems facing administrators and faculty.

▶ *Are colleges providing the kind of education that modern students need?*
▶ *Is the cost of a university education too high?*
▶ *Do students understand the debt that often comes with higher education and how to pay it off?*
▶ *Are we teaching students skills that will help them be successful after graduation?*

In September 2017, Sweet Briar’s president, Meredith Woo, announced that the College would make changes to its curriculum, calendar, and pricing in an attempt to meet those challenges while ensuring the College’s sustainability.
The first change was a relatively straightforward one: simplify the College’s pricing structure. Like many private colleges, Sweet Briar had been offering a host of discounts on its annual tuition in order to make its education affordable for students, but that created a disconnect between the school’s published tuition and its true cost. That disconnect meant lots of families didn’t think a Sweet Briar experience was within reach for them. To address that, Woo reduced tuition by 32 percent—to $21,000 in tuition and fees plus $13,000 for room and board—to make the true cost more transparent to potential students and their families, while ensuring that the College’s many scholarships would be available to help put a Sweet Briar education in reach for even more students and their families. “We’re committed to making Sweet Briar affordable,” said Woo. "Families have been happy about the tuition reset and schools around the country are watching to see how it works for us. We’re leading in this area.”

The second change, to the academic calendar, will enable students to begin and end each year with an intensive three-week course. These courses will give students a chance to dive deeply into a topic and, the College hopes, will bring expert guest lecturers to campus—particularly from the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts (VCCA)—to teach.

The other changes are more challenging and will involve ongoing efforts by everyone in the Sweet Briar community to be successful.

Sweet Briar is re-envisioning traditional departments and has created three interdisciplinary centers of excellence dedicated to solving contemporary problems while building on the College’s areas of traditional strengths: engineering, science and technology; environment and sustainability; and creativity and the arts. “We’ve always provided an intellectually rigorous liberal arts education,” said Lynn Rainville, Sweet Briar’s acting dean (you can read more about Rainville on page 26). “Today our challenge is to build from this academic strength to a truly excellent program and that means being new and innovative.” To that end, the College is focusing on areas for which it is already well-known to help it become even more distinctive. “We already have recognizable advantages,” said Woo. “The time has come for us in engineering. VCCA is across the street. Our beautiful campus is a natural laboratory for our students and faculty to study both the science and policy of sustainability. We already have strengths in these areas. We’re going to invest in them and we’re going to become truly excellent.”

The College has done away with traditional general education requirements and developed a new core education focused on leadership. “The old model of
general education and majors was about checking off boxes,” said Rainville. “The new model is more closely aligned with a student’s passions and end goals, while offering her a strong grounding across multiple disciplines.”

Throughout the fall, Sweet Briar’s faculty worked to flesh out the details of those changes and in December 2017, the College announced its new leadership core:

- CORE 110 Design Thinking
- CORE 120 Argument and Persuasion
- CORE 130 Women and Gender in the World
- CORE 140 Sustainable Systems
- CORE 150 Expression and the Arts
- CORE 160 STEM in Society
- CORE 170 Decisions in a Data-driven World
- CORE 210 Contemporary Questions in Ethics and Human Difference
- CORE 220 Leadership Realized I
- CORE 310 Leadership Realized II

These required courses will be taken throughout a student’s time at Sweet Briar and prepare her to become effective leaders. They are interdisciplinary and will help Sweet Briar students to develop the skills and habits of the mind that are the hallmarks of liberal arts excellence. “Our core will teach students to understand context and causality,” said Woo. “They’ll learn to appreciate beauty. They’ll learn to communicate and persuade and they’ll be scientifically and financially literate so that they can be effective citizens.”

Rainville took pains to note that Sweet Briar is committed to leadership in all of its forms. “Leadership doesn’t always mean being a CEO or standing in the spotlight,” she said. “Sometimes leadership is more subtle and it takes place in the home or in an individual’s community. Those kinds of leadership are just as important.” Woo agrees. “We’re preparing women to become pillars in their families and in society.

Finally, and perhaps the biggest change for Sweet Briar, was to bring the College’s offering of majors into line both with the size of the student body and with the courses and majors that today’s college students are choosing. Sweet Briar announced a slate of planned majors in December, and Rainville has been working with the faculty throughout the last few months to flesh out the final list.

Rainville notes that majors have historically been more fluid than we sometimes think. That’s partly because experienced faculty leave—for a variety of professional and personal reasons—and junior faculty take their place. That turnover is important and positive for schools because it adds new talents and new interests to the institution. That change also means that majors shift and

TIMING

At press time, the details of courses and majors were still moving through the governance process at the College.

Draft course descriptions were ready in late February and faculty voted on them in mid-March. The slate of fall offerings was made available to students in the third week of March and students signed up for courses in early April.

Throughout the rest of the spring and early summer, faculty will be making final adjustments to their course descriptions and the complete course catalog will be available on our website at catalog.sbc.edu in June.

We’re going to graduate women who will be prepared to roll up their sleeves and get to work.”
WE’RE GOING TO BE DETERMINED IN OUR EFFORTS TO MOVE THE COLLEGE FORWARD AND I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT SWEET BRIAR WILL THRIVE.” — Meredith Woo, President
change over time because the faculty teaching them do.

The changes Sweet Briar has made in the last year have taken place over a shorter period of time than they might otherwise have done, “but,” Ravinville said, “this will allow us to build programs from the ground up in a thoughtful way.” And although Sweet Briar has had a self-designed major for more than two decades, there wasn’t always a lot of support for students who wanted to go that route. Now, the College’s self-designed major will be even more effective because the integrated core will help faculty become accustomed to teaching in an interdisciplinary way. “We’ll have fewer majors,” she said, “but our faculty are cross-listing courses to integrate the best from multiple fields of study and combine them in new and interesting ways.”

Though these changes have been challenging to implement, and some continue to be works in progress, they will lay the groundwork for Sweet Briar to thrive, says Woo. “These efforts will enable Sweet Briar to improve the quality of its academics. We’re going to be determined in our efforts to move the College forward and I have no doubt that Sweet Briar will thrive.”

“At the Invitation of the President” is a series of events that celebrate savvy women who are artists, authors, performers, philanthropists, industry thought leaders and social change-makers. The series aims to inspire our current and next generation of women leaders by offering unique opportunities to hear from and network with women who are established leaders in their fields.

So far this spring, the series has supported a performance by The Vivaldi Project, an all-women period instrument ensemble dedicated to presenting a 17th- and 18th-century string repertoire, and a talk by Liza Mundy, author of “Code Girls: The Untold Story of the American Women Code Breakers Who Helped Win World War II.”

In January, The Vivaldi Project visited campus and performed pieces by a number of 18th-century composers including Johann Christian Bach, Franz Joseph Haydn and Jean-Baptiste Sébastien Bréval, among others. Following their performance in Memorial Chapel, they answered questions from the audience. The next day, the performers met with students during lunch in Prothro. “The Vivaldi Project is simply ingenious,” President Meredith Woo said. “With brilliant research and scholarship, and extraordinary performance, they bring to life an important period in history.” Their performance was made possible by an anonymous gift to the College.

Best-selling author Liza Mundy came in February to talk about her new book, which gave a voice to the more than 11,000 women who served the United States during World War II as code breakers.

This is a subject of particular interest to the College because Sweet Briar President Meta Glass was part of a group of college deans and presidents who pushed the Navy to admit women as full members of the Navy, rather than auxiliary members. In addition, one of Sweet Briar’s own alumnae,
Delia Taylor Sinkov ’34, was a top code breaker at Arlington Hall outside of Washington, D.C. She got a job working for the federal government soon after she finished her graduate work at Smith College — no small feat for a woman at that time — and helped to direct other code breakers. Taylor and the other code breakers were instrumental in the U.S. victory at the Battle of Midway, deciphered diplomatic messages to help the military know where to land before battles like D-Day and helped decode messages that enabled the U.S. to shoot down the Japanese commander who led the attack on Pearl Harbor.

In spite of the amazing work they were doing, there was a stigma to these women joining the military as the public believed that they were “servicing” the soldiers. But they took the jobs anyway because it meant more money and freedom. Plus, as Mundy pointed out during her talk, it was more interesting than waiting at home for the men in their lives to return home from the theater of war. They built lifelong friendships, partly because they couldn’t talk to anyone else about what they were doing: to do so would have been treason, the penalty for which was a firing squad.

Mundy’s talk was supported by the Ewald Scholars Program. Because events in the “At the Invitation of the President” series are supported by gifts to Sweet Briar College, they are free and open to the public. The series continued on April 22 with a visit by Bettina Ring, Virginia’s secretary of agriculture and forestry.

Visit sbc.edu/presidential-series for information about other events in the series.
ALUMNAE AMBASSADORS EXTEND THE REACH OF THE SWEET BRIAR ADMISSIONS OFFICE

The strength of the Sweet Briar alumnae network is famous. Alumnae help advance the College in a number of ways, from providing good counsel to the president and administration to hosting events all over the country. One of the most effective alumnae programs at the College is the admissions ambassador (AA) program.

Admissions ambassadors are official representatives of Sweet Briar College, reflecting the College’s values and helping recruit students by attending college fairs, visiting schools and personally reaching out to potential students.

The ambassadors complete training and have access to an online resource portal to help them feel like a part of the admissions team. They allow the College to get in front of a far bigger number of students than would be possible with just the professional staff in the office. The admissions office has received more than 1,400 student inquiries solely as a result of fairs staffed by the AAs. They reached out to at least 1,700 seniors last fall and to 1,500 juniors this spring.

Their work has been invaluable to the admissions office. Savannah Oxner ’05, who manages the program for the College, says, “These volunteers represent us in areas where staff counselors do not currently travel and help ensure that Sweet Briar stays in the mind of prospective students. The ambassadors promote the College through their recruiting efforts but also through their general love of Sweet Briar.”

Heather Ewing ’90, an admissions ambassador from Atlanta, says the role has helped her stay close to Sweet Briar. “I know I was lucky to find Sweet Briar through my parents, and I’m
The Alumnae Alliance Council joined the Sweet Briar College Board of Directors on campus this February, as they have done each year since 2016. Co-chairs of all working groups gathered to discuss their roles as alumnae leaders and how they can support priorities established in collaboration with the College’s Office of Alumnae Relations and Development.

Working groups of the Alumnae Alliance include Council Operations, Alumnae Admissions Ambassadors, Alumnae Clubs, Alumnae Communications, Class Leadership Teams, Development, Governance and Strategic Initiatives, “The Network” and Lifelong Learning, and the newest working group, the Young Alumnae Squad.

These working groups are also supported by a network of “Plus Ones,” who listen to monthly conference calls held by the council to learn about the ongoing projects and progress of each working group. All alumnae are invited to join the calls as Plus Ones.

The council co-chairs, Debra Elkins ’93 and Sarah von Rosenberg ’72, made a presentation to the College’s board of directors on Friday, Feb. 23, in which they shared the impact alumnae volunteerism has: Through the implementation of key projects and strategies, the value-in-kind made by alumnae since the council’s last presentation to the board is estimated at $13.8 million.

These meetings also included goodbyes, as Elkins and von Rosenberg rotated out of their roles as co-chairs of the council. They had held the positions since fall 2015, helped to stand up the structure of the reconfigured and renamed Alumnae Alliance Council and gave countless hours to the College in forming and serving in this iteration of leadership.

Sweet Briar is grateful to them for their service and during their February meeting, the board passed resolutions honoring Elkins and von Rosenberg. Stay tuned to future issues of The Briar Wire, the College’s newsletter, for updates on the working groups and their accomplishments.
Sweet Briar Names
NEW VICE PRESIDENT
for Finance and Administration Office

Lori A. Husein, CPA, joined Sweet Briar as the College’s vice president for finance and administration in April.

Husein brings significant experience in higher education financial management and strategy, including serving in similar roles at Claremont University Consortium and Loyola Marymount University in California. Her portfolio of responsibilities at Sweet Briar will include leading operations of the business office, campus safety, physical plant, dining services, hospitality, the post office and human resources. She will also serve as the College’s staff liaison on the board of directors’ Finance Committee.

“Lori is an exceptional financial professional with valuable higher education experience, as well as a respected leader of teams and mentor to young women,” President Woo said. “I am proud to announce her as the newest member of my cabinet, and she is eager to join the Sweet Briar community and contribute to educating and developing women of consequence.”

Husein has a solid track record in building, leading and advising financial operations. She has been involved in the development of capital budgets and facilities planning, including the complexities of construction and operating contracts, as well as balancing financial health with funding key priorities and deferred maintenance. During her tenure as vice president and controller at Loyola Marymount University from 2004 to 2015, the university completed a $380 million capital campaign. She also has key experience with audits, treasury and endowment management.

Over the last 20 years, Husein has voluntarily served on educational boards, including founding the Coolidge Foundation for Exceptional Education. She enjoys mentoring young women, particularly turning-point students or those who are reentering college after extended breaks. She has volunteered as a Girl Scouts leader, campaign chair for United Way and president of the San Gabriel Educational Foundations and Parent Teacher Association at her daughters’ school.

Husein graduated valedictorian of her class with a bachelor of arts in economics and accounting from Claremont McKenna College. She is a member of the California Society of CPAs and the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO).

Nella Gray Barkley ’55 — a Sweet Briar College Distinguished Alumna, successful author and member of the School of Business Board of Governors at the College of Charleston — gave the keynote address at Sweet Briar’s 109th Commencement on Saturday, May 12.

“Nella Barkley is a graceful and powerful speaker,” said Sweet Briar College President Meredith Woo. “She has a passion for empowering young people and will be an inspiration for our graduating class.”

A pioneer in the field of career coaching, Barkley is the president and co-founder of the Crystal-Barkley Corporation, which guides individuals in finding what drives them and planning meaningful careers. Barkley’s ability to find new solutions to problems has made her consulting services popular with industry as well as branches of government.
Ashton Mays ’18 is the recipient of the 2018 Presidential Medal, the highest honor a Sweet Briar student can attain. Ashton is the daughter of Cathy Mays ’84, who currently serves as the College’s director of hospitality.

“Words cannot express how proud I am of Ashton’s many accomplishments,” Cathy said. “I have shared with her on numerous occasions how she reflects the true Vixen spirit. As an alumna, I am delighted to see her continue the legacy and love for Sweet Briar!”

To Ashton, a psychology major and sociology minor who transferred to Sweet Briar in 2016, the announcement came as a surprise. “I really just couldn’t believe that I was the person chosen for this incredibly prestigious award,” she said. “It is such an honor, and I am so very thankful.”

Barkley is a sought-after mentor and public speaker and is frequently quoted in national media such as Forbes, Bloomberg and the Washington Post. She’s also been a guest on CBS Morning News and Larry King Live.

Barkley is also a dedicated volunteer in her hometown of Charleston, S.C., where she initiated a center to rehabilitate, rather than institutionalize, juvenile delinquents; helped develop a low-income housing rehabilitation program for the City of Charleston; and was the first general manager of the Spoleto Festival, USA, an annual international arts event.

Barkley has served as a leader on a number of boards and committees, including as vice chair of the South Carolina Committee of the Endowment for the Humanities and president of the Association of Junior Leagues International Inc. She’s been a member of the Charleston Opera Society, the South Carolina Advisory Committee to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission and the board of directors for “Up With People,” just to name a few. She’s written two books, “How To Help Your Child Land The Right Job (Without Being a Pain in the Neck)” and “The Crystal-Barkley Guide To Taking Charge Of Your Career.” Barkley was honored with the Order of the Palmetto, the highest civilian honor in the state of South Carolina.

At Sweet Briar, Barkley majored in political science and took advantage of the College’s Junior Year in France program, which allowed her to study at the University of Paris. She also completed the Advanced Management Program at Harvard Business School. In 2002, she was honored as Sweet Briar’s Distinguished Alumna for her many personal and professional accomplishments as well as her ongoing support of the College.

While the medal rewards intellectual achievement, honorees must also have shown distinction in a combination of areas, including community service; the arts; global awareness; fitness and athletic achievement; and leadership, civility and integrity of character.

Ashton, who has held a 3.9 GPA while also achieving licensure as a Centra Health Nurse’s Aide, has exhibited that kind of distinction, said Sweet Briar College President Meredith Woo.

“In addition to her stellar academic work and excellence as a citizen in our community, she is a thoughtful and kind young woman, demonstrating fairness in her actions and decisions, and exuding tremendous and contagious energy,” Woo said in announcing the award. “She is a remarkable example of the best of Sweet Briar women.”

Psychology professor Jessica Salvatore agrees, noting her student’s advanced understanding of complex topics and her ability to bring everyone along with her.

“Ashton is a gifted thinker, more like a grad student than an undergrad,” observes Salvatore. “She has taken several classes with me that involved full-semester group learning ‘missions.’ She can be counted on to see the nuances of things — so I have several times entrusted her with tricky aspects of these group projects — and to do what needs to be done for all in the class to succeed.”

Ashton’s leadership skills are reflected in and outside the classroom. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, Alpha Lambda Delta, Eta Sigma Phi, Omicron Delta Kappa, Psi Chi and Pi Gamma Mu honor societies and has served as a departmental tutor, HR assistant and vice president of the Student Government Association. She’s been an orientation leader and resident advisor, a Sweet PEA, Sweet Spirit, president of the Sweet Tones and a member of several tap clubs, including BAM, Aints ‘n’ Asses, Taps ‘n’ Toes and Chung Mungs. This fall, Ashton will move to North Carolina to enroll in Duke University’s prestigious nursing program.
Sweet Briar Day events are among the College’s most enduring traditions. They take place all over the country and give a broad group of alumnae the chance to reconnect with each other and hear updates about what’s happening at the College. They are one of the best ways we have to engage alumnae who may not get back to campus as often as they’d like. This year, alumnae hosted more than 30 events in locations from Florida to Oregon and everywhere in between. Here are a few of our favorite photos!
L-R: Lele Casalini '82, Mary Gynn '56, Elizabeth Lindsay '68, Meg Sullivan '74, Jan Need '05 (with baby Josie, maybe a future SBC student!), Judy Fletcher '71. Not pictured: Jane Tatman Walker
NASA ENGINEER’S TALK AT SWEET BRIAR SHEDS LIGHT ON TRUE STORY BEHIND ‘HIDDEN FIGURES’
Perhaps the most surprising fact about Christine Darden’s career is that she doesn’t remember feeling discriminated against because of her race or gender when NASA first hired her as a data analyst in 1967. “Maybe I just didn’t pay attention to it,” she told the crowd of more than 300 guests at the National Engineers Banquet in February, held in Sweet Briar College’s Upchurch Field House.

Darden’s 40-year career at NASA, beginning with five years as a “human computer,” included 25 years of groundbreaking work designing supersonic airplanes and decreasing the levels of sonic boom. But it wasn’t until Margot Lee Shetterly wrote about Darden in her best-selling book “Hidden Figures” — which turned into an Oscar-nominated movie — that her accomplishments became mainstream knowledge.

Darden isn’t featured in the film because it focuses on the years 1961 and 1962, when she was still in college. The film’s heroines — Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson — were several years ahead of Darden, but they worked together later. “I was portrayed in the book as standing on their shoulders, and that’s true,” she said. “The fact that they did good work meant that NASA continued to hire, and they hired me.”

Darden and Johnson have kept in touch over the years. “We went to the same church in Washington for 50 years,” said Darden, who now lives in Hampton. With three daughters and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Darden can look back on a full life that often required compromises. She wasn’t able to accept every promotion because sometimes, it wasn’t the right time for her family. But, she says, “You have to be ready when the opportunity presents itself.”
This spring was the third time the College hosted the region’s National Engineers Week Banquet, attracting not just Sweet Briar students, faculty, staff and alumnae, but many area engineers, college students and local high school girls.

The National Society of Professional Engineers established National Engineers Week in 1951 to celebrate the difference engineers make in the world. Its goals include increasing awareness of the need for engineers and generating excitement for the profession among young people, their parents and their educators.

The event at Sweet Briar consists of an evening banquet with a recognized speaker and a program for Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day, a free afternoon event for high school girls. Participants at that event engage in hands-on design projects with Sweet Briar faculty.

This year, participants had the chance to meet keynote speaker Christine Darden, who observed quietly as Bethany Brinkman, an associate professor of engineering in Sweet Briar’s Margaret Jones Wyllie ’45 Engineering Program, introduced the 13 high school girls to their one-hour project: building a drawing machine.

And Darden always was — no matter how difficult it seemed. When you have a dream, she told the audience, you have to perceive of yourself as that person. Hers wasn’t a straight or easy path: Geometry was the highest-level math class offered at her high school back home in North Carolina. It wasn’t much, but that’s when Darden knew she wanted to be a mathematician. “I fell in love with applied mathematics,” she recalled.

After following her older brothers and sisters through high school, she decided it was time to forge her own path. She applied to Hampton University, then known as Hampton Institute, and enrolled with a scholarship. Her father urged her to earn a teaching certificate because he wasn’t so sure she’d be able to find work as a black mathematician. Darden obeyed, but she never abandoned her dream, adding 24 credit hours of high-level math to prepare her for the day opportunity would knock on her door.

Darden did teach high school briefly after college but was soon hired as a research assistant at Virginia State University, where she studied aerosol physics and taught math. The job paid for her graduate degree in applied mathematics, which she received in 1967. “If I hadn’t taken all those extra math classes in college, I would not have gotten that position,” Darden said during her talk.

The job she landed at NASA had little to do with the equations she solved during graduate school. As a data analyst, she was stuck in a dead-end job: While NASA’s engineers, who were all men, worked on the kinds of problems Darden was trained in and were publishing papers, giving talks and getting promoted, Darden’s job never changed. In 1972, Darden decided she was going to speak up.

If she didn’t feel discrimination when she first started at NASA, she certainly felt it later.

“Why is it that the women and men who come in with the same background are assigned different jobs?” she asked a NASA director. He admitted no one had ever asked that question. But it was a good one. Instead of being fired, as Darden had feared, she was transferred to the engineering division and began a 25-year career as an aeronautical engineer.

In 1983, Darden earned a Ph.D. in engineering from George Washington University and in 1989, she was appointed leader of the Sonic Boom Team. From about 1997 until her retirement in 2007, she worked in management, having become the first African-American woman at Langley Research Center to be promoted into the senior executive service.

The often-cited statistic that girls lose confidence in their scientific abilities as they get older may derive from what they are told — by parents or teachers — when they’re young, Darden says. “Don’t tell them that that’s not what girls do,” she explains. “When women are told they don’t belong in certain careers, we are losing a lot of talent.”

It’s a good thing Darden didn’t hear any of those voices.
Since 2016, Sweet Briar has had a special relationship with Google. It started when Leah Busque ’01 set up a meeting for Mary Pope M. Hutson ’83, vice president for alumnae relations and development, and former President Phil Stone with Sidnie Davis, women’s outreach specialist at Google. Of the story of alumnae saving Sweet Briar, Davis, a graduate of Smith, said to Hutson, “Sweet Briar has put the wind back in the sails of women’s colleges.”

Davis came to campus the following February with two “Googlers” (the term used for Google employees), Antoine Picard and Sarah Henderson, to tour Sweet Briar’s campus and speak to engineering classes. Picard was the speaker for Sweet Briar’s 2017 National Engineers Week Banquet.

Since then, Davis has returned to campus to discuss the College’s computer science curriculum, internship opportunities for computer science students and future opportunities for Googlers to come to campus.

Most recently, Googler Lauren Guerrant came to Sweet Briar as part of Google’s participation in the 2018 National Engineers Week, featuring keynote speaker Christine Darden. Lauren toured campus with Lea Harvey, director of corporate and foundation relations, and also talked with students from Sweet Briar and other local colleges during the banquet about opportunities with Google.

This coming May, Googlers will come to campus to teach a short “Maymester” course related to computer science. Sweet Briar students will have the opportunity to learn from Googlers and open the doors to future industry-related opportunities such as internships and full-time roles.

Google has also chosen Sweet Briar to be one of 20 colleges in America to pilot their applied computing program in the fall of 2018.
When Bonnie Pitman decided to transfer from Pine Manor College in Boston before her junior year, she looked at Hollins University and Bryn Mawr College. But when she got to Sweet Briar, something clicked. “I knew I had come home,” she says.

In part that was because of the beautiful campus, which has drawn in so many alumnae. But she was also impressed by the College’s excellent art history and studio art programs, as well as the wonderful people she met. “I also liked the proximity to men’s schools,” she laughs.

Of course, in the late 1960s, life on college campuses could be tumultuous. Although the activism at Sweet Briar may have been somewhat less dramatic than at other schools, Pitman says that she and her classmates were absolutely activists in their own way. “Sweet Briar was well-positioned geographically to go to UVa, Richmond, or even schools in North Carolina. Many schools were becoming more diverse and we saw what was going on around us,” she said.

The College brought artists and authors to campus, too, broadening the perspective of students. What Pitman remembers most from that time was the effect of the Vietnam War. The future husband of her roommate, Anne Kinsey, was stationed in Can Tho and Kinsey received reel-to-reel voice tapes from him describing his experiences. “It was affecting on a day-to-day basis,” Pitman says.

Amid the drama of political clashes and war, Pitman remembers the teachers who supported her. School hadn’t always come easy to her because of dyslexia. “Dean Sims was my patron saint,” she says of Catherine Sims, who was dean of the College and allowed Pitman to take her exams orally. “She knew I was smart, but that reading and writing were hard for me. I graduated Phi Beta Kappa because of her.” Likewise, art professor Eleanor Barton made an impression. “When you went to her class, you had to be on point,” Pitman says. “But the faculty were open to my ideas about going beyond traditional ways of thinking. The relationships I had with them made a critical difference to my success later.”

Pitman was given the freedom to explore and pursue her passion for art. She would sometimes leave campus to go to the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, the National Gallery in Washington, D.C., The World’s Fair in Montreal and other museums within traveling distance. She remembers learning to love the experience of seeing firsthand — Rembrandt,
Henri Matisse, Josef Albers, Jackson Pollock and others. The engagement with real works of art, instead of the blurry slides in class, set her on a trajectory for her future work in museums. Of course, she sometimes missed classes. “There was a little madness in it,” she confesses. “But when I came back, my teachers realized that I had learned a lot. That would be clear in the essays I wrote to make up those classes. And seeing the works in person was a critical part of learning to make aesthetic judgements.” She gives a lot of credit to her Sweet Briar professors for nurturing her love of art and allowing her to pursue that passion in a way that made sense to her.

Pitman’s plan after graduation was to work at an American art museum and she thought she’d immediately get a job. Life had other plans. She discovered she hadn’t studied enough American history. One of the people she talked to told her that she needed a master’s degree to sell postcards in the store. Not one to take no for an answer, Pitman adjusted her plans and followed her boyfriend to Winnipeg, Canada, where she was able to begin her museum career on her terms.

In the years since, she’s become a national leader in the public engagement with art. She’s written six books, including “Ignite the Power of Art: Advancing Visitor Engagement in Museums,” “Excellence and Equity: Education and the Public Dimension of Museums” and “Dallas Museum of Art: A Guide to the Collection.” She chaired the accreditation commission for the American Association of Museums for 12 years, setting new standards for the field. In 2011, the American Association of Museums recognized her lifetime contributions with their distinguished service award.

She’s worked in museums all over North America — Winnipeg, Canada; New Orleans; New York; Seattle; Berkeley; and Dallas. While in New Orleans, she earned her master’s degree from Tulane University. No matter where she’s worked, her focus has been engaging the public with works of art. “I want people to be inspired by the cultural history of art over time and throughout the world,” she says. “Art is a chronicle of the human experience. If you can learn how to open your heart and mind to it, it can be like a three-dimensional encyclopedia.”

Asked what she’s most proud of in her career, she talks about the role she had in changing museums. “The profession I joined in the 1960s is not the same one I left in 2012,” she says. “Early in my career, museums were focused on school-children. Today, museums are truly part of their communities. I’ve been part of that transformation and I’m proud of that.”

Her son, David Gelles, is a reporter for the New York Times business section. He is married to Alison Gelles, the executive director of Renaissance Weekends, and they have two children, Franny and Clark. Bonnie’s happiest days are visits with the family in New York.

She retired as director from the Dallas Museum of Art in 2012 because of health problems, but Pitman is not the kind of person who really retires. As a result of her health, she became interested in the ways art could intersect with medicine, a discovery that has led to a personal reinvention. She’s now the Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence for the University of Texas at Dallas and the Edith O’Donnell Institute of Art History. She’s also the director of Art/Brain Innovations at the Center for Brain Health.

She has also continued her life’s work of engaging deeply with works of art. These days, that takes the form of teaching medical students and physicians to closely observe art to enhance the diagnostic skills needed for medical practice. She’s researching and teaching ways to foster brain health, including her “Do Something New” practice, which “invites the exploration of an ordinary day and making it extraordinary.”

Bonnie enjoying her grandchildren

DO SOMETHING NEW

Learn more about Pitman’s quest to do something new every day by visiting her website at www.dosomethingnew.org and following her on Instagram @bonniepitman.
A half-century ago, a couple of Sweet Briar graduates in Atlanta decided that although they were no longer students, they didn’t want to stop learning, so they started hosting lectures in their own living rooms. Today, the Living Room Learning series draws as many as 400 visitors for each lecture at the Atlanta History Center and raises enough money that the organization can give sizeable donations to Sweet Briar.

“It was about continuing education, stimulation, intellectual stimulation,” recalls Newell Bryan Tozzer ’55, one of the founders. “I would say, we didn’t want to be bored.”

The idea came from Cleveland, where Tozzer’s mother, Ellen Newell Bryan ’26, had attended a similar lecture series. Tozzer and Anne Sheffield Hale ’54 worked with friends to develop a program for Atlanta. The plan was to choose a topic, find a professor who would speak on it, and fill the living room with interested women. The first year’s theme, back in 1968, was “Modern Literary Ideas Through Poetry and Short Stories,” and the group charged $12 for the eight-week course.

The second year, they bumped it up to $20 and took on the Cold War. In 1972, the group explored topics in psychology with lectures including “Who Am I?,” “How Well Do I Express My Inner Self?” and “Marriage and Divorce.”

Louise Jones Geddes ’84, who administers the program now, marvels at the topics they chose. “Here’s just a group of Sweet Briar grads who don’t work outside the home in the early ’70s and they spent that living room learning studying ‘Who Am I?’” she says. “I would love to be a fly on the wall. The world was changing around them. They were really in the vanguard.”

The series quickly expanded. Tozzer recalls hosting 30 to 35 women in her home. “I had a big living room,” she says. Before long, the lecture series began turning a profit — in 1978, it cleared $387. In the 1980s, a waiting list developed; Sweet Briar alumnae got first priority for available spots, but other women could join if there was space.

In the early 2000s, Camille Williams Yow ’55 took charge of the program, and demand for the series continued to grow. “We were running out of living room space,” she recalls. Literature dominated the agenda, with lectures on Shakespeare, C.S. Lewis, William Faulkner, the French novel and 20th-century Russian literature and history.

When the series turned to history, interest boomed, leading to a change of venue. Anne Hale had died, but her son, Sheffield Hale, ran the Atlanta History Center. Tozzer approached him about hosting the 2013 lectures on the Civil War. He gave them a room that seated 125, and they filled it up.

The following year, Living Room Learning moved into the center’s 398-seat auditorium and quickly filled it for a series on World War I. Since then, the program has been “Marching Through 20th-century History.” This year’s series covered the
years between 1950 and 1955, capturing the Korean War, the early days of the civil rights movement and “American Affluent Society,” among other topics. Yow says the focus will remain history, which she says “plays to the crowd.”

“The bigger space brought changes: The seven-lecture series now costs $115 and is open to both men and women. Catering services have replaced homemade brownies and lemon squares. They’re paying to rent the venue and to hire an Emory University history professor, Patrick Allitt, as a part-time advisor. Allitt, who has been a popular speaker in the series for years, helps them identify themes and suggests speakers. But Yow and Geddes don’t leave anything to chance.

“Louise and I have literally gotten in the car and driven over to the University of Alabama to listen to a professor,” Yow says. “We have this philosophy that we don’t want to hire anyone until we hear them speak, because we don’t want them to be boring.”

Geddes agrees. “We want really dynamic speakers and we want experts. They’re Ph.D.s mostly, or they’ve written books. They’ve published. That’s part of the success. From the beginning, these women have said that Sweet Briar is a top-shelf organization, and we only want top-shelf speakers.”

Geddes says the group has already fleshed out a few ideas for the 2019 series, and the lectures should be finalized by May. A brochure will go out in October along with notices to local newspapers. The two-hour afternoon lectures run from mid-January through February.

Geddes, a former school teacher, started helping Living Room Learning at about the time it moved to the history center. She used her computer skills to set up mailing lists and handle finances. The rapid expansion has brought in more money, and much of what’s left — after the catering, the rental fees and speaker honoraria — goes to Sweet Briar. Last year’s donation was $10,000, Geddes said.

The group is sure to make the connection to Sweet Briar. During the 2016 series, someone spoke at the beginning of the lectures about the College’s revival. Sweet Briar is mentioned in brochures and press releases, and a banner appears at the lectures. Since the lectures are in the afternoon, it’s doubtful that many prospective students show up. But there’s growing awareness in the community that Sweet Briar is going strong, Geddes says.

“It has been so gratifying to hear people make connections and talk about the College, its past and its future, in such a positive way,” she says. “This has been a labor of love, in that I continue to use my brain and skills to keep things rolling along — plus the lectures are so interesting and informative.”

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TIPS FOR LAUNCHING A LEARNING SERIES

1. Start small. Our series originally drew 25-40 people each year, and that was fine!
2. Think of a topic that appeals to whatever audience you intend to reach.
3. Give yourself plenty of time to find good speakers when possible.
4. Find some way to publicize or advertise the events.
5. Have helpers. The bigger the event, the more help and organization you’ll need!

Most importantly: Have fun!
Internships
Set Sweet Briar Students on Path to Their Future

Sweet Briar students encounter learning opportunities of all kinds during their four years, from learning with stellar faculty members to leadership opportunities in clubs and athletics to connecting with the College’s alumnae network.

Barb Watts, director of career services, helps our students find internship opportunities suited to their academic and professional interests. With the help of tools like Alumnifire and the alumnae who post internship opportunities there, many Sweet Briar students have had some incredible off-campus learning opportunities.

For example, Claire Zak ’18, an archaeology and classics double major minoring in anthropology and religion from St. Cloud, Fla., attended the Archaeological Conservation Institute through the Centro di Conservazione Archeologica in Rome, Italy. During her internship, Zak worked on three villas, including Julius Caesar’s country villa and a project at Marco Simone, where she helped to uncover mosaics, conserved them and excavated the apse of the bathhouse there.

Zak’s experience wasn’t confined to fieldwork. She and other students in the program made visits to surrounding archaeological sites, including Ostia, Herculaneum and Hadrian’s Villa to explore how conservators preserve and display sites to vis-
itors. During their time off, they visited nearby villages, went to an Italian opera, climbed all of the steps to the cupola of St. Peter’s Basilica and — of course — ate plenty of gelato.

“As an archaeology major, it was beneficial to experience the conservation aspect of archaeology,” Zak said. “The program has given me a passion for conservation and cultural heritage preservation.” This fall, she’ll head to Texas A&M to earn her Ph.D. in nautical archaeology.

Zak’s classmate, Samantha Yew ’18, held an internship with WebMD — not once, but twice. The summer before her junior year, the business and economics double major had an internship with the company at their office in Atlanta, Ga., working on social media content strategies. Yew was able to use the knowledge she’d gained in her marketing research course at Sweet Briar. Last summer, she returned to WebMD, this time closer to her home in the Bronx, working at their New York City headquarters as a pricing configuration intern. Her economics courses proved particularly helpful. “I really enjoyed analyzing data because, to me, it is like a big puzzle waiting to be solved,” Yew said.

She found her internship through Alumnifire when Alicia King Anderson ’97, who used to work for WebMD, posted about opportunities at the company. Yew credits Sweet Briar’s unique atmosphere with preparing her for her internships. WebMD is a company where interns work in the same environment as employees at the vice president level. Having interactions with Sweet Briar’s president and deans on a daily basis prepared her for that environment. “Knowing how to handle yourself during these important meetings and when to speak up is very important, and I had that training at Sweet Briar,” Yew explained.

In addition to her work as an intern, Yew also gained valuable knowledge from WebMD’s Lunch and Learn Series, where she learned leadership skills and how to stand out in the workforce. While attending the sessions, she also met WebMD’s executive leadership team.

Because of her internship experience, Yew is looking for positions in financial analysis or marketing.

Like Yew, senior Mattie Nicholson, a native of Elizabethtown, Pa., learned about her internship with The Ridge Policy Group through Sweet Briar’s alumnae network. Led by former Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge, who later served as secretary of homeland security, the firm is a bipartisan government relations and issue management group based in Washington, D.C., and Harrisburg, Pa.

During her internship, Nicholson met with congressional representatives, senators and members of their staff, which she says opened her eyes to “the necessary role lobbyists play in our government.” As a result, Nicholson wants to be the voice connecting people to their government, using her knowledge to communicate the needs, desires, concerns and efforts of citizens to elected officials.

Back in 2012, when she was still in high school, Nicholson shadowed Wright Clayton Wright ’94 on a trip to Washington, D.C., while Erica was working at Kennametal, a company dealing in materials science, tooling and wear-resistance materials. That experience was Nicholson’s first introduction to Sweet Briar. Wright encouraged Nicholson to make a visit to Sweet Briar and apply. Once Nicholson visited campus, her decision was made.

This fall, Nicholson will attend Liberty University to pursue a master’s degree in strategic communications. “I am thrilled to remain close to my home away from home while also establishing new connections, friendships and opportunities for professional and personal growth,” she said.

If you know of an internship opportunity you think a Sweet Briar student would be interested in, please call the College’s Office of Career Services at 434-381-6465 or email Barb Watts at bwatts@sbc.edu. You can also join the College’s Alumnifire community at sweetbriar.alumnifire.com.
LYNN RAINVILLE: FINDING MEANING IN ORDINARY PEOPLE

Lynn Rainville is interested in ordinary people doing extraordinary things. People like an enslaved man who ran away from a Virginia plantation so he could earn money to buy his family’s freedom, a black child who walked through the door of a white school during desegregation in the South or the impact of women at periods in history when they were defined only by their relationships to men.

Her interest in such stories began when she was an undergraduate student at Dartmouth. During her first term, she spent a lot of time in the library — as many first-years do, getting used to collegiate work. At the end of the term, she selected a hands-on topic for her anthropology paper: studying the representation of colonial women via their gravestones near her New England college. “It was immediately clear that these highly patriarchal societies are evidenced in gravestone epitaphs, where women are almost exclusively referenced by their relationship to men using words like relic and consort.” Women, she notes, are memorialized as “faithful wives” and “loving daughters.”
Men, conversely, are memorialized by their professional accomplishments, like "Reverend," "professor," or "Esq."

During her graduate work at the University of Michigan, she studied ancient Mesopotamia. As part of her degree, Rainville traveled to Turkey and Syria, where she researched everyday life in ancient households. She was interested in the mudbrick houses of peasants instead of the palaces of nobility. "I've always been interested in the underdog," she reveals, though she acknowledges that it can be tedious work. "I study what gets dropped or broken and left behind unintentionally on mudbrick floors. Pieces of ceramic vessels, small animal bones, beads — these ordinary items sometimes have extraordinary stories to tell."

She's confident about the College's future because she knows that Sweet Briar has a history of defying peoples' expectations.

In 2001, after finishing her Ph.D., a UVa dean asked her to fill in for a colleague on leave. It was the first time she had lived south of the Mason Dixon Line. "I knew nothing about the South, let alone Virginia," she observes. "I assumed I'd be leaving at the end of the semester, so I took advantage of my time there to travel around the state and it rekindled my interest in American history." In the end, she decided to look for jobs in the Commonwealth and that led her to Sweet Briar.

It was a good choice for someone with her interests. "At Sweet Briar, all you have to do is open your eyes and look around," she tells us. "The College has layers and layers of complex history. There are more than 3,000 acres that span thousands of years of human history, from native American history through the Civil War, to the present. And this fascinating landscape includes the burial ground used by enslaved families.

That wealth of history has been a boon to her students, who have helped Rainville survey nearly 2,000 acres of Sweet Briar's campus looking for evidence of human activity. It's the perfect example of the College's natural environment being a critical part of the learning that takes place on campus. Rainville and her students have found hundreds of archaeological sites at Sweet Briar, including old chimneys, trash dumps, mills, historic fences and more. She's even found a pet cemetery. "There are ruins of houses off the riding fields, probably post-bellum tenants who were renting from Indiana Fletcher Williams. Right this moment," she says, "I could take students out for an hour, find artifacts and have a conversation about the forces that led to those artifacts being there."

"Sweet Briar really is a living laboratory. In addition to the archaeological sites, I've been able to interview people and collect oral histories. The College has great archives and wonderfully preserved material culture in the museum. There are so many intersecting stories," she says.

Her more recent research has focused on Virginia's role in World War I. In 2014, she helped chaperone a trip to France at the request of a colleague. "World War I is not forgotten in France," she observes. "Memorials to the conflict are plentiful. When she came home, she wondered how Virginians memorialized the Great War and thought it would be a good project as the centennial of the United States' entry into the war approached. Working with colleagues at colleges like the University of Richmond and Old Dominion University, she's found more than 250 memorials including bridges, plaques, statues and more. "These monuments provide insight into the average men and women who sacrificed during the war," she observes. "We really don't understand the level of individual and community sacrifice in the Commonwealth. We sent food and resources abroad, including horses. It was the beginning of the military-industrial complex with the opening of deep-sea ports in the Tidewater, the expansion of shipping and the beginning of military aeronautical training at Langley Field." Rainville's book on her World War I research came out in February.

This spring, Rainville took on a new role at the College: acting dean. It has been a rewarding challenge for her. Sweet Briar's size gives her an opportunity to get to know everyone and she thinks the College's size is an asset.

"We can take strength from our size," she notes. "Our faculty and staff are multitalented. In addition to the faculty who have expertise in multiple areas, we also have staff members who are professional performers or who have doctoral degrees and are experts in their fields. We can take advantage of those talents and put them to use for our students."

She's confident about the College's future because she knows that Sweet Briar has a history of defying peoples' expectations. "Sweet Briar is one of the grittiest places I've ever been," she asserts. "People have been predicting the end of the College from the very beginning when the world didn't value the education of women, but Mary Benedict made it happen. There have been many dire predictions — throughout the College's history — about how enrollment was too low, but we've come through crisis after crisis. We're going to do the same now."
If you’ve been a member of the Sweet Briar community for any length of time, you know that gifts to the Sweet Briar Fund are a critical need for the college. No matter what type of gift you choose to make to Sweet Briar, your donations really are working to make a difference.

In addition to the unrestricted support provided by the Sweet Briar Fund, several special initiatives have been possible this year because of restricted gifts, many of which come from foundations.

**BREWER FUND GRANT**

In early 2016, the Judith Haskell Brewer Fund of The Community Foundation Serving Richmond and Central Virginia awarded Sweet Briar College a grant for its environmental science program and community garden. Environmental science is one of Sweet Briar’s most prestigious programs and this generous grant will not only help educate our students today, but will lay a foundation for the program’s future.

There are essentially two grants. The first part was a three-year, $500,000 grant that supports operating costs. These funds had an immediate impact on the program, having been used to support a wide variety of activities and initiatives, including operations, several faculty and five sustainability interns. The funds paid for last year’s Explore Environmental Science event, which took place in October and brought 11 high school students to campus for a weekend of hands-on learning experiences. The funds are also supporting a student research assistant who is working on a USDA grant.

The second part of the funding is a $500,000 challenge grant that the College must match on a 1:1 basis. These funds will have a longer-term impact, but the money can’t be spent until the match is met. Altogether, the College will receive $1.5 million, assuming it receives the full match.

As of June 2017, the College had raised more than $305,000 in matching funds and received $300,000 in matching funds from the Brewer Fund. Since June, an additional $17,500 had been raised toward the release of the Brewer Fund’s fourth payment. The College needs to meet the full $500,000 challenge by June of 2019.

**TENNIS COURTS**

Last year, Sweet Briar raised $375,000 for the first part of a two-phase renovation of the College’s tennis courts. The courts were resurfaced and brought up to NCAA compliance. In addition, the College added more spectator seating. Fundraising is currently underway for phase II of the renovation,
which would include the addition of wind screens, signs, landscaping and lighting that would allow the Vixen team to play NCAA matches in the evening.

THE FLORENCE ELSTON INN & CONFERENCE CENTER

For the past several months, the College has been updating and refreshing the guest rooms and event spaces at The Florence Elston Inn & Conference Center.

The updates are possible because of a gift from the Beemers, the family of Florence Elston and Gordon Beemer, who established an endowment in 1997 to support the expansion of The Florence Elston Inn & Conference Center. At the time it was created, the endowment also provided funds for future maintenance of the facility. The updates this spring include painting and the replacement of the soft furnishings, including upholstery and bedding.

The refreshing of the event spaces and accommodations will not only enhance the guest experience, but also strengthen the Inn’s reputation as a destination for meetings, weddings, reunions and more.

In addition to being a source of pride to the College and a place to welcome both prospective families and alumnae, the Inn provides an alternative stream of revenue for Sweet Briar, helping ensure the College’s future financial sustainability. “The enhancements to The Florence Elston Inn wouldn’t be possible without the generosity of the Beemer family,” said Mary Pope Maybank Hutson ‘83, Sweet Briar’s vice president for development and alumnae relations. “We’re grateful for their continued commitment to, and stewardship of, the Inn.”

The Inn is open to the public and provides a number of venues around campus for events ranging from weddings to business meetings.

SWEET BRIAR HOUSE

At the heart of the Sweet Briar campus is Sweet Briar House, the original home of the late Williams family. The house has been on the Virginia Landmarks Register since the early 1980s and is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It has been home to the presidents of the College since 1906, but has also housed faculty, the post office, the infirmary and administrative offices.

Of course, maintaining a historic building is an expensive proposition and the house hadn’t received a full renovation since the early 1980s. So when the Class of 1957 asked about raising funds to rehabilitate it, the College welcomed the opportunity to signal to the community and the world that Sweet Briar is investing for the future with through this historic landmark.

Together with other alumnae from the 1950s and several foundation gifts, more than $200,000 was raised for this much-needed renovation. Old wallpaper was removed — right down to the plaster, which was restored. The floors, original to the building, were restored and soft finishes like rugs and window coverings were refurbished. The home’s furnishings are historically accurate and contemporary to when the Williams family occupied it.

In addition, one of the parlors was finished so that it can be used as a seminar room for classes. Furthermore, the president regularly entertains members of the community including faculty, staff, students, parents and donors in the house.

Hutson knows that the College wouldn’t be what it is without the generosity of the Sweet Briar family. “Whether our alumnae, parents and friends are supporting academics, athletics or special initiatives like these, I never cease to be amazed by their generosity, and I’m grateful for everything they do for the College.”

Giving to Sweet Briar IS EASY.

To join the Sweet Briar College community of donors:

1. Place your gift into the enclosed giving envelope and put it in the mail.
2. Visit our online giving page at sbc.edu/give.
3. Call Alumnae Relations and Development at 800-381-6131.
The Sweet Briar Fund is an important part of the College’s overall financial health, providing a substantial part of the operating budget for Sweet Briar. The last few years have seen the College break records in the amount it has raised — enough so that the nation has taken notice. This spring, The Chronicle of Philanthropy featured Sweet Briar’s fundraising efforts in a major story in its March issue. The College is in the midst of another successful fundraising year, although there is still some ground to cover; as of mid-April, the College had raised $8.1 million of its $13 million goal.

Of course, while the total amount raised is one way the College measures success in fundraising, it’s not the only way. Just as important is the percentage of our alumnae who make donations. In recent years, Sweet Briar alumnae have truly shown how much they care about the institution by making gifts and the College has reached high levels of participation. The goal this year is to have 31 percent of our alumnae make a gift to the College. As of April 15, just 17.3 percent had given.

Alumnae giving rates have a huge impact. They affect the College’s ranking with U.S. News & World Report and they inspire major donors, corporations and foundations to increase their support, so every gift matters. Remember that all gifts — targeted and unrestricted — impact participation rates, so you can make a donation to the part of the College that means the most to you.

If you haven’t yet made a gift this year, please consider doing so now. There’s a giving envelope enclosed in this magazine to make donating easy. And if you have already made a donation but want to do more, you can reach out to your classmates and encourage them to give, too. After all, Sweet Briar alumnae love nothing more than a good competition!
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<td>2017</td>
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Total Giving to Date in FY 2018: **$8.1 million**
FY 2018 goal: **$13 million**
Current participation **17.3%**
Participation goal **31%**
*data as of April 16, 2018*
MEMORIAM

1932
Julia Wilkins Yates
Virginia Shackelford Poindexter
Jean Anne Ferrier Ramsay
Jane Warner Williams

1935
Margaret Williams Brooks
Nancy Horton

1937
Mary Jaquelin Cochran Nicholson
Marion Leggett Whyte

1938
Suzanne Martin Hust

1940
Mary Carson Kellogg
Carrington Lancaster Pasco
Katherine Hodge Soaper

1942
Jean McNeer Cummings
Lucy Hodges Fuller
Mary Elizabeth Lewis
Mary Belle "Polly" Chilton Phillips

1943
Chesley Johnson Dale
Barbara Jones Hale
 Zelda Sampson Lazar

1944
Alice Johnson Fessenden
Mimi Ethridge Wood
Sarah Weight

1945
Ann Parsons Davis
Elizabeth "Betty" Gray
Mary Haskins King
Anne "Dickie" Dickson Jordan Waldrop

1946
Eleanor Myers Cole

1947
Martha Francis Burrows
Mary Land Cleveland
Ernestine Banker Gerhard

1948
Felicia Jackson Burns
Elizabeth "Betty" Stevens Haywood
Anne Street Lautz
Elizabeth "Liz" Barbour Beggs McCrea
Caroline Haskell Simpson

1949
Nancy Franz Davies
Frances Richardson Franklin

1950
Dolores Shepperd Cancelmo
Jean Probeck Wiant

1951
Alice Tillman Baird
Dorothy Smith Brown
Ann Petesch Hazzard

1952
Elizabeth New Costen
Barbara Reich Van Kirk
Jane Ragland Young

1953
Martha White Feola

1954
Eliza Lloyd Biederman
Joan Oram Reid
Audrey Darden Wilson

1955
Rosemary Mancill Berry
Patricia Collins Massad
Lydia Plum Mower
Helen "Honey" Addington Passano

1956
Sally Joseph Hahlbeck
Nancy Pickering Kendall
Virginia "Ginny" Echols Orgain

1957
Nancy Shuford Dowdy
Margery "Margie" Scott Johnson
Dagmar Halmagyi Yon

1958
Barbara Fortune Roberts

1959
Ann Smith Heist

1960
Carol Ann Kolakowski Nalewaik
Eleanor "Ann" Weingart Teig

1961
Suzanne "Suzie" Philion Babcock
Patricia Scott McHargue

1962
Iris Coggins
Linda Emery Miller
Sarah Adams Model

1963
Ruth "Penny" Pamplin Reeves

1964
Virginia Hamilton Ammons
Carroll Tiernan

1965
Jane Merkle Borden
Margaret "Tutti" Cuthbert Broaddus
Mary Duncan Clement
Margaret "Grayson" Rowlett Govatos

1966
Josephine "Jody" Moore Griffin

1967
Rosanne Hamilton Fimiani

1968
Elizabeth Nalle Bay
Kathryn Crook

1969
Melinda McAfee Hart
Janet Abney Moore

1970
Margie Alsop
Katherine Cummings Catlin
Salli Shropshire LaGrone
Linda Duke Pierce

1971
Marjorie "Midge" Montgomery
Carol Everest Kenney

1972
Gail Garner Resch

1973
Margaret "Peggy" Cheesewright Garner

1974
Louise "Malley" Cross Kelbaugh
Ann Thomas

1975
Janis Csicsek Dodge
Claiborne Gooch Hammond

1976
Mary Holland Bishop
Margaret Boswell Subaugh

1982
Mary Courtneym McKenna Bower
Lisa Church

1989
Betsy "Lee" Letkovits Dawkins

1995
Jennifer Mangels

1996
Susan Tomlin Cash
1950

Jo Gulick Grant
53 Lyme Rd. #27
Hanover, NH 03755
603-277-9772

So pleased to hear from even more of you this time! Please note above address change. Bill and I moved to a nearby independent-living complex, but are still keeping our home in Lyme. We joke about calling our new condo the “Briar Suite” because we purchased it from Martha Davis Barnes ’48 and it was sold to us by Lauren Place Young ’78, who is the director of this very comfortable place, the “Greens…” How’s that for keeping things in the family?

A lovely letter from Dolly Clark Rasmussen in Bethesda, MD, included photos of her handsome family, who she claims have kept her ticking during a challenging year without her husband, John. She also mentioned vivid memories of being evacuated from Pearl Harbor shortly after Dec 7, 1941 attack!

Lola Steele Shepard writes from Richmond that she’s doing well “for an old grey mare,” and has been in touch with Nancy Drake Maggard (Florida) and Sally Lane Johnson (D.C.), and thinks we should all do a bit more networking.

Waller Berkeley Ferguson, a neighbor of Lola’s, says she’s “so proud of all the SBC alumnae who work so hard to keep our alma mater going,” and “Bless the members of 1950 still standing.” She sends love to all and hopes that some of us will stop by for a visit to her and Lola at Westminster-Canterbury.

Moe Gamble Booth is also at Westminster-Canterbury — the one in Lynchburg — where her whole family gathered to celebrate her 90th birthday last New Year’s Eve. Moe emphasized the need for support as the college moves to meet the needs of 21st century women.

Edie Brooke Robertson and Mary Dame Stubbs Broad, both in Virginia, report keeping well and busy with travel, book clubs, yoga and even weight-lifting!

Ginny Page Love lives in Thousand Oaks, CA, and tells us she and Bill are now in a retirement village. “Much to enjoy — especially no cooking.” She says she remembers all of us classmates as forever 18-years-old.

“We must have super-special genes” says Bill Bailey Fritzinger in Weston, VT. True of her, obviously, as she’s “been busy with skiing, weddings and birthdays.”

Betsy Sawyer Hodges and husband still in their house in Orlando, FL, and feel blessed with good health as they “age in place” now have all grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. (A class record?)

B.G. Elmore Gilleland in Winter Park, FL, tries to keep sharp with an assortment of French clubs, book clubs and volunteer ELS teaching. She planned to attend the Jacksonville luncheon for President Woo in March.

Heard from Rita Murray Gourd in Delray Beach, FL, who says she’s becoming a Bionic Woman now that she’s sporting so many replacement body parts. She’s doing well for the moment and loves driving her 20-year-old Camry.

Pat Halloray Salvadore and Mario now live in a beautiful 1913 condo in Chicago, IL, next door to their daughter and family. “Such a treat to have dinner together each evening.”

Mimi Wyse Linsky in Leonminster, MA, reports, “Not much is happening with this old lady” — hard to believe knowing Mimi — but she sends news of her four children, plus of yearly trips to visit great-grandchildren in FL. “(Can we ever forget her many renditions of Danny Kaye’s routines?)

Pat Owens Purvis writes from Fort Worth, TX, that she plans another spring trip to England, will attend the weddings of two grand-children and continues to watch to her favorite football games.

Anne Peyton Cooper, in her Pelham, NY, condo, tells us of her focus on keeping ahead of the years, and looking for new and doable adventures. She has joined a chair yoga class, hoping this time she won’t have to stand on her head!

News from Bonnie Lloyd Crane: “Still enjoying life in my home beside the sea in Magnolia, MA I am semi-able to bring my gallery of 19th century paintings up here with me.”

Ginger Luscombe Rogers has been working for many years for the Historic Preservation Society in Hudson, OH, still plays golf and gets together with Dotsy Wood Letts two or three times a year. Dotsy, in Palm Beach FL, phoned to report yearly trips to Scotland with daughter Sophie, also that she (Dotsy) has been taking drum lessons. (Could Bill Bailey be right about those genes?)

A few sad notes to end on:

We send our condolences to the family of classmate Jean Probeck Want who passed away last fall and to Sally Bianchi Foster and family, as Sal has recently lost her husband, Bob.

It’s still winter up here and a lot more settling in to deal with, but I send best wishes and want y’all to know how much I value your news, whether or not it has anything to do with official postcards or magazine deadlines.

1951

Susan Taylor Hubbard
3100 Shore Drive Apt. 922
Virginia Beach, VA 23451
757-496-1362
sushubbard@gmail.com

Monica Wilson Beard: My family is scattered about the nation, and so I watch the Weather Channel every day to envision their circumstances. I’m okay, but the Golden Years are surely not for cowards! My two daughters, their husbands, and their two grown children come every Christmas for what we call the Christmas Campout. Some are coming back for a visit from California at the end of this month. I always love to see them. Georgia Dreisbach Kegley visited the other day, and it was great to see her — a loyal friend! I don’t have the energy or balance to go to SBC, for the hills and dales are lovely, but challenging! Glad all seems to be well there now — even if quite different from our day.

Angie Vaughan Halliday: We had an interesting Sweet Briar Day in Louisville, KY, in early Jan. — much discussion about the plans put forth by President Woo. Everyone seemed accepting — we SBC girls are ready to embrace and understand new ways and new meanings, aren’t we? I sometimes wish I could go to college again and learn to understand the world as I see it today. Those in our generation that I talk with seem to agree that our education, though excellent, centered on European culture and history. Now, the whole world is on our screen. Lots to keep up with. Bob is still ‘making art,’ and I am still doing my tax job. Technology has changed the tax world — made the increasing complexity possible. I couldn’t do it without a computer, which is both my friend and my enemy. It wouldn’t have grown out of bounds without those computers. Our five children and their families — seven grandsons — are currently in good places. Let it continue! Love to all the class of ’51 — and thank you to President Woo and the continuing success of the dauntless alums! I spent yesterday doing ‘the things I had left undone’ and had a nice response from my roommate, Susan Hubbard. She still makes me laugh! Hope we can all make it back for our 70th Reunion. Life in Louisville is much the same as always. Occasional floods and occasional storms, but wildfires are totally alien here. Must be terrifying! I still read Peanuts. I am in a foreign policy discussion group and yesterday we talked about Turkey — I just want to put a pillow over my head! Love, Angie
Joan Davis Warren: Happily, there is no news. Surviving the winter... following the foot bassets when the weather allows. My blood pressure raised over the political situation and going through an interesting gerrymandering situation. The New York Times has even featured it. Other than that — status quo! Love, Joan.

Mary Pease Fleming gets high commendation for her long letter, which includes news of several classmates! She did hear from Joan Davis Warren at Christmas and Barbara Birt Dow (on her cell phone as she passed through Richmond going to Vero Beach, FL, with husband, Bill Dow, for the winter!) “Also, Barba-" classmates in the Bay area. She did hear from any. I believe that age 90 is getting close. I miss lovely Cape Cod since I will beats New England weather. I won’t daughter, Abby. The climate here — good to catch up!” Best wishes, ’52 and Mary W aller Berkeley Fer -
gathering I saw Jane Ragland Y oung and Birt Dow at the “Westend” — a family place in Louisa County, VA. Jay had rent-ed bus to drive a group of us from our retirement homes and return to Richmond from the party! Carol-" on a delicious lunch at the "Westend," and Ann and her friends provided much chit-chat! I attended an SBC alumna gathering in Rich-mond recently, featuring President Woo, who gave a strong talk about the new design of SBC and their hopes to receive more applications. I was very impressed with her speech! President Woo was a dean at UVa when one of my classmates attend-ed. My daughter went to the SBC gathering with me just to hear her speech, and she was impressed with President Woo’s efforts. Also at the gathering I saw Jane Ragland Young ’52 and Mary W alker Berkeley Fer-guson ’50, who both live in Rich-mond, but whom I hadn’t seen lately — good to catch up!” Best wishes, Mary.

Nan Sirna Waldstein: My faith-ful dog, Chloe, and I have moved from Cambridge, MA to University City, Berkeley, CA, to be near my daughter, Abby. The climate here beats New England weather. I won’t miss lovely Cape Cod since I will go back there in the summer. I can’t believe that age 90 is getting close. I would love to get in touch with any classmates in the Bay area.

Patty Lynam Ford: This area of California is gradually doing its best to return to the pre-fire stabil-ity. Many homes and buildings were destroyed as well as large trees and vegetation. We were fortunate in this part of Santa Rosa, but many res-i-dential areas are still being cleaned up. Sunday seems to be the day when the large demolition vehicles and dump trucks are busy. In some of these areas, an isolated house will stand unscathed. It’s strange to see some of the burned trees standing in areas of green grass, brought up by a later rain. The fires occurred in many places, and the damage is still extremely noticeable. (For you cat lovers: During the evacuation, one of the staff who stayed on campus went into each dwelling every day to feed, socialize and clean up the litter boxes. What devotion!) On the per-sonal side, I have been in and out of ERTs this year for malaise. Finally, on Christmas Day, I had an MRI and CT scan that showed that, at some time, I had a stroke. My left foot had been dragging a bit. So now, I’m doing exercises that help and taking some medication. (‘T’ll say a moderate one as I don’t have too many side ef-fects.) Many thanks again for all your contributions to our Class Notes. All good wishes for the New Year.

1952

Pat Layne Winks
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415-221-6779
plwinks@earthlink.net

The answers to my holiday email, asking about your daughters’ and granddaughters’ careers, were such a delight — and a testimonial to the encouragement and inspiration we SBC mothers provided. I’ll try to pass along as many responses as I can, given space restrictions. Next time, I hope to acknowledge our sons and grandsons!

Jane Russo Sheehan’s daughter, Betsy, is a former park ranger and teacher with master’s degrees in environ-mental education and anthropo-logies. Daughter Carolyn directs a charter school populated largely by minority students who go on to higher education. Daughter Diana is an actress and singer. Daughter Mimi runs her own travel agency.

Pauline Wells Bolton’s daughter, Teresa, is an attorney; and daughter, Mary — formerly an architect — is now a yoga teacher with her own studio near Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Daughter Elizabeth is the mother of a pediatric nurse and a special educa-tion teacher — granddaughter Kristi is a realtor. One of Betsy Wilder Cady’s daughters directs the library for the Department of Fruit and Vegetable Sciences at the University of Florida. Another daughter, with a master’s degree in hydrology, works for the town of Concord, MA, on a project to decrease energy use.

Polly Plum DeBarts has 12 grandchildren and four great-grand-children. Her daughter, Mary Greg-ory, is a retired TV producer. Her six granddaughters engage in a won-derful variety of careers: Rachel is creative director of Guru, Katie is with Yahoo, Louisa is an off-Broad-way actress, Eleanor is in multimedia design, and Stuart is getting an M.A. in public policy. Lauren, mother of three, is now getting her nurse-prac-titioner degree. Elizabeth is a master chef.

Becky Yerkes Rogers’ three granddaughters also have diverse ca-reers. Granddaughter Julia majored in chemistry and biotechnology and is working on her doctorate at University of California, Berkeley. Granddaughter Paige, teaches piano and granddaughter, Lara, is com-pleting a criminal justice major with plans to attend law school.

Sue Judd Wilcox provides Polly Plum DeBarts with competition: Sue has eight great-grandchildren, with two more on the way when she and I last spoke. Sue and Jack en-joyed a family gathering on Topsail Island, NC, uniting family members who live throughout the States and Europe.

Janis Thomas Zeanah’s daugh-ter, Caroline Hawk Sparrow ’81, has retired from a career in university development. Caroline’s daughter, Elizabeth, works in bank manage-ment training, and daughter Cécile in marketing. Susan Katz Miller, the daughter of our much loved and missed classmate Marty Legg Katz has written Being Both, about grow-ing up in a family with a Jewish fa-ther and Episcopal mother. Harrriet (Binji) Thayer Elder’s daughter has retired from real estate, enjoys being a grandmother, so now Binji enjoys being a great-grandmother. Ginger Dreyfus Karren’s granddaughter graduated from Yale and now works at the Washington Post.

Nancy Hamel Clark’s daughter, Ann, who retired as school superin-tendent, now consults with school districts on behalf of the George W. Bush Foundation. Joanne Holbrook Patton’s daughters have followed in their mother’s footsteps as indefati-gable volunteers. Her daughter, Hel-en, is working on a documentary film about her well-known grandfather, George Patton, writes a column for Stars and Stripes newspapers, and is co-chair of the World War I Centen-nial Committee. Daughter Margaret Georgina is subpriorress at the Abbey of Regina Laudis, which responds to growing community needs. As for my own daughters, Cathy is a hos-pice social worker, and Margaret is a grant writer for nonprofit organi-zations.

A special surprise and delight was a terrific letter from Barbara McCullough Gilbert, who filled us in on her life after Sweet Briar. I wish I could quote extensively! To sum-marize: At Oberlin College, Barbara met her husband, Don, a geologist. Eventually, they settled in OH with their three children. Barbara and a friend started a needlework business which expanded country-wide and enjoyed great success for 30 years. Barbara and her husband now live in Park Springs, GA, near Atlanta — and near their families. Anoth-er classmate who recently moved is Anne Hoagland Kelsey, who was widowed in 2016 and is now in Wellesley, MA, near her son and family.

Nancy Hamel Clark sets a great example for us all in reaching out to reconnect with old friends. She was able to renew contact with her high school and SBC classmate Grace Jones Fishel. Grace and her husband plan to remain in the North Carolina home they have loved for 30 years. Each December, Nancy and Benita Phinizy Johnson meet for lunch when Benita visits her sons in the Chapel Hill area. Joanne received a beautiful letter from Holly Rose, daughter of Bar-bara Reich Van Kirk, informing her...
of Bobbie’s death in June 2017. We missed hearing form Bobbie over the years, but we cherish the memory of her as a charming, glamorous young woman. Another classmate whom we knew only briefly, Elizabeth (Betsy) New Costen, passed away in May 2017. An Army daughter and Army wife, Betsy was survived by three children and seven grandchildren.

This is inevitably a time of loss. Please don’t delay — reach out to old friends. Then share your stories, and help us pass the news along to the rest of our class.

**1953**

**Florence Pye Apy**

40 Riverside Ave, Apt. 6Y
Red Bank, NJ 07701
floapy@verizon.net

Greetings, Ladies of ’53: Several of you have responded nicely to my request for news for which I owe many thanks.

M.A. Mellon Root began her note with “Happy Valentine’s Day,” so you know when this is being written. She lives loving in her retirement home, which is only 2 miles from her old house, so she had no trouble adjusting to the neighborhood. She still has her dog, which she walks about 4 times a day. She attends the symphony, the theatre and belongs to a book club. She sees Jackie Lowe Young often. They lunch and they explore together. M.A. is happy that daughter Francie ’80 is relocating from NYC to Atlanta. Son Randy (married to Leslie Wright ’83) is moving west from Dallas to Telluride, CO, “where the views are fabulous.” David, in Vail, CO, is contemplating a possible move east. M.A. says she is not moving anywhere. However, she is trying to find a way to get to Reunion as she is limited in how much weight she can carry. Maybe someone who is reading this might be able to help.

**Anne (Kim) Green Stone**

sent me a copy of her Christmas letter (good idea). She and John still live in their TX home, but they have spent a lot of time traveling. Following a visit to their son “T” in CA, they cruised from San Diego to Puerta Vallarta. In the spring, John underwent moderately successful shoulder repair and Kim cataract surgery, followed in August by an Alaskan cruise with T and his family. In late summer, John contracted brucellosis, an obscure disease transmitted by cloven-hoofed animals. It took quite a while to diagnose, but he recovered. At this point in their lives, they decided to remodel their caretaker apartment with the hope of having a couple take over the long-term care of the paddocks and gardens so they can remain in their home forever.

Carol Etxinicois Tucker is living in FL with her Cairn terrier who sees to it that she does a fair amount of walking. She has 2 children and 2 grandchildren who live nearby and one son in Philadelphia. She keeps active with volunteer work at a hospital, at a museum and with Meals on Wheels. She likes to go north in the summer to escape the FL heat at that time of the year.

**Carol Locke Rosa** wrote that she has no grandchildren but cherishes a loving and attentive daughter (83) and son-in-law who live in town (Montgomery, AL). Nan and Frank celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in July with a quiet few days at nearby Lake Martin. Their traveling days are over, but she keeps her passport current “just in case.” Both are well and still active. Frank visits a fitness center on a regular basis, and Nan is still active in several clubs and organizations in which she is still interested, and plays bridge. She and daughter, Nelms, drove up to SBC the “summer of rebirth.” After touring the entire campus, they were admitted to a dorm, 3rd floor Reid, where they both found their freshman year rooms. They were overwhelmed by the activity going on that summer and are so excited at the direction SBC is taking. Nan’s final comment was, “Wow.”

**Susannah (Sue) Cone** wrote that she moved to Newton Lower Falls from here in New Jersey because youngest son lives nearby and her youngest granddaughter is just down the road at Wellesley. Four and a half years ago Sue had a blood clot near her heart which resulted in severe damage to her legs. Her right leg was successfully treated but unfortunately, she suffered the loss of her left leg. So the move to MA to be near her family was a logical one. She has a small apartment in a senior community and says she is doing just fine. She keeps active making quilts, doing lots of hand embroidery, reading and jigsaw puzzles. She adds that she is so glad SBC is going strong again. She has so many happy memories of her year here.

**Maggie Graves McClung** sent a short note. She had a hip replacement recently and was surprised that she was in the hospital for only one night and then sent directly home — no rehab. Lucky girl! She and David expect to be at Reunion.

**Betty Bentsen Winn** is still working full-time, traveling some, and playing bridge. Her children and grandchildren live in DC, Durham, San Diego, and McAllen, TX. She also plans to be at Reunion.

**Kirk Tucker Clarkson** has had a good year — 2 wonderful weddings of their son’s sons to lovely girls, and the birth of a grandson in November. Their great-grandchildren number 3, 2 in Jacksonville and one in Costa Rica. She and Jack are coming to our Reunion and are hoping for a good turnout. At this writing, they just returned from a trip to the Panama Canal.

**Edith Norman Wombwell** couldn’t wait to tell me about her twin girl great-grandbabies. They were born two hours after her birthday on May 16. They are her second and third grandchildren born to their oldest son, David. She and George are still separated. He is back in Louisville at a different retirement home, but they have dinner together every Sunday night as neither home serves food at that time. “That degree of separation works well,” Edie says. Their three sons are in Los Angeles, Denver, and Louisville. David, the father of the three grandchildren, is president of US Bank in KY. Van is an investment counselor in a two-man firm in Denver. Last summer, he climbed a 27,000-foot mountain in Peru. No. 3 son, Andy, is in CA in “whatever thing comes up re TV, thinking up ads for TV and phones.” He and his partner have been happily married for over 25 years.

**Jane Perry Liles** is still in her house, is involved in church work and other volunteer activities and tries to keep up with 6 grandsons and 1 granddaughter — one married with a precious little girl, one in law school, one graduating from Duke, and one from Clemson this year, and Jane starting college in the fall. At the time of this writing Jane was preparing to go on a trip to the British West Indies. She keeps in touch with Katzy Bailey Nager and hopes to see her next month. She too is looking forward to our Reunion in June.

**Katy Bailey Nager** got her short note in just under the wire. She and Chuck are busy trying to enlarge their small cottage, but it won’t stop them from attending Reunion.

**Nancy Ord Jackson** related that her 5 children (all married) and their families live in Reston, VA; Sintra; Portugal; Montpelier, VT; Vernon, CT, and Chagrin Falls, OH. She has 8 grandchildren, 2 college graduates, 3 in college, and 3 in part-time college and/or working. One granddaughter plans to be married in August. Nancy is quite content taking care of her home and 2 cats, and does not miss traveling.

**Ginnie Toone**, our class president, writes that she is as well as can be expected at this age. As for benchmarks, she recently got good numbers from her oncologist. She still goes to weaving retreats which are held on various small college campuses in the Midwest and is struck by how much walking is involved. She was reminded that SBC encompasses 3,200 acres more or less and there is quite a bit of walking between campus buildings. So she is starting her rehab walking exercises in hopes of “putting on a good show” in June.

I didn’t know that I have been living a very ordinary life until I received a letter from June Earley Holt ‘52, whose name was inadvertently included in our class list. I was delighted to get the letter, which I will quote with slight editing. “In response to your request for news of me — I have resided in Lynchburg, VA, for 54 ½ years and will only leave either kicking and screaming or in a pine box. I married husband #4 (I finally got it right!) in 1983. We had 20 wonderful years together, but I have been a widow for 14 ½ years. I have 4 amazing children (and 7 outstanding grandchildren), No 1. son and No. 2. daughter live at Edloe Glades — our 2000-acre family estate 5 miles east of SBC.”
Anyone in the area wishing a place to stay can have a choice of a beautiful antebellum main house or the very comfortable log house on the 50-acre lake. If interested, call Kerry Scott at 434-946-2673. No. 2 son is a lawyer in Charleston, and No. 1 daughter, in Portland, OR, is a pirate (a story for another day!) and has a vineyard that produces delicious pinot noir, pinot gris rose and a dessert wine under her private label, Seven Sails. It would be easier to say where I have not been than where I have. I am blessed with good health, am still traveling plus leading a busy social life with my man good old friends. I will try to get the pirate story for the next issue.

Harriette Hodges Andrews is still in NC, although both her children live in CA. However, her daughter’s 2 sons (twins) are at college here in the east, one at Guilford College in Greensboro, and the other at OH University. She sees them when they have breaks. Her son also has twins (one boy, one girl) who are 9 years old, so she travels to CA 2 or 3 times a year. At home, she sings in the church choir, helps at a food bank, exercises, and still plays music. She plans to be at Reunion.

Lodzi Wallace Hartman called to say that she is coming to our Reunion.

Courtney Willard Conger said that “I still own and am active in my Carolina Real Estate Company and have horses, dogs, cats, chickens and ducks to keep me busy at home. My three children are all in North and South Carolina, so I see them often. I am a longtime trustee of the Hitchcock Woods Foundation which owns and manages over 2000 acres in the middle of the city (Aiken) reserved in perpetuity for equestrian and pedestrian uses. Another ongoing project is fostering mama dogs and puppies for the Aiken County Animal Shelter until the pups are adoption age and often transferred to northern shelters. I am sorry not to be able to attend our 65th Reunion as I will join the children and grandchildren for our annual trip to the beach the first week in June.

I will end on a sad note. Martha White Feloa died on January 6 at home in Buchanan, WV. Her husband, Frank, died in 1997. Martha was very active in her community. She was a board member of the Upshur County Board of Education, and the Upshur County Public Library and the St. Joseph’s Hospital Auxiliary. She was a member of the WV State and Upshur County Associations of Retired School Employees, on the board of directors and past president of RESA VII (Regional Educational Service Agency). She served on the WV Advisory Council for the education of exceptional children and was a life member of the AAUW. She attended Stuart Hall Prep School, Sweet Briar College, WV Wesleyan College and received a Master’s degree from West Virginia University. Martha raised a son, Joe, and a daughter, Julia Lovins, who survive her. She leaves 3 grandchildrens, 2 great-grandsons, 2 brothers and a sister. Hers was a life well lived. We extend our sympathy on her loss to her family.

I hope to see you at our 65th.

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Unfortunately, we have to start out with obituaries again. Luan-Nancy (Lanni) Garner de Langvant died last August. She had lived in Montreal and summered on Martha’s Vineyard all her life. After attending SBC, she finished her Études Politiques at La Sorbonne, where she was awarded the Certificat of the Institute. She volunteered for many causes, including the Power of the Dragon for survivors of breast cancer. She was a real estate agent for over 30 years. Lanni was actively involved in sports and social activities such as line dancing, yoga, aquaforn, figure skating, bridge, the opera and LAlliance Française. She is survived by her husband, Bernard, five children, and many great and great-great grandchildren.

Audrey Darden Wilson also died last August. Her brief obituary shows she was survived by her husband, Nicholas George Wilson, III, two sons, a daughter and their families. The obituary ended with this: The Consummation Southern Lady, she was gracious and loving. Joan Oram Reid’s husband, Bob, wrote to Kobo that Joan had died in November. She had been in the hospital for heart problems and cancer, but died of a lung infection. He said she died peacefully after a ‘race well run.’

Our last obituary is that of Eliza Lloyd Biederman, who also passed away in November. Her husband died before her, and she is survived by three children and their families. Eliza volunteered in horticultural research at the Cincinnati Zoo, the University of Cincinnati and Cincinnati State. She traveled the world and lived her life to the fullest.

I apologize for the mix-up between the news from Jerry Driesbach Ludeke and Caroline Chobot Garner in the last issue. It went our right, but got changed somehow in progress. I hope you all figured it out anyway.

Speaking of Jerry, her family had a mini reunion in San Francisco at Thanksgiving. Son Scott and his wife, Patty, came with their three 64” sons (like a herd of giraffes when they enter a room). Son Kevin and his wife, Amy, came from Costa Rica with one of their daughters and her husband. For entertainment, they all went to Stanford University play Notre Dame University. Jerry had forgotten how exciting a college football game could be.

Margaret (Peggy) Jones Steuart writes that she also had a family reunion at Thanksgiving. Not so mini though, with 24 children and grandchildren at their place by the Wye River on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Some who are studying abroad couldn’t make it to the family’s favorite holiday, at which the highlight is husband Guy’s famous outdoor fried turkey. Then for Christmas Eve, they had 26 at their home in Chevy Chase, MD. Most exciting, though, was that last fall Peggy was honored in Jamaica — she received the Order of Distinction from the Prime Minister and the Minister of Tourism with a beautiful scroll, and large and small pins to wear. The ceremony was very impressive with others also being honored for bravery, business achievements, military accomplishments, etc. There were speeches and choirs. It was a four-hour, very impressive celebration of their national holiday, held in the beautiful gardens of the embassy.

I noted on Facebook that Shirley Poulsen Broyles and Norris celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in Feb. A match set up by her Sweet Briar friends has turned out well. Shirley looks just like she did in college except her hair is a ‘lighter
bland."  
Billy Isdale Beach writes that she and her husband were chosen to be grand marshals for the Win-terville Marigold Festival, honoring volunteer activities for the city. At the end of the year, the City Coun-cil also awarded them the Key to the City for their project — the renova-tion of an old high school auditori-um. Billy also serves as an eucharistic minister, lay reader and on the alter guild in her church. She continues to have two interesting avocations: chair caning and rug hooking. As a member of the local chapter of the Association of Traditional Rug Hookers, she recently had an article published in their magazine about a rug she hooked for her daughter Al-ison, a professor of medieval history at The OH State University. The rug showed a map of the Monastic Island of Reichenau in 1627. The rug was very detailed and hooked on linen with wool fabrics from many friends. Alison has recently pub-lished a book about the island.

Thanks also to Elizabeth (Liz) Carper Hoffman for a very compli-mentary phone message she left me for my efforts at keeping our class together. We haven’t heard from her in years.

Our family excitement started the afternoon of Christmas Eve when Bill didn’t feel well and then fainted. 911 came and thought he should go be checked out at the hos-pital. Then he had a heart attack after he was in the ambulance — a good place to have one. Two hours later he was back in the ICU having a stent installe. He came home two days later and is back to all his activities feeling better than ever. He missed all our family being here for Christ-mas though and also the luncheon for 20 relatives the day after Christ mas — most all in the state of Virginia. We are second in percentage giving and could so easily be first. We do have 2 at the Fountain Level, 2 at the Boswood Circle level and 20 of us in the Donor Society, but it would be nice if everyone gave something for the percentages. If we can get to 50 percent, I promise, I’ll never mention giving again.

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Starting with sad news, the deaths of two wonderful classmates, Lydia Plamp Mower and Honey Addington Passano. We surely have happy memories of both.

Georiga Knobloch Smith, in June Beach, FL, now a widow, lives in an independent living retirement community; does pastoral church work, enjoys duplicate Bridge and reading. She is corresponding secre-tary for her PEO group and writes that life is good.

Ruth Campbell VanDerpoel, in Morristown, NJ, is enjoying living in her townhouse, walks three miles a day, and exercises in the pool at the YMCA. Several years ago, she took the 50 hours of training through her church to become a Stephen Minis-ter. She says this has been a reward-ing experience and she continues to learn.

Virginia Chalmbin Greene, in Charlottesville, VA, is enjoying living in a house at Westminster-Canterbury retirement community with her companion, Fred. They go to concerts and other events, and Gin-ger is active in St. Paul’s Church. She says they are enjoying peace and quiet too.

Charlotte Orr Moors, in Decatur, AL, has all four children living in Decatur or nearby in Huntsville and says her life is full of action. Her grandchildren range from one in eighth grade to two planning mar riages.

Amanda McThenia Iodice, in Rochester Hills, MI, had a sad sev-eral months as Don got ill and died. Shortly after, her son took her to Charlotte, NC, to be with her niece and her brother and his extended family for Thanksgiving, and she spent Christmas with her son and his family — two teenagers, who, she writes, are amazing. Now she is trying to sell a big house. They had moved into independent living just before Don died and she is thankful. She hopes to see Fritz Naylor later in the spring.

Mitzi Street Halla, in McLean, VA, is enjoying retirement com-munity friends and activities. Son Ken and his wife and three children live nearby, and Mitzi and husband Roman help out with after-school carpooling. Son Brian and wife and five children live in Chapel Hill, NC. They were all together this past Thanksgiving in North Carolina and Christmas in Virginia, and they enjoy reunions every few months. Mit-zi, our super class president, says it is a joy to be in contact with Sweet Briar and our classmates and thanks you/us for the opportunity.

Joan Kells Cook, in Lakeswood, WA, traveled in to Mazatlan, Mexi-co, for two weeks; to Seal Beach, CA, for a visit with their daughter and family; to Bend, OR, to visit friends; and went on a two-week cruise in September to New England and Canada on the Rotterdam! Their son was married in March in Wash-ington with all the family there. She and Duncan stay busy with church, Rotary, concerts, and dining out. She says with time they appreciate their family and friends even more and are grateful for all the blessings they have been given.

Anne Lyn Welsh, in Sterling, VA, writes that one of her daughters drove her to see Honey Addington Passano in early December, and they had a nice lunch with Honey and her husband, BILL. Honey died on Jan. 19.

Nancy Anderson Shepard, in Blue Bell, PA, writes that her chil-dren are fine and her two grand-daughters have graduated from Trinity and are working in Boston. This fall, Nancy gave up her volun-teer work at Childrens Hospital in Philadelphia, but she is still involved with church outreach and chairman of altar flowers. She says she plans, with great anticipation, to move to a nearby CCRS as she is enjoying "older age!"

Camille Williams Yow, of At-lanta, GA, writes that her grandson married a lovely girl in June and the wedding took place in a pasture in Opelika, AL. I am not supposed to editorialize in these notes, but can barely restrain from adding that sounds sort of wonderful! The cou-ple lives in Birmingham. Camille also says that the Atlanta Sweet Bri-ar College Alumnae Club has a very successful seven-week history lecture series every January and February that fills up an auditorium at Atlan-ta History Center. They started in living rooms in 1963. Louise Jones Geddes ’84, daughter of Dilly John-son Jones ’56, and Camille produce the series. On another note, Mary Bush Norwood ’74, who attended Sweet Briar for two years before transferring to Emory University, came within 800 votes of being elect-ed mayor of Atlanta in November.

Betty Byrne Gill Ware, of Rich-mond, and husband Hudnall are continuing to go to Naples, FL, ev-ery winter, where Betty Byrne plays lots of Bridge and golf and goes to yoga, parties and other events. Her life in Richmond is similar with ad-diitional trips including to their place at Smith Mountain Lake and visiting children — most all in the state of Virginia.

Derrill Maybank Hagood, in Charleston, SC, says they are well and happy and plan to celebrate hus band Ben’s 90th birthday this winter by going on a cruise to the Carib-bean. I had told her that I enjoyed seeing Mary Pope Maybank Hutaon ’83 at Sweet Briar functions and Derrill responded with raves about her cousin. Surely it is not necessary to explain here who Mary Pope is — such an important person at our wonderful college.

Emily Hunter Slingluff, in Vir-ginia Beach, VA: As most of our classmates are writing, I am appreci-ating life! Maybe enjoyment of living was instilled in us by our par-ents, but maybe Sweet Briar added to that too. I am still living in my wonderful house on Linkhorn Bay, which I so enjoy; and I also enjoy the Atlantic Ocean about three minutes away. Daughter lives sixteen houses from me and son is in Charlottes-ville, where I spend some time too. Recently, I have been writing Par-enting Weekly Blogs on facebook.com/parentNodegethering. Also, I gave a talk on writing. That was a first!
Usually it is about parenting, but that was fun too — delving into why and how we write. And thank you to all who sent in notes for this Bulletin!

1956

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Disappearing somewhere in cyberspace, my fall notes did not appear last fall, so here they are! Many thanks for all your “timeless” communications! Mary Ann

Sad news first: many of you already know that Mimi Thornton Oppenheimer died April 30. Thanks to Joan Broman White for sending obituary. Mimi is survived by two sons, a daughter and, among many others, six grandchildren. Mimi is also survived by her sister Tabb Thornton Farinholt ’59. Mimi was one of our class’ exchange students to St. Andrews in Scotland junior year and graduated Phi Beta Kappa. She received an M.A. in literature from the University of Richmond. Her career spanned 28 years at St. Catherine’s School in Richmond, where she became head of the English department. A lifelong resident of Richmond, Mimi lived her last few years at Williamsburg Landing, where many friends frequently visited her.

You all are making me love my job! Thanks so much for your great response again. I will begin with three submissions left over from last spring. Jane Slack Sigloh sent a February email foretelling the arrival of her second book, “Glorious Uncertainties — Faith in the Second Half of Life.” It’s now available on Amazon or the SBC Book Store. Its stories are not unlike those in “Like Trees Walking: In the Second Half of Life.” She and her husband, Danny, have just moved into Westminster Canterbury in Charlottesville, finding there a group of SBC alums, all much younger. She keeps trying to convince people that older age is just as beautiful and sacred a time as being young. She says the operative word is “trying.”

Janet Monroe Marshall’s February response came from her new residence in Elliott City, MD. Her husband died in 2012, triggering plans to sell/develop their farm in Reading, PA — a three-and-a-half-year process. She now resides in a new retirement community pursuing her interests in literature, film and music, while “someone else fixes the facilities!” Janet’s daughter, Parry, lives in Ireland; son Peter in Pennsylvania and daughter Paula in D.C. One of her great grandchildren is training for the Irish Olympic Hockey Team. Janet attributes aches to osteoporosis, but time in the fitness center helps.

Nancie Howe Roberts loved being at our 60th reunion! She has lived in her retirement community for 22 years; she sings in the choir and is involved in their arm chair theatre, Toledo Bar Association, Outreach for Homeless and Legal Aid. The ninth member of her family to attend SBC, she is hoping her two step grandchildren will follow. Sadly, her husband, Jim, has some medical problems but family will be coming soon from El Paso. For Canadian Thanksgiving, Oct. 1, Nancy, Jim, and her daughter plan to go to their summer place on Lake Huron.

As I was intrigued with Mary Koonz Gunn’s career, I asked her to write about her life as a farmer in Indiana. (Due to space limits, the second part of her story will follow next time.) Mary has lived on a farm since 1938, where she was well paid 50 cents a week as a kid for doing chores! Prior to 1967, a tenant farmer ran the 350-acre farm. With a degree in math and physics from Purdue, Mary worked 10 years for IT&T. In 1967, she and her father took over running the farm, purchasing all new equipment: tractors, planters, sprayers, a combine and a tandem axle truck. Her husband continued his job, but this way Mary could be at home with two children and make money.

Helen Turner Murphy wrote that her life changes little from year to year, but she felt an “obligation” to write. She, Taylor and her daughter’s family (four grandchildren, ages 4-16) spent part of the summer in Bermuda. Helen is still raising lilies and showing them successfully. She and Taylor enjoy good health “for octogenarians.” Helen suffers from arthritis and, paying for years in the sun and on the water, she has had numerous skin cancers.

A note from Louisa Hunt Coker tells us that she has moved from a cottage to an apartment, still in the Village At Wood’s Edge new Franklin, VA. She no longer cooks (Ed note: what a victory!), dining in the dining room which is the center for most of her activities. Summer took her to de Bordieu on the coast of South Carolina with her three sons.

Betty Forbes Rayburn writes that they are not in the Rome, GA, yet are still horse farmers in middle Georgia, plus owning fishing lakes and rental cottages for guests. They witnessed the eclipse from their condo in Clayton, GA, one of the “bullseye locations” along with thousands of others. She says she is yearning to take a Hudson River trip, a long-time desire.

Ann Greer Adams accepted my challenge for “class conversation,” responding with a litany of changes in our life time: from rotary phones to pocket computers; record players to iPads; a daughter now an ordained Presbyterian minister whose grandmother never acknowledged that women were allowed in the pulpit. Her grandchildren are not taught to write script, and they can barely write at all, because all they have to do is punch a laptop. Ann’s husband had a job for 40 years, whereas now the average young person changes employment four times in 10 years. Ann says she just continues to play her piano and that it is easy to play Scarlett O’Hara!

Frances Shannon House Clardy is enjoying being in a condo in Charlotte watching her five grandchildren (ages 5-22) grow up and develop. Daughter Frances’s children are exploring what they want to do with their lives, while son Jim’s children are still cute elementary school kids. Frances notes that for her, other than technology, the most significant change we have seen is the acceptance of women in a world that was always dominated by men. All professions are now open to women: women can choose paths where their talents and interests lead them. Her granddaughter is pre-med at William & Mary. “That would never have happened in our day!” (Ed. Note: SBC’s newly defined liberal arts will certainly well prepare women for interesting, productive and challenging lives!)

Karen Steinhardt Kirkbride says she and her husband recently visited their younger son, Trevor, and two grandchildren. Recently they enjoyed Grandparent’s Day at their granddaughter’s school and got to see their grandson play soccer. They continue to enjoy Rehoboth Beach along with family members: middle son, Kevin, with his wife Britt (who accompanied Karen to our 60th Reunion), and son, Steven, who is transitioning from Army life into civilian life. Karen is looking forward to seeing us again (hopefully at our 65th Reunion in 2021?)

Meredith Smythe Gridler writes that she has been in an independent living home in Louisville for about 4 years. Two of her daughters live in Louisville with their families, while her oldest daughter is lawyering in Charlotte. In her life there are “ailments that hit out of the blue.” She is still spending summers in Northern Michigan, “but that is changing, too.” She spends time trying to do things she wants to do, but it is hard and shortly, she says “she will have to face reality.” She loves knowing her 5 grandchildren, each of whom is very special.

A long email came from John Ross, husband of Ann Train Ross, our exchange student from St. Andrews. John tells us that Ann now has advanced dementia, unable to recall the wonderful year she spent with us. As you might remember, Ann and John attended many of our reunions. They lived in our country when John was getting a M.A. in architecture in 1958 at the University of Pennsylvania, and subsequently lived in San Francisco and lots of other interesting places in the world. They had a son and two daughters, tragically losing their son to a brain tumor. Married for 60 years, the Rosses live in London and “are content with their lot and happy with their lives.”

Betty Buxton Dietz and her husband, Burt, just celebrated their 56th anniversary! Her now 14-year-old knees are still supporting her and happily she has been free of breast cancer for 5 years. (Cheers!) In 1994, she retired from owning and running a gift and needlework shop to
a busy life volunteering for the NC Symphony, the GOP, and the Episcopal Church. She and Burt started a ministry recording their church services and sending them to the infirm. Their children have given them 4 beautiful and accomplished grandchildren.

I am still on my NC hillside. One concession in old age is that professionals now tend my 100-plus roses. I note diminishing energy levels, but am very blessed to still be able to do a lot. I get to see Catherine Lotterhos Mills and Rose Montgomery Johnston who have summer homes here. My children are now boring ages, but their children obviously are great: one in med school; one just out of college pursuing a career in designing theatre sets in New York City; and another taking a gap year between high school and college; and three younger great athletes (tennis, soccer, and lacrosse). I think the most significant change we have seen is the use/abuse of drugs and the subsequent loss of much brain power and creativity.

Although I am not our class fundraiser, only the volunteer secretary, I urge you to make a gift to SBC — any amount — but just be sure to do it by the end of June! Do you realize what Sweet Briar is doing in redefining Liberal Arts? Your money continues to be an essential part of our college’s far reaching innovation!

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Dear 59-ers,

Thank you to all of you who wrote in! You can see what a difference pictures make — so keep on sending them. Oh! And a big reminder — next year (2019) is our 60th REUNION! Plan on being there, please!

Passings:

Notes:
Sorrel Mackall McElroy has a new email: smcelroy1937@gmail.com. Kathleen Mather Koestler has a new email: kathleennkoestler@gmail.com. Jane Moore Banks has a new email: janiebinks@msn.com.

Sally Beattie Sinkler: My daughter and I went on a Danube River cruise in early November. Lots of fun. I’m still enjoying SBC’s Living Room Learning lectures once a week at the History Center, also active in real estate.

Alice Cary Farmer Brown: As usual we are enjoying our winter in southern Florida. Much to my joy, Meredith Woo was here recently; so I took her for lunch in Palm Beach — a short drive north of where we live. I took along an active alum from 1957 [that perfect class!] as well as a Hollins graduate [1959 like we are] who is a well-known painter and who spends at least a month every spring at Sweet Briar’s VCCA. I felt certain Meredith would be interested in my friend’s long involvement there — and she was. I am feeling so much more positive about Sweet Briar’s future after this afternoon with our charming new president — a beautiful, intelligent, experienced, successful, determined WOMAN!

Penny Fisher Duncklee: I have not been doing much except enjoying life and the beautiful blue sky around Las Cruces. I am getting ready for an Open Studio during The Love of Art Month, second weekend during the month of February. Lots of fun stuff all around town. I was also involved with collecting signatures to get a really thoughtful young gal on the ballot to take over Steve Pearce’s seat in Congress.

Gay Hart Gaines: My big 80th birthday — gulp — was in February. All the family planned to head to Palm Beach for it from all over the country, except our son Ralph, whose job is taking him to Singapore and he can’t change it — hard to believe all the time that has flown by. Life is good so long as our health is good! Stanley needs an aortic valve replacement, so also had a trip scheduled to the Cleveland Clinic in February.

Elizabeth Johnston Lipscomb: Dear Classmates, Many thanks to all of you who have contributed so generously to keeping Sweet Briar alive and growing in new and imaginative ways. I am looking forward very much to hearing more campus news when President Meredith Woo visits with the Lynchburg Alumnae. I am especially interested in the all-class reunion June 1 - 3 this year. It would be wonderful to gather many of our classmates this year as well as in 2019 for our 60th (!!!) Reunion. Please let me know if you can attend so that we can plan special events.

Virginia Mackethan Kitchin: Am just trying to make up the sleep I lost watching Federer on his way to victory in the Australian Open during what was for us the middle of the night. He is MY GUY and has been for some time!! I am praying he will come back to Cincinnati for the tournament there this August, where I will be for every day of it.

Sorrel Mackall McElroy: All 22
“Foxes?” From whence did that collective terminology emerge?!! I had trip in mid-February to India, a country that I've visited many times and find endlessly fascinating. This trip was with WAPA (World Association of Flower Arrangers). A trip to Paris and the Loire to visit chateaux and gardens on the calendar for May. Quotidian existence “at home” includes book clubs, concerts, theater and study groups; I've just completed years as a Stephen Minister and several community involvements but continue as a GCA Floral Design judge and lecturer. I couldn't believe the number of octogenarians celebrating in our last class notes — that's us, babies, and let's “go like 60” until we gather for our reunion!!

Lizora Miller Yonce (A Christmas card from Lizora and family): We were at the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum in New York City for a black-tie dinner last June. The George C. Marshall Foundation presented the inaugural GCMF Humanitarian Award to Michael Bloomberg, recognizing his extraordinary philanthropy and the effects of his generosity on the lives of countless individuals and numerous organizations that have benefited from his largess. Dr. Kissinger was recognized for a lifetime dedicated to supporting free enterprise and the movement and that includes more than a century resident of Florida, stays on the globe and for his skilled statesmanship in solving tough problems. Son Cliff was co-chairman.

Jane (Puss) Moore Banks: Retirement is treating me well. Taking classes at Towson University. Trying to stay healthy and happy. Love working in my garden.

Judy Nevins LeHardy: Our biggest news is that granddaughter Annie LeHardy (25) is now Mela- nia Trump's communications aide — she has been a press aide in the White House for a year in the West Wing. Annie's brother Barrett has left for nine months in Kuwait with the Army Dive Unit he commands. We still spend time at Kiawah Island, SC. We have become South Carolina residents but still live in Virginia for now. We recently took care of our three youngest grandsons — redheads 2, 3, and 4 years old, who live in Annapolis.

Ann Pegram Howington: I got to go to the Amazon jungle last fall, scary, interesting, and am home now. I enjoyed Sweet Briar Alumnae's Living Room Learning lectures, superb, about 400 people (assorted) once a week for several weeks — really good lectures — this time about 1950s period, and I hope terrific PR for Sweet Briar — these have grown up out of lectures in alum living rooms, which grew bigger and bigger, and I am really proud of them.

Polly Space Dunn: Had a bout of a fib but after a few weeks of meds and the electric shock thingy. I seem to be ok…. Scary, but I plan to play some golf. Getting old is no fun.

Tab Thornton Farinholt: Our only granddaughter, Ida Farinholt, was written up in Lacrosse Magazine toward the end of January for her amazing return to the Cornell women's lacrosse team after two surgeries, and a whole year off; she's back in fine form, one of the senior captains. Hard not to cheer that one on.

Julia Watts Buchanan: The biggest news is that after 58 years at Johns Hopkins I retired in July 2017. My life quite different now — some things great and others taking time to make necessary adjustments.

Jane Wheeler Garcia: Hi! Everyone! Looking forward to my 80th birthday along with all of you! A word of encouragement: let's finish strong in the Lord!

Ali Wood Thompson: October brought our 5th wonderful trip to Africa (Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe). We met many fascinating couples from all over the world in the 4 different bush camps we visited, and of course, the animals were such a treat to see. So, I think it is time to explore other parts of the world now. Well-l-l, as long as we are healthy enough to travel. Aloha.

1961

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Rue Wallace Judd: I am moving from Houston back to Washington, DC, at the end of March where she and Ardon lived for more than 44 years. She will be closer to her two daughters, who live in NYC and in Portland, ME. While in Maine last summer, she caught up with Nancy Coppedge Lynn through a very long phone conversation. I know that she visited Monet's Giverny in France last May because she commented on my June O'Neil Arnhem's) summer 2017 Instagram collage photo of the gardens. Willis Fales Eickerberg and I visited in May '17 in the rain while in Paris May 1-4, and it was as strikingly beautiful as ever. We old girls still get around the world as well as around on social media! Rue reports that Donna Pearson Chapman '64 hosted a lovely lunch for five alumni in Houston for President Woo, on her birthday, that also included Betsy Pearson Griffin '62. Rue expresses great confidence in President Woo's leadership and concomitant high hopes for the future of SBC. Nancy claims that she leads a "very ordinary life" keeping her mind sharp by playing Mah Jong and Hand and Foot, a card game, and participating in book clubs in Atlanta and Maine. [JOA notes: Keeping one's mind sharp is getting to be more than just ordinary.]

Faith Bullis Mace, now a permanent resident of Florida, stays on the move, and that includes more than just playing tennis. Her Caribbean cruise was cut in half due to Hurricane Irma but she and her former Gray suitemate, Mary Hannah '62, are booked to cruise from Fort Lauderdale to Rome, April 12-27. Faith's oldest grandson of seven will enter Savannah College of Art and Design in GA this fall. It was the only college he applied to, so one can guess at the level of his talent. It's tough to get into SCAD. She will drive to Pennsylvania for his high school graduation on her way to visit sister Starr '61 at the University Club in NYC in Dec. 2016. Our class was so fond of Brad, who passed away on Feb. 17 in NH, Julie, your co-secretary, was...
among the group of young ladies off for sun and adventure that spring vacation of 1959 in Nassau under the watchful eye of our favorite cherone, Toni Nelson, when Bee and Brad met and ignited a flame that led to a lifetime together. With heavy heart, our Bee says, "Brad loved all my classmates, and I will miss him at my side always. We were so fortunate to have family, friends, good health and good times to remember always."

Celia Williams Dunn writes, "Marion (Mimi) Lucas Fleming was in charge of the reception following the Celebration and Resurrection of the life of our much beloved Suzie Philion Babcock. Feb. 24, 2018, at the Cathedral Church of Saint Peter in Saint Petersburg, Florida. Nancy Hall, Winifred Storey Davis and Celia were also there from our class. Suzie's son-in-law, The Very Rev. Stephen Morris, Dean of the Cathedral, and husband of Christina Babcock Morris, gave the homily. After losing her long battle with cancer, yet never losing her characteristic good humor and spirit, Suzie passed away on Feb. 16, Suzie, a beauty inside and out, met her husband-to-be of 56 years, Dr. Huston Babcock, aboard the Brasil, enroute from New York to Rio de Janeiro. Her laugh that echoed through the SBC dorm halls will remain imprinted on our memories.

Celia adds, "We also are deeply saddened by the passing of Brad Thayer, beloved husband of Bee Newman Thayer." Claiborne Smith Jones and Bob have lived in the same house in CA for 48 years. However dug in they are there, they are otherwise on the move. Bob is working, and Claiborne often travels with him. They are regulars at the Masters Tournament in Augusta and, of course, stop off in Atlanta. There they make certain to see Winifred Storey Davis and Margaret Storey Wasson. At home, Claiborne stays busy with yoga, tennis, exercise class and book groups and is on the vestry of their church. Her greatest joy is to visit their grandchildren. Son, Trent, lives in Santa Cruz, an hour away, and has a daughter 12 and a son 8. Their daughter, Tali, lives in Toronto — more of a trek — so visits are less frequent. She has two daughters, ages 8 and 4. Living so far away on the West Coast, Claiborne has not yet returned for SBC reunions but holds many wonderful memories and sends her love.

**1962**

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Gray Baird has moved to Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury in Irving, VA. The rural atmosphere is a major attraction. She welcomes any travelers and her new email is egraybaird@gmail.com.

Nancy Powell French and Bruce were delighted to have their three children and families all at their home in Surfside Beach, SC in October. Nancy's daughter Heidi Lovett lives near Nashville, and her younger son, David, and family live in Colorado Springs. Their oldest son, John, lives about 50 miles from Nancy and Bruce.

More on our reunion from Jocelyn Palmer Connors, who sent photos as well. Apparently Buzzy and Betsy Pearson Griffin provided the TX chapeau for Phil Stone. Jocelyn aptly summed up the sentiments at our gathering. We were so fortunate to have had Phil Stone at the helm, paving the way for our outstanding, remarkable President Woo. The atmosphere overflows with optimism for the unique entity that Sweet Briar continues to portray. Bettey Thomas Chambers was only able to attend the Saturday Breakfast. She sat with Phil Stone with whom she was duly impressed.

**1963**

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Lisa Wood Hancock whose dear husband, Dr. Edward Harrison Hancock, Jr. universally known as "Pete" died a week ago on Feb. 17. Pete was the College Physician for many years and always a devoted member of the Sweet Briar community. Our sincere sympathy to Lisa and her family. Sympathy also goes to the family and friends of our classmate Ruth "Penny" Pamplin Reeves who died on Jan. 2, 2018, after bravely living many years with Alzheimer's.

On a happier note, several of our classmates reported exotic “bucket list” trips. Anne Wrightson Efird and her husband enjoyed a fabulous cruise through the Suez Canal ending in Dubai and Abu Dhabi for 3½ weeks last November. Jean Meyer Aloe spent 2 weeks in October hiking in Bhutan: "most glorious country — mind changing!” Jean hopes to attend a poetry workshop in the Carpathians, Romania, in July. She and Ed just celebrated their 50th anniversary. She says Ed has health issues “but we carry on.”

Keit Matheson Wood and Frank had a wonderful trip to Scotland last fall including dinner in Edinburgh with Carol Dennison Dean and her husband Peter, and three classmates reported exotic "bucket list" trips.
Thanksgiving — how lucky for me
Leavell Reynolds
and Herbert at
Anne in Huntsville, TX, opening a Children's Museum with items from her personal collections and her Montessori school. Next door will be a Museum of World Cultures which will house displays from the 45 countries she has visited. Carol still lives in San Miguel, managing several apartments and a farm.

Lyn Carol Blau and Jeffrey recently returned from Vancouver where their daughter moved to open 8 new restaurants in the Parq Vancouver Hotel. Their other daughter lives in Nashville. Lyn and Jeffrey enjoy their time in New York City, touring museums and trying out new restaurants.

Prue Gay Stuhrl regrets that arthritic pain will prevent her from attending our reunion but will be thinking of us. She continues to be very involved in the "Dalma...nial world", on the Board of the regional club, writing, editing and photo...graphing for their newsletter and organizing shows. She attends classes each week with "Ticker" and recently gave a teacher appreciation gathering, a formal dinner for 10 people and 9 dogs. All the dogs behaved beautifully (probably better than the people).

Bette Stanly Cates is excited that President Meredith Woo is coming to speak at the annual Vero Beach Sweet Briar event on March 6. Bette always hosts a cocktail party the night before the presentation — this will be the 24th year! Lee Kucewicz Parham and Stevie Fontaine Keown who share a Dec. 30 birthday were entertained by Kathy Caldwell Patten and Bryan at their lovely home, Ashland. All are hoping to be at our 55th reunion. And brief notes from both Betsy Parker McColl and Jane Goodridge are encouraging everyone to attend. The dates are June 1-3, so make your plans and reservations soon. And in the meantime, don’t forget to make your best gift to the Sweet Briar Fund and support the revival of our College! See you there!

1964

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MINI REUNIONS

Sea Island, GA: Susan Dwelle Baxter and friends had a reunion in early December in Sea Island at Nancy Hall Green's beautiful house — including Harriet Houston Shaffer, Susan Bronson Croft, Caroline Keller Theus, Lee Huston Carroll, Dottie Norris Schipper and Vicki Coxe Commander. It was cold and rainy but there were lots of good times visiting by the fire. It was a very special time together.

Arlington, VA: A little farther north, over a weekend in October while fires raged near Marshall McLaughlin's California home, Marshall, Ginny deBuys, Mary Fitzhugh Miller, V.M. Del Greco Galgano, Alice Fales Stewart (and Bill), Gail Rothrock Trozzo (and Chuck), Beebe Bolling Downs, and Hedi Haug White gathered at Libby Kopper Schollauer's in Arlington. People were present for one or more meals and had a great visit. We had dinner on Friday at the Greek Taverna, and at Libby's Saturday dining on jambalaya by Alice, dessert by Gail, and everything else by Libby.

Kate Roy Massie Christian, Ebbie Evans, Helen Dunn, and Nancy Gillies wave hello and say that they are in good health and enjoying life. After landing in the emergency on Inauguration night (instead of going to the Women's March with her daughter).

Nancy Arni Briggs had gallbladder surgery in February. It was timely as she had a Road Scholar trip to Louisiana (New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Cajun country) planned for March. She wanted to be sure she could eat whatever she wanted! Afterwards, she drove to Wear Palm Beach for Spring Training for the Washington Nationals. In June, she took her daughter and son-in-law to see U2 on the Joshua Tree 30th Anniversary Tour. Nancy is still singing in Encore Chorale and very active in her church. Nancy would like to see everyone at reunion next year.

Nancy Banfield Feher reports that she and husband Ted went on a Windstar cruise to the Baltics this last summer and that it was wonderful. She especially enjoyed St. Petersburg and Stockholm. She is planning their next trip and asks for suggestions. They are both still working but they still like it. So why not?

Ashton Barfield is looking forward to seeing Hedi Haug White and otherwise doing well.

Ginny deBuys and Jerry Johnson are enjoying being a 'young' married couple and living in Florida, where they are making new friends and enjoying the warm weather. Jerry is playing golf, Ginny is thinking about it, and volunteering in a community career program for women. While on Kiawah Island, SC, for a golf event in the Fall, Ginny escaped up the road and had a fun visit with Kathleen Stevenson Turner in Charleston.

Clara De Kont Bhat is now starting her 45th year teaching at Shoreline CC. She loves her students but is thinking of retiring this spring. She keeps active: biking, swimming year round in an open air pool, walking and yoGA. Her passion is to study languages — now she is getting ready for her Sanskrit study group to start! Clara plans more travel with friends to the Adriatic countries, including a visit to her native Hungary. The real love of her life is spending time with her grandkids: 21, 18 and 8! She has taken care of them since birth (whenever she had time) and traveled across country to babysit. Their mother, her daughter, is a pediatric cardiac surgeon now in
Virginia. It will be nice to have someplace to sell and have recently bought a small house in Florida ready to get their house in Florida ready to be closed. They are trying to get their house in Florida ready to be closed.

M.C. is still working full time as a CPA in Jacksonville and Florida. M.C. was in Europe last year and plans to return to Europe this summer. M.C. and her husband spent a week in a beautiful village in France. They are still teaching and say that things are starting to get better. M.C. and her husband spent a week in a beautiful village in France. They are still teaching and say that things are starting to get better.

Susan Dwell Baxter took a very nice trip to South America. She relates: "Wonderful visit to Chile, Argentina and Brazil — strenuous travel but really beautiful."

M.C. Elmore Harrell was fortunate to be on campus several times in 2017: for reunion, Sweet Work Weeks, and President Woo's inauguration. Her husband also helped during Sweet Work Weeks and has become quite a Sweet Briar supporter. She went to SBC gatherings in Char-lottsville and Jacksonville and reports that she was glad to see V.M. Del Greco Galgano, JoAnn Kramer, Nancy Gillies, Grace Mary Oates, Tuck Harvey, Hedi Haug White and others from lots of different classes on campus. She saw lots of exciting things going on there. M.C. was able to meet JoAnn and V.M. in Charlottesville for a Joan Baez and Mary Chapin Carpenter concert. She was looking forward to President Woo's visit to Jacksonville in March and hoping that her sister, Betty, who graduated from Sweet Briar in 1950, will be able to come up from Winter Park, FL, for the event. M.C. and her husband spent May to December at their house in Culpeper, VA, then the winter in Florida. M.C. is still working full time as a CPA in Jacksonville and says that things are starting to get busy for tax season. They are trying to get their house in Florida ready to sell and have recently bought a small condo in St. Augustine. She expects that it will be nice to have somewhere that they can just close the door and not worry about when they are in Virginia.

Joan reports that 'the dev-astation has been heart wrenching' in August. Joan and her husband enjoyed a lovely tour of Alberta and British Columbia including beautiful Lake Louise, Banff, and the awesome Athabaska Glacier. In December/January they took a won-derful two-week cruise of the Caribbean on Viking from Miami to Cartagena, Colombia, with nu-merous ports of call in between. Altogether a good year!
choir and sharing my fundraising skills with various sales and projects. “Seems that the Bum Chums and Sweet Tones are with me for life!” She reports being in the slow process of cleaning out her home of 40 years to move into a condo within the year. Susan Riegel Harding is active in social justice issues and is celebrating her daughter, Tatiana Riegel, who received an Oscar nomination for film editing for her work in I Tonya.

From Rosamond Sample Brown Banks, we hear that she is grateful to be in good health and has adjusted to her second widowhood. She lives between Dallas and San Diego and travels overseas a couple of times each year, even more frequently since turning 75. Rosamond says, “I think I am trying to outrun Father Time.” She looks forward to seeing many classmates at our 55th SBC reunion in June 2019.

Nina Sledge Burke and her husband live on a rice plantation in one of three remaining antebellum plantations in the area. When she is not fox hunting or riding, most of her time is spent taking care of the property. The Burkes have been active in public/private partnerships to preserve over 250,000 acres of land.

Lynne Smith Crow is still working as a financial advisor but is taking a few trips every year. Last winter she went on a cruise in the South China sea — starting in Hong Kong and ending in Shanghai. Late in the spring, Lindblad/NatGeo offered her some pretty big discounts for a trip from Copenhagen up the coast of Norway to Svalbard and back. Last fall she visited Bangkok and Myanmar, which she found very interesting but admits that she’s seen enough pagodas to last her a lifetime.

Last August, she rented a house in Chatham, MA, where she had a chance to visit with two of her three children and her granddaughters: Evelyn and Campbell (both 2) are cousins born a week apart. Madeleine, now 5, proudly showed Lynne her wiggly front tooth when they Skyped recently. As she is renting the same house for the first two weeks in August this summer, she’d love to see anyone who might be in the vicinity.

Jo Ann Soderquist Kramer has now been in Vermont 24 years, retired for six and a half of those years. She is still mowing her own grass, raising her flowers and vegetables in summer, shoveling and snow blowing in winter, and walking five miles every day she is in town.

Jo Ann recently returned from Board of Trustees meetings at Tusculum College in Greenville, TN — Tennessee’s oldest and her mother’s alma mater. Jo Ann had a great phone conversation with Sally Gump Berryman while there. Sally, who lives on a ten-acre farm in Manchester, TN, tends two geriatric horses and bunches of other animals, and is busy with several local charitable causes, proudly reports she has never owned a computer.

Jean Walker Campbell is living in New York. She wrote a solo show “Between us: The Secret Life of Edith Wharton” and played Edith last spring in performances at Studio 54. She is in the midst of writing a full-length play and doing staged readings of it. She writes: “I have had a wonderful career in the theater and a happy marriage to John Campbell. We have two daughters and five grandchildren. For fun, I do competitive ballroom dancing. I send love to everybody for fond SBC memories.”

Your scribe, Peggy Aurand, is thankful for good enough health to be able to function. She spent the summer of 2016 in the bottom of her (then empty!) Honolulu swimming pool, cutting mosaic tile for her design of a humpback whale and calf. After spending a year and a half re-modeling the family home in Hawaii, she has turned it into a vacation rental. That way, she and the family can enjoy it, fully furnished, whenever they’re in town. She began 2017 with a trip to France and Spain with some friends from Hawaii. The grand children thoroughly enjoyed their 2017 spring break there last year. Peggy’s daughter-in-law saw whales from the kitchen while cooking breakfast and ran out to the seaward wall to take pictures. Peggy took over the spatula. They can hardly wait to return in early October this year. Peggy is busy on her laptop, handling bookings on VRBO and Air BnB from her home near her grandchildren in Santa Clarita, CA, and welcomes visitors in either place. And to those with “pesky knees,” she highly recommends knee replacements — provided you religiously do the exercises afterward!

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Brenda Muhlhaushaus Barger visited with Sarah Porter Boehmler, Libba Hanger Luther, and Nancy Collier Hitchins last year at an SBC function in Charlotte. She also reports having seen Emily Pleasants Smith in Charlotte, who hasn’t changed at all. Libba and Steve are building a new house about 40 minutes east of their current home. Nancy is still her delightful self. Hugh and Brenda passed their farm house down to their youngest son, Sam, and his family, and moved into a nearby house — no yard maintenance, Master down, modern kitchen, great fun.

Blair Both and Inza Walston, partners for over 13 years, waited until it was possible to marry in the Episcopal Church and the state of North Carolina. Their families, friends, and parishioners attended their wedding May 21, 2016. Life begins at 70! Blair is grateful that Sweet Briar is reinventing itself and is eager to meet the new president.

Eugenia Caldwell and husband Peter had the best trip to New York and Lake Sunapee in October, where they saw 5 ballets, 1 play, and 4 musicals, and visited 5 museums and 9 dear friends. Now looking ahead to return to either Africa or South America on another birding trip.

Melinda Musgrove Chapman has three granddaughters in college. Katie is a senior at Northeastern in Boston. Ashley is a junior at Auburn, and Eden is a sophomore at Appalachian State. Oldest grandson Davis is working for a solar energy company in San Diego, youngest grandson Harrison is with his parents in Dallas. Melinda still has her youngest granddaughter Anna Brittain in Birmingham with her. Melinda sells real estate to stay young and active and avoid boredom. President Woo spoke to the Birmingham SBC Club.

Aline Rex McEvoy, Elvira McMillan Mannelly, and Libba Hanger Luther at lunch in Atlanta in December

Sarah Porter Boehmler, Libba Hanger Luther, Nancy Collier Hitchins and Brenda Muhlhaushaus Barger
Melinda enjoyed meeting her and was very impressed with her ideas.

Mel Freese Cota injured her foot in August and has stopped teaching yoga, but continues to take it and will attend a yoga retreat (their 11th) with her 86-year-old brother in April in Playa del Carmen. Husband Alberto (87) and his classmates had a great time celebrating their 60th anniversary of graduating from dental school. Alberto’s vision is severely limited by macular degeneration. Son Memo is living with them at present and is a great emotional and physical support for them both.

Babette Fraser Hale and her delightful 96-year-old husband are still kickin’ down in TX. They’ve been spending a lot of time at their country place while their 1960s condo is being “re-piped.” Babette writes a personal essay column for their local paper and volunteers for Winedale, a nearby historical center. She’s had several short stories published in literary journals, one of which was selected among the Other Distinquished in Best American Short Stories and is included in the New York Public Library digital collection. They have five grandchildren, ranging in age from 2 to 37.

Bunny Sutton Healy and husband Jay are enjoying their first grandchild, Eliza, and their daughter Elizabeth in Denver.

Sally McCrady Hubbard is taking an intensive Spanish course at Sewanee in preparation for walking another section of the Camino to Santiago, this time from Porto, Portugal, with daughter Anna in June. Son Hayne and Katie live in Fort Worth and will celebrate their 25th about the time their daughter Margaret graduates from Trinity Valley. Margaret plays the violin in the Fort Worth Youth Symphony and has won theater awards for sound design. She is headed for Carnegie Mellon in Pittsburgh next year, and Sally is headed for her theater productions! Sally chairs a Caregiver Group at her local parish church and continues to fundraise for HIV orphans at Hope Institute in Uganda.

Peggy Jones recommends that we read Anne Butler’s book “Weep for the Living” about Anne’s near-death experience.

Lilba Hanger Luther caught up with Elvira McMillan Mannelly and Aline Rex McEvoy at lunch in Atlanta last December.

Mary K. Lee McDonald’s work as our Class Fund Agent is well underway. She encourages everyone to contact classmates and share news of current happenings at the College with enthusiasm and optimism. Mary K. spends every other February in Scottsdale and was joined for a week by Lynn Morgan Reynolds. She had a long lunch with Whitney Jester Ransstrom, who escapes Montana winter in Sun City, Mary K, and Anne Lutz Dravigny caught up with each other on a long phone visit.

Milbrey Sebring Raney writes that she has enjoyed talking to our classmates before the big fundraiser. It’s great catching up.

Susan McDonald Strong’s newest botanical paintings are on exhibit at a gallery in St. Augustine, FL. You can research her botanical skincare products at singlingflowersstudio.com. Susan and Paul are enjoying the weather and new friends in Jacksonville, FL.

Laura Haskell Phinizy continues plugging along, enjoying Stewart as he is — happy, pleasant, and still able to get about. Pruning her showplace yard, with azaleas and camellias under tall pines, until the sun sets, gives Laura great pleasure.

Saralyn McAfee Smith survived breast cancer surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation in 2017. She recently went to Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, for help with a vicious rash caused by all the stress, but it seems there’s nothing much to be done but let the rash run its course. She and Hamp are okay, and the Smith Clan is doing well — granddaughter Sierra graduated a semester early from high school and is now a student at the local junior college. Daughter Laura is the marketing director for the famed Boot Hill Museum, and granddaughter Cheyenne is now in fifth grade. Saralyn is the secretary of her local branch of the DAR.

Chris Kilcullen Thurlow and Steve are preparing for their 49th anniversary. After four decades, they have moved from Greenwich, CT, to lovely Vero Beach, FL, never again to live in a place where the average temperature is lower than their age. In addition to their son and daughter and their spouses, Chris and Steve are blessed with six grand-monsters, still living in Connecticut. Chris tutors in an ESL program and is active with Audubon. Steve continues his work with the NFL Alumni, specifically educating coaches, referees, and parents about techniques of proper play to avoid injury and head trauma. They play lots of golf and travel internationally with their 200 Club. Life is good — their minds still function, and they still laugh at each other’s jokes.

Molly Poole Wolfe lives in the Virginia Piedmont about 3 hours north of SBC with 2 dogs, a cat, a husband of 45 years, and lots of perennial gardens in fertile soil. They planted all the trees on the property and have a glorious view of the Blue Ridge Mountains from the house they designed and built years ago. Their daughter, 38, loves horses and is the gardener for an estate in Upperville, VA.

Can anyone give me updated contact information for Alison Flynn Ringdal? All I know is that she lives in Jessheim, Norway, a suburb of Oslo. Does anyone have her email? Also, I am missing email addresses for many classmates; so if you enjoy reading the Class Notes and want to add your news next time, please send me your email address. I’d like to include everyone in my requests for news.

1967

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Charlotte Hoskins Herbert has escaped the Oregon winters by moving seasonally to the Oro Valley near Tucson. She sends greetings and would love for anyone who is ever in the area to get in touch with her. She lives in a active adult community where she is outside most of the time. (Sounds glorious — adults and perfect weather?)

Judy Schlatter Fogle is having fun with her five grandsons, two of which have ended up living near Diane Mann Langford’s son in Atlanta! (Small world!) Judy is closing on a new condo in Atlanta right between both sons — lots of renovations (and lots of help with supervision)!

She spent a lovely Christmas in London, England, with her daughter Suzannah, who is still working there.

Maria Wiglesworth Hemmings is still fighting the “R” word (she just cannot let go) and works per diem in Connecticut in her old unit at Norwalk Hospital; she loves the patients and the medicine. “We are spending time in Florida (where I don’t work) and Connecticut. Still traveling a fair amount, still skiing, mostly Jackson Hole, where our eldest daughter lives and has her business. Had a great visit with Sue Merck Perrin after

1966

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Last August, Keenan Colton Kelsey, Penn Willets Fullerton, Jane Nelson and Susan Sudduth Hillier were once again able to have their annual mini-reunion. It is rare that a year goes by that they do not meet some place, and they are already planning the 2018 get-together. Quite remarkable after all these years!!

In 2017, Suzy Moseley Helm generously offered guest rooms (actually an entire floor) in the home that she and Nelson have at the Chautauqua Institution in New York state. It was a delightful time of lectures, faith, friendship and nostalgia since Susan had been there decades before with her late husband Frank Dodson. At the possibility of sounding trite… the “icing on the cake” was that classmate Marc Fisher was also staying with Suzy and Nelson while we were there. Okay — here goes the math: six ’66ers in the same house at the same time.

Plea to classmates: I have not received any other news, but please make note. Our next deadline is Aug. 13. Please, please send news to me at ssdh22@yahoo.com soon. I want to go ahead and start compiling for next issue. Also, know that if more grandkids are born or wonderful trips taken or any other significant events occur after you contact me, I will update.

Thank you in advance.
Reunion, spent New Year with Pam Fromme Formato in Sarasota. My husband and I are having lunch with Stephanie Lucas Harrison and Ted in NYC and looking forward to seeing Gretchen Bullard Barber soon. [Note: Maria says if she is too chatty, it’s the wine that is making her so!] Peggie Minis Jerome has had a busy summer-fall first dodging the hurricane that threatened their Palm Beach winter home and then the fires that hit Northern California in October while they were at their home in Sonoma. “We evacuated for 8 days while the fires came closer and closer. At one point we watched on TV as the fires surrounded our property on three sides. We only had some smoke damage to our guest house and feel so blessed that our home didn’t burn, as many nearby did. [How scary!] We will to Australia, mainly Sydney, to catch up with Peter’s family. We now have 9 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren, so stay very busy while down there. We will also go to Greece in early June, where I am on the board of Anatolia College, an American School in Thessaloniki that goes from Kindergarten through college. What a rewarding experience to be involved with this amazing school that is helping kids in financially challenged Greece. In the meantime, Ina Brown Bond and I manage to see each other in Florida when she is in Delray and I’m in Palm Beach. We spent Thanksgiving and Christmas in Savannah with the Minis clan and will go back the end of April for one more visit before we head to the West Coast. I find the older I get, the more I love spending time with family. I would love to see any and all coming to Florida or the San Francisco area. We’re in Florida November—June and Sonoma mid-June—October.”

Mary Sabra Gillespie reports that both daughters and their families are on the East Coast. Daughter Alison Martin is now in Charlotte, NC, and daughter Anne is in Baltimore, MD. “I find I drive a lot on I-85 and I-95 to visit them.”

Stephanie Lucas Harrison is still enjoying her law practice and taking ballet; she even started taking yoga. “We were very blessed and did not flood during Harvey. We did have leaks, but that is nothing by comparison. Our kids and grandchil-dren are doing great. My older son, David, is a producer with Gunpowder & Sky in L.A., and is finishing up a series for MTV. His wife, Amy Adron, made a documentary “Half the Picture,” which debuted at the Sundance Film Festival and will also be shown at South by Southwest. My younger son, Charlie Harrison, is performing more frequently with his alt-country/Americana band — check out Charlie and The Regents. [GRO: I have a CD of his and it’s great!] Charlie’s wife, Jaclyn, is a physician, and she and Charlie do a remarkable job juggling parenting and two careers (actually three since Charlie also does financial work for a Houston manufacturer). We leave tomorrow for New York and will have lunch Saturday with Maria Hemmings and Jeff. Our big project, which is necessary but not exciting, is redoing the master bath shower and bath tub; so we get to move out of our bathroom and closet for as long as it takes. I have repressed when this starts. I will celebrate when it’s over!”

Mellie Hickey Nelson enjoyed seeing everyone at the Reunion in June and seeing SBC coming back strong. It was a good start to the summer. She and Paul spent three weeks in Bhutan and Myanmar, with a final few days in Chiang Mai, Thailand — “a special trip.” A special trip, indeed!

Adele Leslie Kellman and Paul have started spending winters in Florida. “We are living in Sarasota and couldn’t be happier! Our first grandson, Emily Tudor, was born last August and we were there in Andorra for her birth and several weeks after. We expect a visit from our daughter and Emily soon (Adele, you only gave us Emily’s name but we grandmothers understand!). Then I am off to New Orleans for a cruise on the Mississippi with classmates and a 55th high school reunion over the following weekend. Paul and I are also planning a European trip in the fall to see our grandson and family.”

Judy Bensen Stigle, our President for Life (we hope), reports, “Once again the Class of 1967 is excelling in class giving for the Sweet Briar Fund. [At the time of her note] We are at 23% with 43 classmates making a gift to our College and 7 making pledges to Sweet Briar for 2018. Thank you all. Remember we won an award at Reunion and would be proud to win again. Please understand — it’s not always the money but the participation that matters. I’ll second all of Judy’s statements and, as Class Fund Agent, will be in touch with everyone; you will not escape! We are enjoying our winter in Venice, FL, with golf, sun, tennis and alas — work — much more attractive than the snow and chills of Connecticut. Always enjoy spending time with ole roommate Bonnie Blew Pierie and Tim, and, yes, we still talk SBC memories.”

From Victoria Baker: “Lee and I felt so lucky to have escaped the wrath of Hurricane Irma when it came up the Gulf Coast last September. That also meant that we were able to take our two short cruises to Havana (on which I gave the so-called enrichment lectures) and spend time in St. Augustine. Life has been filled with volunteer work, remodeling the house, ballet dancing, visiting my healthy 98-year-old mom; we just returned from a 10-day Caribbean cruise on which I did several destination and ‘pirate’ talks. In April we’ll be doing a transatlantic cruise (another lecturing one for me), conveniently going from Tampa to Amsterdam. My son lives in Delhi, and Lee has never been to the tulip and flower gardens in Keukenhof, so that should be a treat for all. Retirement is wonderful, and we live by the motto: ‘Do the things you want to do as it takes. I have repressed when this starts. I will celebrate when it’s over!’

Eleanor Crossley Rees arrived home on Feb. 20 after being awake for 40 hours from a two-week trip to Rajasthan in India to celebrate her recent wedding. ‘Had a fantastic time, but exhausted from all the sounds, colors, animals, traffic, poverty, and smells. There were a lot of highs as well, because our travel agency did such a wonderful job meeting our needs.’ Beat wishes to you and your husband, Eleanor!”

Bill and I are still in Baton Rouge, both retired and wondering where our time goes. I’ve become a lazy slug but am still volunteering with the LSU Museum of Art and Volunteers of America. Bill works with our zoo and with Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center. Shortly after our reunion we did a cruise in the Norwegian fjords — fabulous trip! We also had the opportunity to go to the Washington, D.C., Mardi Gras. We’ve been before, but this year was over the top with the founder of Raisin’ Canes Chicken as king. There was not a dry eye in the ballroom when he presented Cane III, his new 7-week-old yellow lab mascot; Bill and I had puppy pangs but so far have resisted, sticking with our kittens and 2-year-old standard poodle (just hope I can hold out!). We’re getting ready to remodel our house, a project I’m dreading. With all the rain, we were about 2 years late replacing our roof and have several rooms with damaged ceilings. We’re having our 55th high school reunion in April, and Bill as President for Life of our class is trying to rook me into volunteering, a job I have so far resisted — we’ll see! If anyone visits Louisiana, please get in touch; we love guests!”

1968

Anne Kinsey Dinan
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As always, many thanks to all who submitted news; I hope everyone will read, enjoy, remember our wonderful years at Sweet Briar AND register to attend our upcoming 50th!

Emmy Savage: I continue to hike and paint. I am working on a book titled “Walking the Stations in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains: meditations on birds, weather, daily living, grief, landscape, forgiveness and faith.” My son just got his master’s in public policy in Chicago where I will probably move when I am too old to hike. I am sorry I will have to miss our 50th. I send love and best wishes.

Barbara Baur Dunlap: All quiet on the Western Front here. Looking forward to seeing everyone in June with their nametags on!

Penny Oliver Hawkins: I am looking forward to seeing friends whom I’ve not seen in 50 years in June. I have included a photo with Libby Harvey Fitzgerald. Franny Bonney Jenner and Lizzy Miller Green.

Frances Kirven Morse: A little traveling, a little grandkid sitting, a little hiking, a little bluebird moni-
Ann Biggs Jackson and George Rich hiking in Maine

Graduation - House One, May 1968. Most of these classmates are coming to Reunion 2018! Will you join us?

Emmy Savage and Sarah on a three-day backpack in the Sangres

Rickey Hendricks with grandsons, George (12) and Harry (10)

Thanks to Nancy Hickox for sending this news photo of Suzanne Edinger, Ann Biggs, Anne Stoddard, Candy Connard, Nancy Hickox and Shelby Dudley at the Homestead during exam break, 1967

Suzanne Edinger, Ann Biggs, Anne Stoddard, Candy Connard, Nancy Hickox and Shelby Dudley at the Homestead during exam break, 1967

Rickey Hendricks and her daughter Adrienne visiting the giant redwoods in Muir Woods, CA

Sara Granath and her chanterelles

Frances Kirven Morse, husband John and granddaughters, Ella (13) and Xylia (10), portraying an 18th-century Scottish family in the California Revels December production

Susan Bokan visiting the Galapagos Islands

Pam Boyd Daniel enjoying an Alaskan cruise with her husband Dave and grandchildren, Nightingale and Ireelee

Libby Harvey Fitzgerald, Franny Bonney Jenner, Lizzy Miller Green and Penny Oliver Hawkins, looking forward to our 50th Reunion!

Sally Lawrence Watkins with her husband Jim and their daughter Emily

Phoebe Brunner Peacock moving out!

Amy Thompson McCandless with her sons Alastair and Colin at Grace Church Cathedral

Bonnie Pitman’s son David, grandson Clark, Bonnie, daughter-in-law Ali and granddaughter Frannie

Rickey Hendricks and her daughter Adrienne visiting the giant redwoods in Muir Woods, CA
toring and a LOT of Reunion planning! Wonderful experience (except for my broken shoulder) with John and our granddaughters, Ella and Xylia, portraying a Scottish family in the California Revels December production. Getting so excited about our 50th! Y’All come!

Bonnie Pitman: Joyfully teaching medical students and physicians how to look at works of art in the museum galleries to develop deeper understanding of close observation, critical thinking, compassion and empathy to improve their diagnostic and clinical skills at UT Southwestern Medical School and Baylor University Hospital. Writing about my seven years — and counting — practice of Doing Something New each day to help celebrate an ordinary day and to make it extraordinary, as a way to deal with health challenges. Follow me on instagram.com/bonniepitman/ or my Facebook page, Do Something New. Read more about Bonnie on page 14.

Kate Buster: I am still based out of Grand Junction, CO, though I enjoy spending winter months in Green Valley, AZ, a birder’s paradise not far from the Mexican border. I spend part of every summer hiking in the San Juan Mountains and also spend many hours as a volunteer Forest Ranger for the White River National Forest in Colorado. I am very sorry to miss the BIG 50th Reunion but wish all my classmates well.

Amy Thompson McCandless: I continue to enjoy retirement. I am now playing on (and captaining) two beginner tennis teams, doing presentations on South Carolina women to various academic and community groups, volunteering at Grace Church Cathedral and traveling with Steve throughout the states. A cruise to Norway planned for October 2017 was changed to June 2018, so unfortunately we will miss the Reunion.

Pam Boyd Daniel: Now that both of our daughters and two granddaughters have moved back to Lakeland, FL, Dave and I have been very busy hosting family dinners and babysitting. Over the past two years, we have been able to travel with our whole family and recently took everyone on a cruise to Alaska. We feel very lucky to have everyone close by.

Martha Bennett Pritchett Conner: I have four children married and two granddaughters living in Durham. I watched the eclipse in Cashiers, NC, in the path, TOTAL- LY! I am enjoying real estate and my two favorite volunteer projects: Center for Child and Family Health and Friends of the Durham Public Schools HUB Farm, a 30-acre farm owned by the school system. I have a new hip! Too much water skiing, golf, tennis, etc. I had a great visit with Ann Banks Herrod and Hank Herrod in Memphis. See ya in June!

Sara Granath: My life is very good! Since retiring from the university (where I received an award for best teacher), I have taught writing for three years. I write theatre reviews for a national newspaper, attend international theatre conferences and sell programs at a summer opera. I go to the movies and to sporting events and read a lot of books, some of which I discuss in a book circle with friends.

Ann Biggs Jackson: It was a busy fall and spring. In October, I was hiking in Maine and shooting in Minnesota with George Rich. In November, we were in England — we shot steeplechase races at Cheltenham. Thanksgiving and Christmas were in Maryland with family, followed by shooting in Alabama over New Year’s. I was back and forth several times between Florida and Maryland in January — then off to Charleston, SC, for a GCA meeting in February. Finally, I enjoyed a few March weeks in Maryland. Phew! Looking forward to Reunion!

Katherine Burton: I have two daughters, Sarah and Hedy, and five grandkids — Allie, Ella, Adam, Tess and Joaquin. I love to travel — have been to Costa Rica, Grand Cayman, England and Norway, and intend to continue. I also work with Greyhound adoption and my retirement business, hatsforhounds.com. I volunteer at an 1890s living history farm as a costumed domestic interpreter and have lately become an activist, working on mid-term campaigns, registering voters, protesting and advocating for progressive legislation and causes.

Brenda Darden Kincaid: Doug
and I moved to Lynchburg last May to be near our daughter and three of our eight grandchildren. We celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary in July, and after five years of retirement, I have returned to work teaching honors precalculus classes at Virginia Episcopal School. Despite December surgery for glaucoma, I love watching reruns of The Big Bang Theory and am an ardent UVa basketball fan. Doug and I will be at Sweet Briar for our 50th Reunion!

Nancy Hickox Wright: Looking through our Briar Patch pictures — especially those of freshmen year — is melting me. Please come home June 1 to 3, greet classmates you haven’t seen for 50 years and meet classmates whose paths you rarely crossed but now find a surprise connection. A bunch of us will be on the porch of the Elston Inn, waiting to greet each of you as you come up the driveway. If you have any questions about the Reunion, just call or email me (904-742-5724 or nancyhickox68@gmail.com). I love hearing from classmates!

Rickey Hendricks: I brought my love of nature from Kentucky and Virginia, here to Marin County, CA, where I am an environmental advocate. My daughter, Adrienne Batkin, and grandson, George and Harry (the redhead), visited from Australia in December. We spent a wonderful day visiting the giant redwoods in Muir Woods. Harry (10) loved hiding in the notches of the redwoods and he saw his first squirrel, chipmunk and deer. George (12) is a bit more reserved, but all of us had a great day. Afterwards, we went to the new Star Wars movie on its first full day of screening!

Susan Bokan: I am back in my home town of Saratoga Springs, NY, after many adventures. I built a lovely community garden for my town and greatly enjoy Skidmore College, and the summer home of the Philadelphia Orchestra and the New York City Ballet. I have a splendid fella and spend many months a year traveling the world, this year the Galápagos, Dubai and Bhutan. I’m blessed on all fronts with health, a grand family, fulfilling work and love.

Helen Butler Cato: Sadly, I am now unable to attend our Reunion. My husband Michael died on Boxing Day, Dec. 26, after a long illness. He was loved and admired by many, not least our very large family. I am grateful for their help and that of many other friends and professional people. Michael and I visited Sweet Briar a few years ago. He had heard a lot about my four years there and was pleased to see just what I had been talking about. With all good wishes to you, I am sure it will be a wonderful celebration.

Jeanne Forsyth Powell: Ben and I are celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary in June. He is retired and enjoying golf and other joyful activities. Our two daughters live here in Asheville, NC, each with a son and a daughter: we especially enjoy attending their soccer and basketball games. Our son is in Baton Rouge with five children; we visit them on weekends when they come here for summer camp. I truly regret I cannot attend Reunion (knee replacement still healing). Sweet Briar was and is a very special place. Lift a glass for me and enjoy the time spent with old friends!

Phoebe Brunner Peacock: I continue to enjoy my downsized life at Watergate South next to the Kennedy Center. Daughter Anne (PhD in human rights law) lives across the courtyard and walks to work at the State Department. Her identical twin sister, Mary, is a veterinarian and mother of my grandchildren, Wilfred and Amelia. They along with my musicologist son-in-law, Philip Gentry, live in Philadelphia. In December 2017, I hosted a dinner at the City Tavern Club in celebration of the 25th anniversary of my surgery for ovarian cancer. Melinda Brown Everett was among the guests. Life on borrowed time is good!

Sally Lawrence Watkins: Life has slowed down a bit, but I am still working as a real estate appraiser, a job that combines my interests in real estate, historic preservation and architecture, and, at the same time, gives me access into some of the best homes in our nation’s capital. In our spare time, Jim and I enjoy gardening, working on our house and helping our daughter with her new home in Lancaster, PA.

Connie Williams de Bordenave: I am really looking forward to seeing everyone in June. Tad and I live in Richmond, VA. We moved back to be with our three children and four grandchildren. Tad is retired and is enjoying writing books on church missions. I have continued my love of art. Currently I have an exhibition on refugees consisting of nine paintings which is touring the libraries around the state of Virginia.

Susie Brush Croft: Our youngest child, Carrington, was married Feb. 24 and we were delighted to have Anne Stoddard join us for a wonderful time.

Anne Kinsey Dinan: I continue to dote on our darling grandchildren, Evie and Sebastian. They teach me computer games, Star Wars Legos and soccer, while I tell them stories of life in the 1940s and 50s — that I think I’m making it up! As for Sweet Briar, the proof is in the repetition, is it not?

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Also, note that we continue to search for email addresses for 45 classmates. Thus I again implore anyone in the Class of 1968 who receives this Alumnae Magazine but did not receive an email requesting news: Please send email or snail mail with your email address to me at the contact information above.

1969

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There are some definite trends in the lives of the Pat City class: You travel when you can (and to some interesting places), many have contributed to your local communities and beyond by volunteering on social issues, some of you see other SBCers often, and an interesting number of you play golf and mahjong. While most of you are retired from paid work, you are not idle, as you keep up with downsizing, grandchildren, and generally being interesting and involved. The Class of 69 is a class to be proud of — smart, hard-working, and giving.

Let’s start with Nancy Crawford Bent, to whom we owe much for her many years of collating these postcards, emails and enigmatic slips of paper with the class news! A big round of virtual applause, please for Nancy’s wit, energy and hard work! Her news is that she and husband Peter are living in a circa-1800 Colonial in Montague Center, MA. The area is known as Happy Valley for its aging hippies, Yankee farmers, artists, musicians, etc. Despite some neuro-muscular ailments, she carries on with volunteer work at the Connecticut River Conservancy and keeps on a first-name basis with her local librarian, using trekking poles to keep moving. Her doctor says old age will get her before this condition will; so we add fervent hopes that she, the house, the Valley, and the trekking poles have a long future.

Carolyn Jones Elstner lives in Fredericksburg, Virginia, with husband Tom, a dentist. After retiring from the National Park Service, she wrote an illustrated book, “Dear Old Ellwood;” about the history of a local house before and after her family lived there from 1907–1977. The home was the Civil War home of Alexander Spotswood (a historic name our Virginia contingent may recognize), and Carolyn was a volunteer director for the property, overseeing its restoration to Civil War era and training its interpreters. Go to www. rappahannockhistsoc.org to get the book. She also owns and manages the local Confederate cemetery despite being of Yankee heritage but surely has her Southern bona fides as well. She has a daughter, Meg, and a son, Peter, and a 19-month-old granddaughter.

Carol Mosely Tashi: our young-eth is celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary in June. He is retired and enjoying golf and other joyful activities. Our two daughters live here in Asheville, NC, each with a son and a daughter: we especially enjoy attending their soccer and basketball games. Our son is in Baton Rouge with five children; we visit them on weekends when they come here for summer camp. I truly regret I cannot attend Reunion (knee replacement still healing). Sweet Briar was and is a very special place. Lift a glass for me and enjoy the time spent with old friends!

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along the East Coast. Carol roomed in Gray with Carolyn, Sally Bouch-er Megeath, and Midge Yearley. They plan a mini-reunion in Win-chester, VA, in May.

Mary Freer Murchison Gorno still lives in Wilmington, NC, where she has retired from her VP of de-velopment job at UNC-Wilmington but still serves on several boards and does volunteer work. Her grand-daughter, Charlotte, ended the SBC line of attendees and chose W&L instead. Other grandchildren are still looking for colleges or still in school. A recent trip to the Caribbean for her 70th temporarily interrupted her pickle ball and mahjong.

Keithley Rose Miller continues to use her artistic talents running her decorating business, Kemble Interiors, in Palm Beach. Her daughter helps in the shop and is expecting grandchild #2. Keithley also travels on bridge cruises and lunches with Cathy Hall Stopher when she can.

As for Cathy Hall Stopher her-self, she lives in Gulf Stream, FL, with her husband Ed and where the grandchildren visit often. She too is learning mahjong, plays bridge, and wants to see more movies soon.

Sue Roessel Gibson retired after 39 years teaching in Philadelphia and now spends more time with family — babysitting grandson and traveling with husband Gene. They head to the Panama Canal soon. She and Phyllis Girard and Mary Mah-an Marco get together often.

Mary Mahan Marco and her hus-band Bob had planned to move to Lewes, DE, but appear to have reno-vated another home in West Chester, PA, instead. They are near to some of their children and grandchildren, but others live in San Jose and Bos-ton. Bob had a double knee replace-ment; so travel is on hold for now. She not only sees Sue and Phyllis of-ten but sees Midge Yearley in Lewes on occasion.

Phyllis Girard reports that she is also enjoying retirement and has a new dachshund puppy named So-fia to join her older dog. She sum-mers in Nova Scotia but this June will spend two weeks in Italy with friends from Oklahoma. She volun-teers at the Morris Arboretum.

Also finding time for a gather-ing of the crew in Atlanta is Ann Arnspigner Canipe, who sees Ha-den Ridley Winnborne, Carolyn Mapp Hewes and Missy Sumner Huggins often. (Or in the case of Missy, they see her when she isn’t in Florence — that would be Italy, not South Carolina.) Husband Kent retired, and now they are planning trips to Lexington, KY, for a trip down the Bourbon Trail and per-haps a river cruise soon. A road trip to California to unload unwanted furniture on unsuspecting offspring is also in the works.

Carolyn Mapp Hewes adds that husband Len has been retired, but that they are both active in a num-ber of charities. With 6 children and 10 grandchildren between them, they stay busy with family but still find time to visit with Ann Canipe, Meny Hill Pettit and Anne Rhett Taylor Merril. She notes that Anne Rhett was caught in the horrible fires and mudslides in Montecito. We all send our love to her as they recover. Also recovering from the fires and mud slides in Santa Barbara and needing our support is Sally Dahl Leconte. She is appreciating life, and with husband Jean-Francois, she shuttles between Paris, France, Mauritius (Riviere Noire), and San-ta Barbara. (Clearly, she must have mastered in French!) They also travel to Florida and Nevada to visit sons. JP Powell had hoped retirement would allow lots of travel, and it has with trips to five national parks (Glacier was a favorite) and to Bar-celona to see Gaudi’s work (although she could easily have been intrigued by reading Dan Brown’s ‘Origins’). Gaudi’s architecture figures in it of-ten.) She also went to Marrakesh and stayed in a charming riad and then to Chicago for the architectur-al tour and a chance to see ‘Hamil-ton.’ Plans are being made to get to Atlanta for a gathering with Ginny Perdue and Haden. She may win the award for most and best travel in a year! She also volunteers at the non-profit Center for Mindful Liv-ing, where one can learn the “power of the pause” to help center us when the world goes crazy. JP also makes an important point about how we need to keep in touch, be grateful for our health and good fortunes, and share with others. Amen on that good advice!

Pam Noyes continues to look af-ter “advanced age horses, dog, cat and our aging selves.” She continues the SBC tradition of riding with Melissa Griffith Manning. She is plan-ning road trips in the near future.

Another group that meets in D.C. consists of Maria Estefania, Liz Medaglia and Lynn Peaseon Russell. Quite a power group — they meet often at the Cosmos Club! Marla has retired but is still involved in overseeing the building of a sec-ond Bright Beginnings center — a preschool for homeless children. This new school will double the number of children they can help. (If any of you want to help Maria or any of the other projects you read about in the letter, get in touch with Ginny or Claudette, and we will try to get the info you will need.)

As for Liz Medaglia, she and Joe are on the vacation of a lifetime! Beginning in early February in Vi-enna, they attended a real ball in a real palace. The Legal Professionals ball was held in Hofburg palace in Vienna or as Liz describes it, “… we got dressed up in white tie and gown with long gloves, got in a taxi and said, ‘Please take us to the palace.’” The next day, they were off to Venice and then on to Turin, where she answered our call for news. Then on to Florence, where Joe departed for home and Liz took two weeks of Italian language immersion. Wow! A new house is part of Jane Mer-riam Wickens’s retirement plan. She and Justin sold their house in Northern Virginia and built a new house in Charlottesville. Her daugh-ter’s family also sold their home in C’ville and built near Jane too. All of the family — including the four grandchildren under eight — had to spend the summer in their Cape Cod home while the construction went on under the watchful eyes of the son-in-law and the family dog. By Christmas, they were all in their respective homes and settled in.

After losing her husband in 2015 after a long battle with dementia and two hip replacements of her own, Joan Adrainse Nickelson has rallied to travel from home in OH to South Korea, Australia (both of these to see her older daughter, whose husband is in the Air Force), New Zealand, Alaska, and family of three children and seven grandchildren in San An-tonio, Flagra斯塔, and Denver.

Ann Tremaim Lee says that she and Sain are “ageing up nicely” in Newport News, VA, and showed it by their walking the English Way of the Camino de Santiago (77 miles) in June. She has translated that to a weekly ‘Camino Day,’ where there is no agenda but setting out on a hike and letting the path develop. They have a townhouse in Charlottesville too and visit there often. Three daughters, two sons-in-law, and three grandchildren round out the Lee crew.

Richardone is home to Michael Naxsen Robertson. Most of her time is spent with family, and two of the children and three grandchildren were treated to a long weekend at the Homestead recently. When her third child moves back to Virginia, there will be two practicing physicians in the family; so she will be doing lots of babysitting. She does spend low-key and relaxing summers in Virgin-i-ia Beach.

Sally Gipson Tully never expect-ed to enjoy her 70’s so much. She lives in Cazenovia, NY, where fam-ilies and friends enjoy the lake in the summer and the snow in the winter. She volunteers also and hopes the rest of the class is feeling as free as she does.

Sally and Jan Hugenin Assmus got together last summer. More re-cently, Jan and husband Gert visited with Ann Tremaim Lee and Saint in Virginia. Jan and Gert survive the NE winters by taking frequent trips to North Carolina to see their 2-year-old granddaughter. Soon they will be on their way to Poland and Germany for Gert’s high school re-union! Gert can show off his lovely American family.

Betsy West Dripps and husband Craig are still loving Martha’s Vine-yard despite the busy summers and the quiet winters. When Betsy is not playing golf, she volunteers as a teacher at the Polly Hill Arboretum for kids from grades K-4. As mother of four (all teachers) and with seven grandkids from 9-16, she is a natural.

Maureen Robertson Baggett lives in Pennsylvania with husband Wayne, and both are retired from all but rocking a new grandson. The 50th reunion of her Junior Year in France did bring flashbacks of tear-gas and scary moments, but she
looks at the grandson and thinks sweet thoughts.

Not many in the class can claim a #1 song — but Nancy Wendling Peacock can! She started a music publishing company in Nashville called Washington Street Publishing that focuses on sync licensing for film, TV, trailers and advertising. She learned her song and video, “Judgment Day,” sung by Christie Lamb, went #1 in Australia! When not traveling to L.A., NYC, and elsewhere, she is planning a wedding for son Josh an architect in Portland, OR, in August. She should be good at it since her lawyer daughter Jenni got married in October 2015.

Pat Winton Newmark relates that her Mom (95), husband, and daughter’s family keep her busy and happy. Both Pat and Kent are on the USGA Championship Committees, and she often serves as a Rules Official at the big tournaments. For fun, they recently discovered cruises and are off to the Danube this summer.

Avis Brown Yount and her physician husband, Peter, have raised two young doctors. Her daughter is a hepatologist at Duke with three children, and their married son is in his last year of a cardiothoracic surgery residency at UVA. Over the years, they have kept up with Claudette Harloe Dalton as those offspring have weaved in and out of Charlottestville.

Betsy Blackwell Laundon moved to Lynchburg when she remarried Mike Esch in 2010. Not long after our 2014 Reunion, Mike had a cardiac arrest that he survived but with some major complications and then had a stroke in 2015. Betsy has had some health challenges also. They moved into an assisted-living facility, and while this is not the future they envisioned, they persist in caring for each other. Betsy volunteers with many groups and plans to take one of her daughters on a birthday Viking cruise soon. She has two daughters and four grandchildren.

Charles Town, W.V., is home for Melissa Griffith Manning. She lives in a historic home with a combined family of her daughter, son-in-law, the in-laws, four grandchildren, three dogs, 2 parakeets, and 1 fish. She says this is “lots of fun.” Good for you, Melissa!!!

Refusing to retire, Lessie Guthrie Keller still works with six Episcopal Community Services programs around the county. They help with mental and behavioral health, drug and alcohol counseling, homeless and Head Start children. When not doing all these good works, she sees her two grandchildren and explores San Diego with them. She spends time at the theater when she can.

Another volunteer filling retirement time is Betsy Cheney Parker, who helps with both the church and her community. After working for 35 years in investment banking, she now plays tennis, reads all those books she never had time for before, and visits her daughter in San Francisco. There are plans to go to Australia soon.

Kay Hutton Barry spends most of her time with family and friends since four grandchildren and her elderly mother live close by. She does volunteer at Thistle Farms as well.

Bryan Alphin Bente says she is still enjoying retirement, and Paul was retiring from his own company at the end of March. They managed to see the eclipse in Teton Village — that must have been spectacular in that setting. They took further advantage of the area by hiking in Teton and Rocky Mountain National Parks and then visited their daughter in Denver. Their son’s family is in Boston; so they have an excuse to visit the East.

Kathy Blythe Southlander and Bill have four grandkids — two in Atlanta and two nearby in Charlotte. Kathy represents a variety of portrait artists in Portraits, Inc., so can help all of us with gorgeous memories of our grandchildren.

Silver Spring, MD, is home for Atlee Walker, who loves the senior “village” she lives in. It sounds like she is taking full advantage of classes, lectures, good food, and a beautiful setting. She appreciates that she doesn’t have to do any yard or maintenance work and will not be a burden on her daughter! Sounds ideal!

Melinda Koester Pendino lives in Tampa, FL, where she continues her active real estate business. You may remember that Melinda was a Donut Dolly in Vietnam. This Red Cross work continues with Melinda serving as Chair of a Red Cross Convention in New Orleans this June. We thank her for that service and applaud her continued work. She also offers a bed in her new condo for anyone who gets to Tampa!

Ronde Kneip Bradley is very busy as a grandmother and new resident of the Center City of Philadelphia, where she does Zen practice, focusing and Japanese Brush Painting, visits her local pub and goes to lots of movies. As if that isn’t enough, she also watches local amateur theater and recitals at the Curtis Institute of Music. She has had a bad bout of pneumonia and diverticulitis but has bounced back by putting a pink streak in her white hair! You go, girl!

It was great to hear from Elizabeth Wyatt. She and her daughter left New Jersey for the warmer climes of Wellington, FL, and the Wellington Equestrian Festival. That 15-year-old daughter won the Children’s High Jumpers, placed second in the Sunday Classic, and was overall Champion in her division for this, her first competitive weekend. We send congratulations to her! One son is a sophomore in college and another is in school in New Jersey. Elizabeth took some personal time to travel to Sicily for Christmas and will return to Italy for a walking tour of the Italian Lake District with friends.

And while we are discussing Elizabeths, there is Elizabeth Lewis Thier. Elizabeth is a psychiatrist in California, and both she and husband David continue to practice. Despite health issues for both of them, they still like to travel. Berlin, Dresden, and Prague were on the itinerary this past fall. Their son, Matt, continues to make his mark in retail start-ups but may be changing careers in the future.

Sadly, Ann Moore’s husband passed away in June 2015 after a five-year fight with aplastic anemia. But she has shown courage and has rebuilt her life around her hobbies of jewelry design, painting, and book clubs. She and her brother have purchased a cottage on Lake Ontario, where they can re-establish links with childhood friends and cousins. Ann is another example of how 69ers are strong and resilient.

Jane Illingworth Pierce has retired after many years of teaching music and is now in Missoula, MT. She revels in her grandchildren and is working to help deserving women receive educational grants. (Can we hear more about that grant work?)

Also in D.C. is Kay Giddens Glanday, who lives a wonderful life indulging her interests in biographies, Colonial Dames, garden club, art exhibits, and art history. Husband Ian supplies an international interest, and his Yale and Oxford friends are a joy for both of them.

And yet another D.C.-ite is Marcy Bernbaum. She is proud mom of a doctor and a teacher and has 3 grandchildren, but the most impressive thing in her note was her work with the homeless in D.C. Currently, she is working on a three-year project to bring clean and safe public restrooms to downtown D.C. — for everyone, including the homeless. A bill to support this is working through the D.C. Council, and you can follow and support her work at www.pfcidec.org/what-we-do/pub- lic-restrooms.

If there is an award for most countries traveled to, it should go to Ginger Taylor Lopez, who has been to Turkey, South Africa, several South American countries, and is planning to go to Bulgaria, Romania, and Austria. Luckily, she and husband George are retired and have the time for all of this wonderful schlepping. When home, they golf and dote on a new granddaughter.

Annie Green Gilbert continues to amaze with her devotion to dance. All 7 of her grandchildren dance … including the boys. She founded the Creative Dance Center in 1981 and still teaches two classes a week plus an intensive summer institute. She has finished her fourth dance textbook. Her gastroenterologist husband, David, has finally retired and joined her dance class along with her daughter, who took the photos for her books. This is a story of a vision brought to reality. Way to go, Annie!

Claudette Harloe Dalton continues to wend her way to full retirement, shedding positions on medically related boards of directors. She frequently hits the road to Charlotte to check on her 94-year-old mother, who is very frail. When at home in Charlottestville, she contemplates downsizing, but procrastinates in hopes she will need all the bedrooms for SBC visitors. The joy of her life,
like that for many of you, is her family, who live nearby. She has loved working with Ginny, Ann Tremain Lee, and Jan Hugenin Asmus as the Four Sweet Briar Thorns. She does NOT golf or play mahjong.

Martha Brewer and her lovely partner, Anna Rybka, are thriving in Atlanta, where Claudette tries to visit every time she has a meeting in the vicinity. Martha is still practicing OB-Gyn part-time and Anna does that full-time. They have renovated a wonderful home and are both superb cooks and hosts.

Jan Sheets Jones and Jimmy Jones are also almost finished with their home renovations in Atlanta. They have a daughter in Atlanta and a son in Charlottesville and other family scattered all over that they visit on a rotating basis. Jimmy couldn't sit still for long so he is working with a local prep school and writing books. We owe them more than we can ever repay.

Barbara Hastings Carne has been back to Sweet Work Weeks, when alumnae help with sprucing up the campus and buildings. Barbara entered with our class but did a year elsewhere, returning to graduate with the Class of 1970. Barbara has clearly put her love of SBC into action. She mentions that Pam Sinex Subalbusky also participated. Way to go, ladies!

Darlene Pierro responded to our first call for opinions on SBC’s future. She was the founder and leading light of the McLean school in Northern Virginia. She shared her vision of SBC’s future with the current board, and she has had great experience in education on many levels and with girls with learning disabilities in particular. She too is in the D.C. area and doing consulting for schools.

Kim Johnson-Smith is also in Virginia and responded to our original call for opinions. Some of her original email is lost; so the only personal information we gleaned is that she has a sister-in-law in Nashville that 2017 brought a beautiful home and are both superb cooks and hosts.

1970

Mardane Rebentisch McMlore 719 Jones St. Suffolk, VA 23434 jlmmrmn39@gmail.com

Greetings to the Class of 70 — many of us who are near the age of 70+ (-tough). Can you believe! I’ve enjoyed hearing from many of you and pleased to pass along your news — keep it coming!

Katy Warren Towers writes that losing her precious husband, Charlie, almost 3 years ago has been hard. She lives in Jacksonville, FL, and stays busy with church work, 2 foundation boards, book club, garden circle, bible study, yard work, running, friends and mOR. The highlights of her life since Charlie’s death have been travels. Last year she visited a friend in Baltimore and Gettysburg, went several times to the NC Mountains (her favorite place in all the world!), went to 4 national parks in the Southeast with her brother in his camper (that was an adventure!), attended a Christian conference in Charleston, went "home" to Mobile, toured Spain and Portugal for 2 weeks (Santiago de Compostela was the most memorable) and followed in the footsteps of St. Francis in Italy for 10 days (she especially loved Assisi). Her visit to Mary Jo Murphy’s beautiful home in Carbondale, CO, was canceled because of cleanup efforts after Hurricane Irma. Fun trips are planned for this year plus several not-so-fun house projects to deal with! Jonna Creaser Clarkson says she and John are grateful for good health. Caring for older relatives and loving the impoverished people of rural El Salvador has taught her the importance of good health and relationships. She had great fun returning to SBC for Sweet Work Weeks and working with our ’70s team. She keeps up fairly regularly with Barb Carne Hastings and Deb Ohler Bowman and cherishes those relationships. She and her husband have operated a youth mission in native, rural communities since 2005. It provides clean water, a medical clinic, one truck for the only motorized transportation and school scholarships for children from poor families — the first generation to attend school. The gracious people live like people did hundreds of years ago, but relationships are what they value most. Suzy Yates Cahill and her husband Bob are in Richmond since their move from Boston 5 years ago. They are happy to be near their daughter and son-in-law and darling grandson, Teddi. She and Bob babysit 2 1/2 days a week which is wonderful, but exhausting! They volunteer at VCU Medical Center in a program called “Dogs on Call,” where they take their therapy dog — an English Toy Spaniel named Clifford — to visit patients. His only job is to make people smile!

Kristin Herzog reports she’s been in Naples, FL, for almost a whole year and is having fun in a new community but is still unpacking boxes. There are plenty of activities in Florida and she has a great group of neighbors. She’s yet to start painting but hopes to get her studio set up this spring. The weather has been heavenly, but her northern friends do not want to hear it (they’ll get to laugh in July). In Oc., she spent a fabulous month at the Virginia Center for Cultural Arts and got to meet President Woo and check out the campus. She says it’s looking good! May Humphreys Fox writes from her latest travel — 10 days in Israel, followed by 6 days in Jordan. Wonderful trip, amazing people and beautiful country. In Petra, she spent the night under the starts in a Bedouin camp. May is still working in government relations in Richmond, but retirement is in sight. In Maine this summer, Frances Gravely will host a gathering with May and other SBC classmates! Heather Tully Click is adjusting well to condo living in Alexandria, VA, and is near both her children. Her two grandsons turn 2-years-old this year and will each welcome a sibling this summer. She made a trip down to Sweet Briar for President Woo’s inauguration and enjoyed a visit there with her roommate Debbie Ohler Bowman. She reports the campus is much more vibrant than during her last visit, which occurred just after the announced closure. Heather has been doing some admission ambassador work for SBC. Her goal for this year is to connect with our DC/ Northern Virginia classmates and alumnae. Elisa Jones Forrester is greatly saddened (as we all are) by the loss of Katherine Cummings Catlin after a three month battle to recover from a ruptured brain aneurysm. Kathy was godmother to Elsa’s daughter and will be missed by many friends and family for her great enthusiasm and boundless energy. Luckily, Elisa had just spent the week before cruising off the coast of Mt. Desert in Maine with Kathy and Chip.

Ann Gately continues to ignore
accumulated aches and pains by cycling and traveling. This year she plans a UK trip followed by a European trip (Holland, CR Czech Republic and Italy) and also plans to visit friends during her year-long birthday celebration. She (ever faithful) plans to be at Sweet Weeks in late summer and hopes we can hold a mini reunion. There is an open invitation to visit her in Albuquerque! Betty McLemore White notes that because marriage and her lovely daughter came a little late in her life (age 40), the last 30 years have centered on home and raising her terrific daughter. Her daughter lives in the DC area and is a CPA with KPMG. Her daughter travels the world, and at 30 has made numerous trips to Europe, explored Turkey, Thailand, lived 4 months in India, spent a summer in Peru and explored Mayan ruins in several Central American countries. Betty lives in Williamsburg and Poquoson, VA, and enjoys the historic landscape and opportunities for exposure to new findings in the ‘old history.’ She belongs to a local book club and loves playing bridge. Betty keeps up pretty regularly with Mardane McLemore (that’s me - she’s my sister-in-law and we are only 45 minutes apart) and Ginny Kay Cox (Baldwin ’69) who lives in Poquoson. Betty says that although her mind is still young, her legs and feet don’t work too well and she’s sitting on some relief with new neuropathy treatments.

Jane Richley-Rafaland Marshall lives permanently in Morristown, NJ, but the cold and snow make the winters more and more challenging. She spends a lot of time in London, mostly at experimental theater and the ballet. During New Years in London, they saw the new Sadler Wells production of Cinderella, set during a London blitz. They look at apartments every visit and fantasize about moving to London permanently, but having so many grandchildren in the NYC area nixes that idea. They also spend a lot of time in Carlsbad, CA, and are involved with the Animal Care Center at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park in Escondido. Echoing sentiments from many she says, “It’s hard to believe that it’s getting close to 50 years since Sweet Briar days! Everyone will forever be 20 or 21 in my brain despite the reality of so much time gone by!” Mary Jo Petree Murphy has permanently moved to Carbondale, CO, which is near her daughter and 2 grandchildren in Glenwood Springs. She enjoys tennis, hiking and biking. For her 70th birthday in Jan., she spent the month visiting friends in Winston-Salem, NC, her son and granddaughter in Durham, another son and wife in Atlanta and best friend in FL. Johanna Yarol Wolski has retired. This March she will visit her sister in Hawaii. Her daughter just had her first baby and she’s been enjoying him so much. She and her husband have season tickets to the opera at the Met. In addition, she is involved in car race and watching Bald Eagles and other birds.

Kathy Pinner is still teaching stagecraft, entertainment technology and apparel production. She just finished West Side Story, is working on Spring Awakening and in pre-production for Big Fish, Newsies and Zorro. She and her husband, Lou Stalsworth, have a small production company — PinnWorth Productions. Besides the shows for the college, she produces two shows a year. She does the sets and costumes and Lou directs. Her daughter Jordan is getting married in May. She is looking forward to a quick long weekend in London in March and their annual week at the Shakespeare Festival in Stratford, Ontario, this summer. News from Mary Kelly, via her Christmas card to Kristin Herzog, says she broke her ankle but is almost back to normal having resumed advanced line dancing and keeps very busy. Mary Janet (Bean) Murray is in Little Rock, AR. She finally has grandchildren! Stella was born in 2015 and Hudson was born in 2017. Her daughter Cara waited until she was 39 to be a mom. In 2012, she went nuts and got a master’s degree in public history. Although the 20-something students were welcoming, they treated her as a living relic of ancient times. It was lots of fun and work. Bean retired in 2013 from being an active Episcopal deacon, but continues to work on social justice issues. In 2016, she and Jarrett Dudley Millard got a short, but good, visit in Lynchburg at their 50th high school reunion. Terry Eoff Walsh returned to Norman, OK, 10 years ago, to care for her mom. She’s now upgrading the 76-year-old home for herself. She misses Virginia, but she and all her children have gone west (WI, CO, CA). She continues to teach and it now tutoring math, which has fulfilled her goal of teaching until 70!" Her thanks to Miss Lee for her spirit and wisdom. Terry notes she is minutes from Oklahoma City and I-40 and welcomes a visit from anyone who finds herself in the middle of the U.S.

Sarah Embrey Bass lives in Fredericksburg, VA, and is married to James Martin Bass (W&L). They have two adult children, who live in Richmond and Roanoke and three grandchildren, ages 3, 6, and 8. She worked as the assistant director at the galleries at the University of Mary Washington (using her SBC art history minor), and now has a small catering business. Her husband, Marty, retired four years ago, after a career in law, and 18 years on the Circuit Court Bench in Virginia. They enjoy traveling now and are full-time grandparents. She was pleased to attend a lovely party for the “rejuvenated” Sweet Briar Day. Nia Eldridge Eaton will be retiring at the end of March to pursue a lot of the things that have been on the back-burner for all her working years. She’s getting a lot of suggestions from friends but will definitely be doing some work around animal rescue and looking at activities to fuel interests in history, the arts & gardening. The Philadelphia Flower Show is coming up in a few weeks and she is gathering a team of friends from PA, DC and MD. She looks forward to spending more time at her condo in Bethany Beach, DE, and is currently planning on attending Reunion and hopes to see a lot of people there! Her dog, Stormy, died very suddenly this summer and she has adopted Stormy’s 7-year-old daughter who is a joy — they rescued each other!

Wallis Wickham Raemer lives in La Quinta, CA, where she and her husband enjoy the sunny, dry winters and exploring the desert. In addition to entertaining, she plays tennis and does some education consulting in the LA schools, which has been inspiring and keeps her off the streets! She recently enjoyed a visit from Jessica Holzer. Wallis sends news and a photo of a great visit she had with Katie Harris in Pasadena. They attended a St. Catherine’s alumnae event in West Hollywood, where they were the elder stateswomen! They had fun catching up, touring Pasadena and viewing Katie’s amazing garden and view of the Rose Bowl. Katie Harris has been very busy preparing for her mother’s memorial service (who died at 103!), as well as planning her daughter’s wedding in April. Emmy Moravec Holt has lived in Greenville, SC, for 41 years and can’t believe the time has flown by. She and Bill are grateful to be healthy and busy with things they enjoy. She is teaching dyslexic students two days a week, traveling to as many places as time and money can afford and volunteering. She loves being “Mommy” to eight grandchildren (2 — 9) and living in San Francisco, Chapel Hill and Greenville. Her mother turns 100 this summer! Happy big birthday to everyone!

Betty Glass Smith has moved from Richmond to the Northern Neck of VA and loves the river vistas and waterfowl (they have seen as many as 4 bald eagles at once on their property). She very much appreciates the quieter, country life and retirement. Quite a few ongoing home projects keep her busy, but she can also take time to smell the roses and enjoy a little slower lifestyle. She regrets (as many of us do) not having taken ornithology from Mr. Edwards! She plays Mahjong regularly and attributes her skill to Miss Lee’s lessons in logic and math (that’s Miss Lee’s second tribute). Kate Schlech is still volunteering at the Library of Congress a couple days a week giving tours. She’s added one morning a week shelving books at her local branch library. She says, “Who knew I had the soul of a librarian?” The last couple of years she has taken nice trips to the Galapagos, the Amazon and a 5-week trip to Australia and New Zealand. In April, she’s leaving for 2 weeks in Costa Rica and is hoping for Egypt in Feb, 2019. She replaced her 15-year-old (but just barely 40,000 miles) boring old lady Camry with another one. She enjoys having her sister, who moved from San Diego, nearby. She hasn’t seen any classmates since Sweet Weeks last Aug. It was a blast as always and Kate hopes more of our Class of
70 might pitch up next summer. In 2017, Candace Buker Chang was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer five days before moving to her younger daughter’s first floor apartment. That was a good move as she gets to enjoy her grandchildren every day! A week after being diagnosed, a truck ran over and totaled her car. Her chemotherapy was followed by surgery and radiation. The chemotherapy will be over the end of May, and fortunately seems to be successful — no evidence of the cancer following surgery! Jo Shaw Lawson, who was her SBC roommate, has been super supportive throughout this ordeal — making several trips to Boston for support during chemo and surgery. As if the year 2017 wasn’t bad enough, Candice’s older daughter Jean and her family, who live in the Virgin Islands, took direct hits from Hurricanes Irma and Maria — no information on whether they were dead or alive for days. Since then their lives have been very difficult — no power for 80 days, their business destroyed, no way to communicate for months and still no internet service. She went to see them in January, and says it still looks pretty awful, destruction everywhere, and it’s a miracle their house survived. She and Jo Shaw and her other SBC roommate, Laura Sickman Baksa will go for a visit while she is house sitting for her daughter. The Virgin Islands need all the tourists to come back — our dollars are about their only source of income as they try to rebuild. Happily Candice retired in January 2018, so is enjoying her grandchildren (2 in Boston, 2 in St. John) and looks forward to more travels once chemo is completed and she feels more energetic. Better times ahead!

I, Mardane McLemore (yes, I married Betty Mac’s brother), retired in 2015. I have 3 children (all in VA for now) and 5 grandchildren. I love to travel and since retirement I have taken trips to several places in Asia and Europe. Unfortunately, I’m a girl who can’t say no and have gotten myself in way too many community activities — which I dearly love but keep me almost busier than when I worked!

I’m sure you’ve noticed the announcement of the death of Kathy Cummings, Linda Duke and Sal Shropshire. I know each of us have our special memories of these wonderful accomplished classmates. They will be sorely missed.

I have enjoyed hearing from you — again please keep the news coming!

1971

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The Class of 1971 officers hatched a plan to reach out to and reconnect with all classmates before the end of June 2018, a full three years before our 50th reunion. If you haven’t been contacted yet, know that you will be. A recruited core group of about 25 classmates are undertaking the task of contacting all 240 classmate — and progress is being made. The conversations have been invigorating and fun; memories are being evoked; laughs shared and some tears shed. Take a moment now to update your records at SBC on Banner and confirm that we have current information about you, especially mailing address, preferred phone and email. If you need help logging into Banner, start at http://sbc.edu/alumnae-development/banner-self-service/.

Frances Barnes hosted a mini reunion in October 2017 at her mountain home in Highlands, NC. Brooke Thomas Dold, Amanda Megargee Sutton, and Martha Roton Terry enjoyed several days together. The highlight was viewing and celebrating the total eclipse of the sun!

Andrea (Dre) Bateman is still active in her private law practice, covering family, immigration and criminal law. She is thinking about retiring in another year or two. For the past three years, she served as the focal point to reinvigorate the Central Florida area Sweet Briar Club, and just recently passed the torch along to Lee Watson Lombardy ’82. She is active in a writing group, a mystery book group, and a poetry coffee house. Poetry really speaks to her and she enjoys reading it aloud for others.

Beryl Bergquist is still actively practicing her immigration, citizenship and adoption law in Norcross GA For those that have wondered, she uses Farris, a married name, for immigration law purposes, but prefers for us to stick with Bergquist. She’s promised that she’s putting May 2021 and our 50th reunion on her advance planning calendar and she’s looking forward to catching up with friends made during her time at Sweet Briar College.

In November Cami Crocker Wodhouse and Chuck were still cleaning up from the recent Florida storms. Their area lost 10’ of sand and the dunes were destroyed. Cami’s four grandchildren live in Ponte Vedra with her son and daughter in law and her daughter lives in Richmond. Spring promises a lovely river boat cruise to Budapest and Vienna.

Betty Duson left the university two years ago but is continuing with private practice.

Betty reported that this has been a very challenging year as her home received a foot of water during Hurricane Harvey. They continue to live in a rented apartment while their condo is slowly being repaired. She and her husband have taken two wonderful cruises: one around the Baltic and one up the coast of Norway to the Arctic.

Carol Remington Foglesong retired in April 2017 from her post in the Orange County Comptroller’s Office after 27 years. She is thoroughly enjoying retirement but hasn’t mastered it yet. She’s having lots of adventures, including almost three weeks in Alaska, attending the sand castle masters competition, starting a beginner’s watercolor class, and day trips to various art museums around Florida.

Pat Fuller is enjoying semi-retirement which includes 20 flexible hours divided between a rewarding private practice and a community mental health clinic. Retired husband Lee and she kept their grandson (4) and his sister (2) for almost two months while their children cleaned up their sooty Southern California home to sell before moving East. Otherwise, Pat finds her free time very rewarding as she is involved in political activism, Habitat, library trusteeship, Zumba classes, food pantry work and time with their 93 year old parents and Cape Cod grandchildren.

Barbie Gracey Backer is enjoying life with family close by. Grandson Jack (2) will be joined by a sister (Gracey) in June. Barbie enjoys a flexible work life at their insurance business and serves on several boards and in her Episcopal church. She and Ron spend summers at their home in NC and are planning a trip to Germany in September. She is grateful for good health and good friends. In making calls for our 50th reunion, she realizes, as Roseanne Woodruff said, “the comfort of a shared past.”

Pamela Henery Arey is widowed, and recently retired from her job as pre-school teacher/director. She is active in her church and has taken up line dancing and chair yoga.

Carol Johnson Haigh wrote that it’s great fun to discover what our friends are doing! Her family has enjoyed travel to Canada, Alaska, Mexico, South Africa, Great Britain, Spain, France, Brazil, Ecuador, The Galapagos, Australia and New Zealand. When they are not traveling, Carol loves babysitting for her two grandsons and also enjoying a new addition to their ski home in Vermont.

Julian and Carolyn Jones Walthall are still enjoying retirement. Carolyn even takes time now to read and play Scrabble with herself. She is busy with things around Daphne, visiting David in Italy and Claiiborne in New York, and serving on the board for the little library in Newbern, which was an amazing rehab project by four Auburn University Architecture students. They turned a 1906 bank building into a community library and “hub.” It’s such a ‘feel good’ project (and now a reality!). We are sponsoring a big southern photography event in March to celebrate the photography of William Christenberry, including a photography workshop in the Newbern Library.

Claire Kinnett Tate reports that life is better than she deserves! John and she are both retired. Children both married and each have a child with another on the way! They are blessed with meaningful community work, precious babysitting opportunities, wonderful travel, and dear old friends. Claire’s father died in August so John and she are now the elders. As the oldest of six, she still has
extended family opportunities and responsibilities. Finally, she grieves for the anger, crudeness, and lack of wisdom in our national public life. “We need more Sweet Briar girls in public office!”

Dee Kyser retired from her holistic house call veterinary practice two years ago. Since then husband, George Crafts and she have done a lot of traveling. They visited their daughter and family in Buffalo where daughter Jenn Hebrank is a tenured professor of Psychology at Canisius College. Dee has two grandchildren, Sam (8) and Maise (5). They also traveled to Nova Scotia staying in Ingonish on Cape Breton Island where they hiked extensively in the Highlands National Park. Dee and George hike on a regular basis and enjoy Virginia’s lovely state parks. Dee’s biggest news is that she was recently hired as the music director at Grace Episcopal Church in Goochland, VA. The church is an old one, with a sanctuary built in 1876. She enjoys playing their wonderful organ. George is a professional storyteller and they work together performing folktales and songs for people of all ages. Dee finds folk songs or writes songs to go along with George’s stories. They have recently performed at the Winter Carnival at UVa Al- derman Library and at the Burnley Moran Elementary School in Char- lottesville. They live in Goochland County, VA, with a dog, two cats and three horses. Dee also owns a minia- ture horse that she boards with some friends. She competes with him as a driving horse in Combined Driving Events. Two years ago they took sec- ond place at the Elk Creek CDE in MD. Life is busy, full, and very happy.

Mary Lyman Ray is enjoying her retirement life; 30 years of teaching seventh grade life sciences is over. During 2017, she had multiple adventures: Panama Canal cruise in January; a 50th high school reunion in Port Jefferson on Long Island; and a Norwegian Cruise to Hawaii in December, vis- iting Oahu, the Big Island, Maui and Kauai. And in between all that, her son Kevin had a new daughter in March and is now the father of two adorable daughters. Mary has also spent lots of time with her daughter Meredith and her boys in Glen Ellyn, IL.

Gina Mancusi Wills reported blissfully joyful news that she and Ashley became grandparents twice in December! Daughter Olivia gave birth to Fletcher in LA and Zach’s wife gave birth to Preston eight days later in NYC. All are healthy and happy!

Lynee Manov Echols says she’s started riding again after a 7-year break and is resuscitating her business helping riders improve and perfect their seats. She’s working on a website and on electronical- ly publishing the book she wrote about her three months in Germa- ny perfecting her own seat at the Reitinstitut von Neindorff back in 2003. She’s a Graduate Instructor fully credentialed in the work of Eckart Meyners, whose methods are now being taught to all professional riders in Germany. Only 21 people in the USA are in that elite group! She is available for clinics and can be reached at LynneEchols50@gmail.com.

Maggie Mather Feldmeier is happy to report that life is good and full: healthy, busy, travel and grand- babies! Jake and she are still working for the manufacturing business Jake decided to start six years ago, after a mere two months of retirement! Maggie is in charge of admin: HR/ payroll/accts payable, etc. There is plenty of flexibility and she can work remotely. To keep sane, they travel. 2018 promises an Alaskan expedi- tion with National Geographic plus two weeks in Ireland. They are also looking forward to two trips with their girls and their families: skiing in Steamboat Springs and beaching in Florida. Kate and her family live in town so they see the grandparents all the time. Julie and her family will be moving east from CO in July. Matt will begin a Liver Transplant fellow- ship at Penn and baby Mather will be a car ride away!

Rene Roark Bowditch said she is “Living Life With an Exclamation Point (?)” just as her nonprofit helps their young women do! Rene is the Co-Founder and President of Here for the Girls based in Williamsburg, VA, an organization dedicated to improving the lives of young women affected by breast cancer. Rene is good friends with Rosemary Dunaway Tribe and hopes to come to our 50th Reunion.

On Feb. 1st, Marguerite Smith Willis announced her run for Gov- ernor in South Carolina!

Alix Sommer Smith, now a widow of two years, has moved into a new house with her one remaining cat, for a fresh start to the rest of her life. She’s active in 2 book clubs. Offi- cially retired, Alix has gotten herself into evaluating Governor Schools across Virginia on a part-time ba- sis. The Governor Schools are pub- lic high schools-within-a-school established for gifted high school students. Typically, several counties band together to offer specialized, often college-credit classes for these students. The students spend part of each day at the Governor School and the rest of the day at their regu- lar high school. Alix travels out with a team of 4 to 5 others to evaluate the Governor School and prepare reports on that evaluation. In the spring she also has been conducting the eighth grade student interviews for students in her area who want to attend the local Governor School. She said that the first interview is al- ways interesting and fun, but that, by the time the 100th interview comes along, repetition and déjà vu set in.

Elodie Taylor Thompson is wid- owed and retired from her job as Librarian/Media Specialist at Central Elementary School. She is now do- ing the grandmother thing: babysit- ting for her children’s children.

Bev Van Zandt continues to love living in San Miguel de Allende and can’t wait for our 50th Reunion. Clearly the highlight of 2017 was the birth of her first grandchild, Evange- line.

Kathy Wilson Lamb wrote that she and Rex continue to be happily settled in Lexington, VA. Kathy is heavily involved on the board of their local hospice and other clubs. They have three wonderful grandchildren (9,9,5). The greatest part of her life is seeing Joan Harden ‘73 often. She also talks occasionally with Wendy Brown, Lisa Stevens, and Melissa McDowell.

Denise (Nesi) Wisell O’Connor experienced the death of her hus- band, Jim, at the end of December. A memorial service celebrating Jim was held in February which classmates Alix Sommer Smith, Jacque Penny and Carol Foglesong were able to attend. Jacque added that Alix flew in from Richmond, and that “it was a sad day but a beautiful service.” Nesi is an avid walker and finishes her long walks before many of us even wake up. In recent years, Nesi has thoroughly enjoyed her trips and stays in Guernsey, an island in the English Channel.

Barb Wuehrmann reports that 2017 was a good year — she spent the summer at her condo in Colorado, attended her nephew’s wedding in Washington, DC, and also went to her 50th high school reunion at Chatham Township, NJ. She’s now headed back to Colorado to ski and will see Betty Rue Santandrea ’70 in Santa Fe on her way back to her home in Arizona. Barbara sends her greetings to everyone in the class of 1971.

On a sad note we were informed of the loss of several of our class- mates, Susan Ellen Crandall passed away on Dec 23, 2015. She grew up in Vermont and after leaving SBC, graduated from the U of Vermont with a degree in psychology. She worked with autistic children and in craft shops. She became proficient in investment management and was an avid reader. She will be missed. As will be Midge Montgomery, whose sister, also a SBCer, reported her passing on Dec. 25, 2017. And Carol Everest Keeney who passed away on Dec. 12, 2017 in Germantown, TN. After leaving SBC, Carol graduated from The University of Alabama. She was active at St. Paul’s Episco- pal Church and the PEO in Daphne, AL.

1972

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Prior to delving into our personal reflections, as a class we would like to express our extreme gratitude and pride in our own Sarah vonRo- senberg for her leadership role as co- chair of Sweet Briar’s Alumnae Alliance Council. Sarah and co- chair Debra Elkins ’93 plan to take a well-deserved rest after 2.5 years having devoted “countless hours . . .
spent working with a set of working groups that assist the College with everything from administration to fundraising” (SBC Alumnae Magazine Volume 86 No. 2). To further quote Board Member Alice Dixon '82, “The endless hours of (their) hard work are yielding great benefits to the College and her Alumnae every day!” Thank you, Sarah, for facilitating our ability to pull together and for helping to light the way toward a fruitful path for the present and future of Sweet Briar College.

Since retiring a year ago, Janet Nelson Gibson has been spending lots of time reconnecting with Sweet Briar and her classmates. The year included two trips to beautiful SBC, along with Carter Frackelton and Mary Sue Morrison Thomas. First was our 45th Reunion weekend, and again to President Meredith Woo’s Inauguration. Both events displayed the strong commitment alumnai and friends have to our efforts to reposition SBC in the marketplace. It was great seeing Georgene Vairo, Susan Snodgrass Wynne, DeDe Conley, Sarah von Rosenberg and Jeannette Pillsbury, along with many friends from other classes. We had a wonderful lunch at Carter’s new home in Fredericksburg with Jill Johnson, Mary Sue Thomas, Martha Holland and Ginnie B Payne Sasser. 2018 started off with the first Sweet Briar Day celebration held in Fredericksburg for many years. It has given Janet and Carter a chance to reconnect with old friends and meet some great new SBC alumnae who have quickly become friends. A stint at a regional college fair was heartening as there were so many young women and parents interested in Sweet Briar and her story. Janet will be helping the admissions team bring the opportunities at SBC to local high schools by introducing girls to SBC’s events weekends and summer event weeks. Besides volunteering for SBC, Janet is looking forward to a trip to Italy in the fall with her husband and son, a belated graduation present for her son Jonathan who finished at UVa’s Engineering School in 2016. Janet is hopeful to see many ‘72 classmates at a Sweet Work Weeks this year — a great way to reconnect with friends and help Sweet Briar at the same time!

Martha Holland and husband, Chris Irbe, escaped the cold of DC for Key West at the end of Feb. (temperatures in DC soared to the 60s and 70s.) When they returned to DC, they moved, downsized, to a townhouse in Alexandria, VA. They plan to spend many winter months in Key West in the future. When in DC, Martha tries to have lunch with Mary Heller and Jill Johnson.

Jeannette Pillsbury reports she really has nothing new to share. She is grateful for the time she has been able to spend at Sweet Briar in the last 9 months. Her visit in Jan. was particularly satisfying because she could see the college carrying out the mission our support intends! In Jan., she was contacted by the fund agent of another class looking to find out how we rally support from so many members of our class! In Feb., she spoke with that class’s fund agent, president, and secretary to share our secret: communication, collective and individual!

Marion Walker is continuing her law practice even as she opts to receive Social Security. She believes it is the best of both worlds — get paid to be retired, and not retire. She says, “It is good to be challenged, and remain active and involved. However, the retirement horizon is approaching.”

Marion defended an age discrimination case in a two-week trial in St. Petersburg, FL, where she had dinner with Lee Essrig one night. Marion loves her new home and finds having a dinner party wonderful fun. Now, if only she could cook as well as Gail Garner Resch!

Marion has two nephews who are practicing lawyers in Alabama. One of her brothers is a lawyer as well and one of her twin sisters lives in Birmingham. Another nephew is a Marine at Camp Lejeune, NC, and the youngest is working his way through college with a goal of going to law school. Yep, it is a fairly opinionated family! Marion had the family dinner at Christmas and all siblings but David, the Captain pilot, were there — great fun. She says the past two years, watching faculty, alumnae, students and families support Sweet Briar in her transition, has been so rewarding. Viva la SBC!

DeDe Conley has enjoyed a year full of Sweet Briar. She finished her two years on the AA Council as co-chair of strategic initiatives. Now she is gathering the news for the AA agenda and meeting minutes posted on the SBC website — interesting, amazing activities going on at SBC and highlights of alumnae successes! DeDe is also posting on Alumnifire and Twitter, promoting good news from SBC alumnae and job opportunities. DeDe is working to organize the international alumnae to help with recruiting. She spent the winter in Miami renewing her husband’s green card. She also helped with recruiting in Miami, met with coun-
selves in two target schools, called a list of prospective students, worked 2 days at the CPI College fair and horse show in Palm Beach with Riding Director Mimi and Coach Lizzie. She helped organize the Miami Sweet Briar Day, which was attended by one of our prospective students, now a Presidential Scholar recipient! Ellen Weintraub ’71, Kristin Garces ’06 (our host) and Lee Anne Chessko ’83 also attended. It was all productive and so much fun! DeDe traveled to New Mexico in Oct. for the Fall color and hiked beautiful Tent Rocks with alum Anne Cately ’70 and their husbands. DeDe sent these notes in from The Mojave Desert on a two-month trip enjoying the clear night skies, amazing sunsets and desert landscapes. She says she is relearning all her Cactus and desert plant names and loves the Ocotillo starting to bloom already.

1976

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Debbie Massey Thurman has a few red-letter events this year. Her husband, at long last, is about to set his retirement date, and they look to travel more, and spend additional quality time with their family. The second really cool event she is looking forward to is a first-ever reunion, after more than 40 years, with her historic (first to train alongside men) women’s platoon from USMC OCS! They are gathering again at Quantico, VA, in Oct.

Karina Schless is still working part-time at ten doctor’s offices, riding her 26-year-old quarter horse, Angus, and still vacationing at ranches out in Jackson Hole, WY, every summer. She met Ann South’s daughter, Mary Francis, (by chance!) who was a wrangler at Red Rock Ranch. She also has her 2-year-old tabby, Spencer, who is so much fun! Ann Kiley Crenshaw was excited to welcome their second granddaughter, Carlisle Sullivan Crenshaw, and worked on the inauguration committee for SBC’s President Woo. Sally Old Kitchin, Lisa Nelson Robertson, Susan Snodgrass Wynne and Ann were delighted to host an event for President Woo in Hampton Roads. She recently was at SBC for Alumnae Committee for the Board.

Melanie Coyne Cody hiked in New Zealand and sailed the BVI in 2017. In April ’17 her daughter, Sarah, is marrying Mark Gallas and they just bought a house in Kenworth about 5 minutes from Melanie! Her eldest, Caitlin, received a promotion: VP group strategy director at Digitas in Chicago. Her husband, Bob, has been busy as treasurer of the GLYC, and Melanie is the President Elect of the Woman’s Club of Evanston and still works at Y&R. Norris Judd Fergeson is an advisory board chair at nonPareil Institute, which teaches technology to young adults with autism. After only 2 years in Houston, the Institute has raised $80K to help Harvey victims in the program, and $50K for the buildout of our nine thousand-foot addition. She is doing more collections management and less appraisal work. Her girls are doing well — Katie at nonPareil, and Cecily in her last semester of grad school in studio art at Wash University.

Lynn Kahler Rogerson enjoys being the mother of a SBC freshman and reliving the stress of memorizing image identifications for art history exams! She loves married life, accompanies her scientist husband to Italy and Chile, and attends museum openings for her traveling art exhibitions. She hosted a bridal shower for Maureen O’Hearn Slowinski’s daughter and attended the wedding along with Asimina Coroneos. Lynn keeps in touch with comp-study-partner Norrie Fergeson Judd and Sally Mott Freeman.

Kari Andersen Shipley and her husband celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary with their children on safari in South Africa (where Kari went to college before transferring to SBC). While her husband retired, Kari has not, but continues to chair and fundraise for 4 charities, serve on boards, is secretary of her church and children’s center and helps her youngest son with his new environmental non-profit, Community Greening. She enjoys spending winters in Delray Beach and summers in Lake Toxaway, NC — hopefully painting!

Kelsey Canady Grice is so grateful that their family yacht brokerage had a terrific year. They work hard and play hard. They left on a 2-week Christmas vacation in the southern Caribbean — Barbados, Antigua and Grenada. It was a wonderful time, and they are so grateful that their adult children joined them.

Maureen O’Hearn Slowinski has happy news to share. Her daughter, Caitlin, recently married Jeremy Steed at the Salamander Resort in Middleburg. They were blessed to have Maureen’s 102-year-old mother with them to join in all the festivities, including a quick spin on the dance floor in her wheelchair. Classmates Lynn Kahler Rogerson and Asimina Coroneos were there to share the joy. She spent time with Liz Farmer Jarvis while she was visiting DC in Jan. She introduced her to her beautiful baby granddaughter, Sierra. Liz is a proud grandmother. Maureen urges everyone to read Sally Mott's image identifications for art history and reliving the stress of memorizing being the mother of a SBC freshman and reliving the stress of memorizing image identifications for art history exams! She loves married life, accompanies her scientist husband to Italy and Chile, and attends museum openings for her traveling art exhibitions. She hosted a bridal shower for Maureen O’Hearn Slowinski’s daughter and attended the wedding along with Asimina Coroneos. Lynn keeps in touch with comp-study-partner Norrie Fergeson Judd and Sally Mott Freeman.

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Freeman's book, "The Jersey Brothers." Sally discussed it at the SBC DC alumnae meeting and Maureen reports that the audience was spellbound.

Becky Burt remains "busy, busy, busy." Despite a knee replacement in November 2017, she was back at work in December with her company, B2 Estate Sales. She has had two sales so far in 2018 plus still has B2 Antiques in Ponchatoula, LA.

Debbie Mutch Olander experienced two major hurricanes two years in a row — Irma and Matthew — and was evacuated both times. Other than that, she reports that life continues basically as it did before.

Kay Ellisor Hopkins and her husband, Joe, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary this year. They met on a blind date (how fitting for a Sweet Briar girl), and the rest was history. Kay has been with Neiman Marcus Group for 29 years. Joe is a consultant in the oil and gas industry. Their oldest, Sarah, and youngest, John, live in Dallas. Their middle child, Beth, lives in the Houston area with her husband and their two daughters, Harper (4) and Taylor (2), and these granddaughters are such a joy! She enjoys seeing Cassy Humphrey, Tennessee Nielsen and Beth Bates Locke for girls’ night out throughout the year. They especially enjoyed seeing Sally Mott Freeman at a book event for "The Jersey Brothers," and catching up over a glass of wine afterwards. On a sad note, her beloved youngest brother lost his nine-year battle with pulmonary and cardiac sarcoma this past September.

Karen Adelson Strauss is a happy grandmother of two beautiful little ones, although they live too far away. All three of her children are managing their lives well, and living in places she loves to visit. Karen is splitting her time between CT and Park City, UT, and writes, "All visitors welcome!" Two of the greatest trips of her life occurred since our last update: Antarctica — fantastic sea and shore time — and NOLS, 2 weeks of backpacking in the Wind River Range of WY. Karen is always looking for partners on adventures, so anyone reading this who is interested in hiking New Zealand, the Alps or exploring National Parks out west should let her know.

Gina Spangler Polley’s husband, David, has started a new business, Everstep Flooring, which imports LVT from China and sells it to the hospitality market, so he has put her to work. Just when so many of us are retiring, she is starting again. She will be showing two horses this season, one under saddle and one in fine harness. Their son, Frank, is graduating this May from the Stern school with an MBA, and his wife, Marjya, is graduating from Wharton. They both will have jobs in Seattle. Before they move, Gina and David are taking them on a celebratory cruise of the Greek islands.

Andie Yellott is still working full-time for JHU/CTY and working full-time trying to keep her mother out of assisted living and in her lovely apartment with her two dogs. While running two households keeps her more than busy, she enjoys hearing news of classmates on Facebook as well as the Alumnae magazine.

In October 2017, Peggy Weimer Parrish, Mary Beth Hamlin Shannon, Teesie Costello Howell and Elliott Graham Schoening met for lunch at the Virginia Museum in Richmond, VA, and were joined by Martha Weimer O’Brien ’84 and Sarah Greer Martin ’84. Being Sweet Briar women, they naturally stayed so long, laughing and catching up, that they closed the restaurant. Teesie’s husband Chris is going to retire in April.

In June, Susan Verbridge Paulson will be retiring after many years as an elementary school principal. She and her already-retired husband plan to stay in Colorado Springs. Their children and grandchildren are nearby in Denver.

1978

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Well, here we are again! I am always amazed at who we are going to hear from each time, as it’s always changing! Just up the road from campus in Madison, Ellen Quinn Jones writes that she is still an elementary school counselor during the day, but also teaches Jazzercise to a wonderful group of ladies. She has also found time to get a certification to teach a Les Mills core-based class, CXWORX! (Can you come to Reunion to help us burn-off any fun we are going to have?) With husband of 35 years, Ellen travels all over the country each summer, visiting as many National Parks as possible, but having Shenandoah National Park in their back yard allows them to do a lot of hiking! With 6 grandchildren (2 —16) all nearby, she adds, "They are our pastime!"

Katie Renaud Baldwin had just come back from Michigan to visit family and to celebrate her dad’s 96th birthday! Having had a mild winter in OR, she commented on the fact that the spring flowers were already coming up! Major renovations have taken center stage recently. The first floor and exterior have been completed, which were “huge projects,” as they found problems as they went. They are now taking a breath and enjoying the beautiful downstairs. Next year it will be upstairs and they will keep working on curb appeal. So retirement has been busy, but she loves it. She writes, “It is so nice when I don’t finish something I can say ‘I will finish tomorrow!’” Great kids and adorable grandkids fill her time! Katie, we will miss you at Reunion!

Carey Johnson Fleming and David are thrilled to be new grandparents! She, along with many, are really looking forward to Reunion and she is bringing Gus (retired service dog Carey adopted) so he can reunite with all his new SBC ’78 friends he met last year at the mini-reunion in Topsail Beach. He misses everyone!

Betsy Moore Conti is also welcomed another grandchild, Daisy! "Perhaps a future SBC Vixen?" Son, John Riley, became the executive chef at The Wicked Weed in Asheville, NC, and is engaged to be married to Leigh Stitzer in western NC in Aug. Betsy writes, “Leigh is a professional-equestrian, training both horses AND humans!” Betsy and Gene spend a lot of time in Italy, exploring the beauty and culinary delights. A trip last Dec. to Sicily provided "stark beauty, lots of fresh fish, cuoio (mussels), great wines and amazing churches. I became addicted to the homemade almond milk — thick and rich like a milkshake! If anyone makes it over to Italy, let me know — I’ll meet you in Firenze!” What do you think, ’78? An international reunion? Bet our classmates overseas would enjoy that too! When last heard from, Betsy was on her way home from visiting her mother in FL, with a stop-over in Savannah to buy many French macarons!

Julie Pfutz Bodenstab also welcomed two new granddaughters last fall, which helped prompt her and Mark to take a leap and move to the Lakes Region in NH after retiring from 15 years at Longwood Gardens’ adult education program last Nov. They are now closer to all 3 grandchildren and love their new community and area where there are “lots of year-round activities, beautiful country, and friendly people! Hope to be at Reunion!”

A new member was welcomed at Lisa Wray Longino’s house — the four-legged kind! Buddy, a Cesky Terrier, “keeps us busy and up at night!” Lisa also keeps herself busy working very hard for the school in Alumnae Relations and Development. "It is such a privilege to introduce President Woo to alumnae across the country and see the extraordinary support for Sweet Briar!" Lisa is also looking forward to a great 40th and reconnecting with everyone!

Ann Thrash Jones is still “living and working in Atlanta. Bob (W&L ’78) and I are not retired and when asked we say ‘No, just tired!’” They were both looking forward to meeting their 5th grandchild in March to add to the already 4 grandchildren. “So far we have Marshall (5), Patrick (3) and Reese (2) (all children of daughter Mary Pat Jones Rodriguez ’07) in Dallas, and Maggie Jones (3) who will get a new little brother or sister in Atlanta soon! Did I mention we are just tired?!”

Ceci García-Tuñon Lear and Steven are both working from home right now, which is a real blessing during Maine winters. They have “enjoyed” a rather substantial, rather consistent snowfall this season and continue to love having family and friends visit! Ceci sent a picture of what initially looked like a packed snow tower. After asking what it was, a true Maine reply came as ‘that teeny little al-i-vah of ice fell off the roof, almost impaling my husband
Suzanne Stryker Ullrich, True Dow ’80 and Cannie Chrysler at Merion Cricket Club in Philadelphia for President Woo’s visit

Ceci Garcia-Tunon Lear and friend!

Claire Dennison Griffith ’80, Mimi Borst Quillman, Cathy Calello Staples ’79, Suzanne Stryker Ullrich, Cannie Chrysler Shafer, Louise Wright Erwin ’79

Liz Williams and Suzanne Stryker Ullrich on a fall visit to Middleburg

Armando and Jamie Anne Murray Ferreira

Ceci Garcia-Tunon Lear’s son Fred winning MMA Bantamweight championship title

Lynn Hatcher’s Gettysburg College graduation. Georgie, Alexandra, Lynn, Kim ’78 and George Hatcher

Emma and Jamie Anne Murray Ferreira
while he was on his tenth sweep that day in early Jan! I always love to hear news from my dear SBC pals! Fred continues to work several jobs while pursuing his passion as a mixed martial artist. He won the Bantam-weight Championship Title last August and turned professional. Sadly (for him!), all scheduled contenders since that amazing win have backed out from competitions. Most recently, during what was scheduled to be his professional debut, his opponent had backed out, and he was invited to provide ringside commentary — and he completely nailed it! So much easier on mama and papa’s nerves!”

There are lots of weddings coming up for classmates! Cathy Mellow Golterman’s daughter, Christen, will be married in June to a fellow they love from St. Louis, and they were going to live about 5 minutes away after returning from their honeymoon at the same place Cathy and Chris spent their honeymoon — The Coral Beach Club in Bermuda! Daughter Catherine loves teaching kindergarten and also stays busy dog-sitting and babysitting. Woody is enjoying his first year at law school in Tampa (“studying like crazy!”) while Cathy continues teaching pre-school. Between dog-sitting and babysitting on weekends herself, Cathy stays even busier with wedding plans!

Cannie Chrysler Shafer is also busy with wedding plans for daughter, Francie, who is to be married in April! Francie and fiancé, Matt, live in NYC and Cannie was finding the long-distance planning a bit of a challenge. Son Blake was to be travel home from his job at Fox Glacier in New Zealand through Hawaii, so Cannie and Win decided to meet him in Kauai for their spring break before the wedding! They thought it would be nice to “escort him home” while ticking off another bucket list item! Win will be retiring in June, but Cannie will keep on keep on going!

Paula Brown Kelley survived getting her son, JP, married to his sweetheart, Katie, at the Loyola University Chapel last Sept. Paula was able to get some tips on location for the rehearsal dinner from Baltimore buddy Mary Page Stewart — a big help! The new couple lives and works in Baltimore (More SBC get-togethers ahead when visiting the new couple, I’m sure!) Daughter Genny was a bridesmaid in her brother’s wedding after graduating from Randolph Macon College as a business major in 2017. She is now working in commercial real estate in Richmond. Genny has friends from both SBC and Randolph Macon there and “she always enjoys introducing us to a fun restaurant!” Paula is still keeping an eye on her mother who is in walking distance and was able to take her up to West Point last
May for what would have been her dad's 65th reunion. Paula enjoyed spending some time with Michelle Youree Hostler and Bobby, as well as General Youree who was in the same class as her father at the USMA!

Barbara Behrens Peck has rotated off two boards and will now do some part-time consulting, while trying to spend more time at their place up in VT. She, along with SBC friends Deb Davison Klein, Cannie Crysler Shafer, Lisa Wray Longino and Kathy Jackson Howe were going to all meet up at Mary Page Stewart's house in Vero Beach in March, as reported by Mary Page. MP was hoping to also touch base with Alison Egbert Brokaw (who I get to see in Wilmington occasionally) who was going to be in Vero around the same time, as well as Catherine "Slats" Prillaman who has a place there as well. Mary Page also reflected on "how in this age of retirement how busy we all are! I credit the fact that SBC women just can't say no and that we are DO-ers! She will be the new president of Friends of the Arts and is so enthused about the Living with Art initiative that President Woo started. 'I find myself a little panicked about taking that job on as I'm also trying to launch a start-up company (more later, just a teaser for now!)... Family is great — our twin grandbabies warm my heart 'teaser' for now!). Family is great — but, it's fun being footloose and fancy free! Jay has started a PR consulting firm, and I commute to Georgia, where the farmhouse restoration is almost finished! The 1840 Piedmont Plantation vernacular is beautiful! Elizabeth is a senior this year at Williams and will graduate on the same weekend as our 40th Reunion! I hesitate to miss our 40th but I feel so lucky that you guys organized our mini reunion last spring at Top Cottage. I had such a wonderful time, and got to rekindle beautiful friendships. Our son, John, is a first-year at St. Andrews and I can't say enough good things about it. We are still in NYC and have a cottage to escape to. This Jan., Ike Osinga Scully, mom Suzanne Stryker Ulrich and Rick came to NYC and we all met at the Met to see the Michelangelo exhibit. What a wonderful experience!!' I'll add that lunch while there was delicious as well! Jane is in training for a very special race — in Italy in July! Ike was in NYC with her mom while hubby Mark was busy finishing up a course involving the use of passive solar and geothermal design.

Melanie Bowen Steglich writes in that, "Life is busy, but so excited to come to our 40th Reunion. Can't wait! Many know that for over ten years, Lee and I have been American Family to many Taiwanese students at UT/Dallas getting their masters degrees. Now marriages have happened and our grandchildren are coming — we have 2 boys! We are experiencing the happiness that so many of you have. Just ready for a little girl to dress in pink and green! Still helping my dear friend from time to time in the apparel industry. Have had to fill in during a staff emergency in Lee's dental practice. I learned his patients love him and one gentleman shared, 'Did you know that Dr. Lee walks on water?' Oh my, that life is definitely fun!"

The travel bug struck again in the Heller household! Katherine Powell Heller reported just before taking off on a month-long trip to Australia and New Zealand! She later wrote that she was on a 16 day cruise from Auckland, around the east side of both North and South Island, to Stewart Island (on Valentine's Day) and then to Milford Sound, before heading west to Melbourne, Australia, ending in Sydney! Last Sep., John had a conference to attend in Scotland, so Katherine went along and they spent a few extra days touring around, with most of the time spent in Edinburgh.

Kim Hershey Hatcher and husband George celebrated their 40th anniversary in June. Son George and his wife are living in Denver, CO, where he works at the University of Denver. Daughter Lynn graduated from Gettysburg College in May 2017 and is now a communications assistant with Nahigian Strategies, located in the Willard Hotel in DC. "We visit Sweet Briar often and stay with George's aunt, Mary Brugh '57 in Clifford."

Jamie Anne Murray Ferreira says that she is wishing everyone well. It's been a turbulent year for her but she's now in good hands medically and is feeling much better. Her house is almost completely renovated and they spend a lot of time in the garden. Still riding, not as often, and Portugal is lovely. "Always enjoy hearing from alumnae and students, I adore SBC."

As for me, I finished a certificate in ornamental horticulture from Longwood Gardens. Thank goodness for the biology background! I continue to dabble in ceramics but will pull the watercolors out again soon. Rick and I continue to bop around, he is still consulting for DuPont, and we always try to catch up with SBC folks along the way. His travels take him all over the place — much global doesn't allow for me to go, but domestic travel means it's always a strong possibility! While in Middleburg, VA, with my mother and sister last fall, we were able to have a glass of wine with Liz Williams and husband. We drove to meet Carey Johnson Fleming and David when they stopped for the night nearby on their trip to see their new grandchild. In Jan., I drove to the Cape to meet with Lauren Place Young, Marianne Hutton Felch '79, Jean Beard Barden and Nancy White '79 for another snowbound, very cold weekend (the ocean water was solid, needing ice cutters from the Coast Guard to come in before the ferry could get Marianne and Bob back to Nantucket)! We all were treated royally and surely put on just a few pounds, although Jean reassured us that it was on the healthy side of things. Many laughs were had! I was also treated royally when Rick surprised me with a 4-night trip to NYC for my birthday. Catching up Jane and Ike was a bonus! The biggest news would have to be the arrival of oldest Alex's and Kellie's son, Leno, in Nov. He was almost a month early, but healthy. So, that's one of each for us! Andrew, wife Esther, and daughter, Laurel, also live nearby, but we never can get enough of them! Yes, the grandchildren are a joy! Youngest, Ned, is in AIL with Carpenter Technology, and wishes he was just a bit closer to see his nephew and niece, but is grateful for holidays and vacations!

By now Reunion is either upon us or has just happened! The stories that will be shared, the memories that will be made will then be in the annals of history! Sorry to hear of conflicts for many...Nancyellen, Jane..."
and Katie, who wrote in…but so looking forward to catching up with those who can make it! Safe travels, always, to all!

1979

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Susan Lineberry: I just entered my 5th year as Special Events Director at the Fort Monroe National Monument. It is a very special place with lots of history. Neal and I find time to spend with our 5 grandchildren scattered between Virginia and Colorado. Still get together with Cindi Little Townsend for great visits. I hope to get back to SBC soon.

Connor Kelly: We are enjoying living on a Tropical Island Guam and when I am on the island I continue to love my scuba diving adventures. We did 2 dive trips one to Rota and to love my scuba diving adventures. when I am on the island I continue my 5th year as Special Events Director at the Fort Monroe National Monument. It is a very special place with lots of history. Neal and I find time to spend with our 5 grandchildren scattered between Virginia and Colorado. Still get together with Cindi Little Townsend for great visits. I hope to get back to SBC soon.

Beth Tetrault: I’ll be seeing Amy Smith and Brandy Wood for a girl’s weekend in WVA in April. Can’t wait for Sweet Work Weeks. Can we coordinate a class of 79 week? It could be part of our class gift for reunion.

Lauren Huyett: I just joined the 60s club yesterday! I felt very blessed with a surprise party given by my dear husband Bill and the 5 kids. News from here is that we will become grandparents (Phil and Megan) in September. Can’t wait! Lauren Huyett Interiors still going strong-projects in CT, NH, Cape, Boston and towns around Concord. A very fun and rewarding career! Our two girls are in NYC-Kate at Bombas and Transfere, Susan in set design on show “Billions.” Two boys are here in Boston-Peter at 451 Research and Chip at Wayfair. Phil and Megan hoping to move back to Boston in June 2019 after a Fellowship year in CA at USC and residency in Pittsburgh at UPMC for 6 years. He is an ENT surgeon with a sleep apnea specialty. Bill has just taken the COO position at Ironwood Pharmaceuticals in Cambridge. All busy but good!!

Piper Allan Sevens: I am in my 8th year teaching first grade at a local charter K-12 school and loving it! My daughter is in that all important junior year of HS, and so we are touring colleges and prepping for the ACT right now! Very exciting time.

Nancy White: in January the 7 year mark owning The Flower Bar with the launch of their new website www.the-flower-bar.com. Turning 60 was no big deal–waiting for 65 when I can celebrate the security of Medicare, John and I will also celebrate our 10th wedding anniversary in May and hope to travel to Italy after Mother’s Day.

Robbie McBride Bingham: Sold my condo. Moving back to apartment life for the short term. Have been working as a sub at a school district I really like and hope to find permanent work. Will is moving on and in with a friend closer to his work and Sam is going to graduate internship with the Air Force. So proud of both my sons and am glad to be moving on.

Side note: We are trying to get a 1979 class group together for Sweet Work Weeks which will start the last full week of July and go for three weeks. Am trying to see whose interest is please email at sweetbriar1979@gmail.com to coordinate.

1980

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Jana Joustra Davis is enjoying life, having retired as SVP of Corporate Affairs/Marketing at HCA Healthcare after 20 years. Her husband, Ansel, after 35 years in music representing artists including Neil Diamond, Keith Urban and Hunter Hayes, founded the Nashville Office of Edge Capital Partners. They are raising daughters Skylar (7) and Elsa Blake (3). Jana is writing a book and consulting for clients including HCA. She enjoyed seeing Sally-Ann Polson ’78 recently in Nashville.

Amy Campbell Lamphere writes that as the snow falls in Minneapolis. Minneapolis is fun for things like the Super Bowl and Prince tributes! Amy is celebrating 6 decades with a trip to the beach in March with her kids and Jim. She is also taking French lessons in preparation for a trip to Paris in the fall. Amy is still teaching Nia Dance and

L-R: Myth Monnich Bayoud and Janel Hughes Wiles in February 2018

L-R: Myth Monnich Bayoud and Janel Hughes Wiles in February 2018
Schneider Thornton are MIA on what looks like a super fun beach trip. Zoliicoffer Malone, True Dow-Datillo, Catherine Flaherty and Lisa Ginny Faris Hoffman, Jeannine Harris, Barbara Wesley Bagbey, Fannie Zollicofer Malone, True Dow-Datillo, Catherine Flaherty and Lisa Grace on a super fun beach trip.

Class of '80 in VA Beach: Ginny Ferris, Barbara Bagbey, Georgia Schley-Ritchie, Fannie Mallonee, True Dow, Catherine Flaherty, Fannie Mallonee, True Dow, Catherine Flaherty.

Phyllis Watt Jordan is enjoying her job at Georgetown University, where she does editorial work for two think tanks — one concentrated on education and the other on children’s health coverage (lots of CHIP and Medicaid). Her husband still does maritime security law, and she tagged along with him on a business trip to Vienna and Budapest. Her daughter is a junior at Emerson College in Boston, where she studies film and screenwriting. Her son is on a gap year adventure in Nepal. He’ll be going to the University of Vermont in the fall. Phyllis keeps busy with volunteer work for Sweet Briar and for a DC nonprofit that houses the homeless. In Dec., she saw Emily Quinn McDermott, who was visiting her daughter in DC.

Carson Freemon Meinen and her family just returned from a trip to Thailand and Cambodia. They were celebrating their son’s graduation from TX A&M’s MBA program. Carson semi-retired in 2017, so it was nice to be able to take three weeks and travel to southeast Asia without stressing over all the work that wasn’t getting done while she was gone. They look forward to an Alaskan cruise in Aug. and hope to see Susie Nevin Taylor ’83 in Seattle.

Susan Mengden writes that she is retired as the executive director of the Eating Recovery Center in San Antonio. Susan is on the board of the San Antonio Life Academy — Day Program for special need adults. Her daughter, Catherine, attends the program. She is now in private practice and able to spend more time with her children. She also has two sons in college (Ole Miss and University of TX). Susan’s youngest son is in high school. She and Claire Cartwright Vaughan talk often and would love to help recruit for SBC.

Ann Conolly Simpson reports that she had a quick trip to Mexico in Dec. and came back to Boston to the first real snow of the winter. She is playing lots of tennis and working at the Dragon’s Nest. Her daughter, Hannah (29), is still teaching sixth grade social studies in South Boston. Ann is on board for a class ski trip if we can organize it!

Susan Boline Thompson is teaching and so is her daughter Rebecca. Her son, John, is in medical school and her other son, Stephen, is working toward a Ph.D. in pharmacuetics.

As for your class secretary, Myth Monnich Bayoud, I see Carolyn Birbick Thomason and Tish Longest Tyler about two times a year. Leslie Ludwig Bires stayed in my townhome when she was on a college tour with her eldest son. I was skiing in Vail with Janel Hughes Wiles and her husband, John, in Feb. 2018. I see Mary Callahan Arnold when I wander up to DC. My son Charlie, or as he has re-branded himself, Chuck Ryan (for radio purposes) is at the University of Missouri — Columbia/Mizzou majoring in broadcast journalism. He has a weekly sports show on KCOU.FM and is writing a golf column about Mizzou men’s and women’s golf teams. Call or write to keep us up to date on your news!!

1981
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Debra Kertzman continues to live in Frankfurt where she is the European Representative for the Asian Development Bank. Her youngest son Calvin is Darrow (class of 2020) and her older son William is enjoying a gap year with programs in Italy (art history), Peru (environment) and San Francisco (tech) before going to college in the fall. Her daughter Caitlin lives in Florida. Debra’s base in the USA is in NYC and she stays in regular contact with Kearsley Rand Waggoner and Sarah Marin.

Sigrid Carlen Veasey is a Professor of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and lives in the city with Doug. All 3 boys are in college. Recent trip to Costa Rica, all 5 up on boards surfing Christmas Day!
Sophia Crysler Hart says that she is recovering slowly from rotator cuff and labrum surgery in January, which is definitely not for the faint of heart. Had bilateral hip replacement in 2016 — guess I should be bionic pretty soon. My sister Cannie ’78 came for a visit over Presidents Day weekend so we could work on party favors for her daughter Francie’s upcoming wedding in April. Still work as a fundraiser for Colonial Williamsburg and teach Chinese and Japanese politics as an adjunct professor in the Government department at William & Mary.

Kearsley Rand Waggoner writes that she is still loving Old Town, Alexandria, Virginia. I see Claire McDonnell Purnell for shopping trips and concerts in Annapolis. Mary Ryan Eckert surprised me with a visit a few weeks ago as she was down to see her daughter, Emma, at law school in DC and Brendy Reiter Hantzes and I connect at the many SBC VA/DC events. My boys are doing great, winning trips at work to Italy and Las Vegas (but sadly not taking me as their plus ones). I am still working for a property development firm an hour from home, so I do a lot of audible books, which is good as I am in two book clubs. Other than that I play Bunco, am State President of the Daughters of the British Empire and President of the Washington Area Manx Society, and active in my church. My husband complains that our weekends are too full (is that a thing?). Anyone in the area please contact me, Old Town is a great place to visit, and we love company!

Lori Faust Williams says “Hi all! I miss seeing my SBC class & wish more of you would go to the reunions, even if it’s not our year. Still would be fun!” Lori is having her hip replaced in March. She adopted 7 mustangs from Colorado in January. Lori writes “it is a new adventure for me, as mustangs are truly unlike domestic horses, so I am learning how to train horses, all over again.”

DJ Stanhope has moved to southern California where she is thrilled to have her hands on the wheel of a great USO operation again! She says “It’s been an exciting time, from accompanying 300 troops to the red carpet premiere of Pitch Perfect 3 in Hollywood to standing up a new outreach operation to March ARB, where we anticipate greeting and fare welling more than 20,000 additional troops on overseas missions. Stop by when you can, Vixen!”

Elaine Arozarena continues to live between NYC and Madrid and spends three months in Acapulco, Mexico from where she takes lots of her trips. Her husband Carlos Montero de Alba is semi-retired.

Diana Landau McCulloch’s daughter, Pepper, graduated from The Tatnall School in Wilmington, DE and is now a freshman, riding for Randolph-Macon in Ashville, VA. Diana says “Sadly, I could not persuade her to continue the SBC tradition, but at least she is in Virginia! I am moving from my Chadds Ford property and am looking at what is next for me. I am retired from fox hunting and am riding cutting horses, still an active tennis player and am looking for ways to give back to my community.”

Allison Roberts Greene had a hip replacement in April, 2017 and again in November. Allison says “So, now I have two new hips the same vintage! I am happy to put the 2017 behind me. This upcoming year is exciting. I have both my daughters graduating and my niece. My youngest daughter and niece head off to college. They are still undecided. My oldest daughter graduates in July from University of Arts London. She will be looking for a job in Chicago.”

Quinne Fokes is living in San Anselmo, CA, and working on user experience design research projects, one of which is product concept testing - with a couple of senior qualitative researchers. Continuing to paint grand prix show jumpers, and would love to see any of you who happen to be in the SF Bay area for a visit.

Stephanie Stitt Fitzpatrick’s daughter Alex graduated from UM last spring is working/living nearby in Baltimore; Robbie out in Madison at UW, and Dirk, (our aging boxer Charlotte) and I are adjusting to the
new feline addition to the family. Stephanie sees Lee Frank Hazard regularly since she has taken a job in Arlington, VA, managing the restoration of their public art collection. Stephanie “also caught up with Liz Seacord in NYC last month! So good to see these ladies, as always…”

Tiffin Fox and her husband, Trent, celebrated their 36th anniversary with a trip to India in January. Tiffin writes “My husband and I enjoy spending time traveling and visiting our children and grandchildren. I appreciate the opportunity to be active with our German church and many volunteer organizations.”

Sam Masters Durham writes “Buck and I brought in the 2018 with the best news ever. Or second grandson, Durham Husted McGowan, was born on Jan. 2nd. We will also be celebrating a 3rd wedding now with our youngest, Rob, getting married in October 2018 to a lovely young lady. Rather than traveling to the wedding from Corpus Christi we will be traveling from Milwaukee. I’m looking forward to living in a place with an active alumna group! Buck started up there at the beginning of the year and I am finishing up work and selling the house to follow soon I hope. I professionally got good news this week being recognized by The Corpus Christi Chapter of the American Advertising Federation by receiving the ADDY award as Corpus Christi’s top Venue Coordinator. It’s been an exciting year with the opening of our new Caribbean Journey wing of the TX State Aquarium and in 2017 I coordinated over 200 events so the award sure felt nice!”

Brendy Reiter Hantzes writes “Big news is I recovered 100% from the blood clot I had. My family is all good, actually very good and that makes me happy. I’m busy with work and of course am spending time volunteering with the Alumnae Club and other SBC activities. Thank you Claire for your excellent work as Secretary. If you would like to volunteer for class or SBC activities, please let me know – our reunion is fast approaching!”

Stirling Cassidy Smith lives in NYC and runs her stationery business Stirling’s Specialties. She saw Mary Pope Hutson at an SBC event in NYC and runs her stationery business. Stirling writes “I love to spend time in my hometown of Jacksonville FL where I just saw Julie Brooke Davis, Carston Schappe Hobby ’95, Helen Murchison Lane ’46 and Jojo Scott. Our daughter Palmer is applying to law schools and our son Alec is a realtor in Beaufort SC. It is about 2 hours from our beach house in DeBordieu SC (Pawleys Island), where we love to spend time. Saw cute Lou Shore Winship last.”

Chris O’Leary Hawk added RN to her name when she became a registered nurse in Jan 2018 and will begin a full time job in the Oncology Department at Charlotte’s Novant Health Presbyterian Medical Center in March. Her goal is to move to hospice/palliative care. Chris says that she “got through nursing school by wearing my SBC ring for every exam. Now that it is over I hope to be more active in alumnae events.”

Claire McDonnell Purnell: We are still living and working in Annapolis, MD John has gotten back into theater and will be in a musical this summer. Our daughter Mary (24) lives in Telluride, CO, and she just got engaged to her longtime boyfriend Paul Liz (21) is in London for the spring semester. We are going to visit over Easter. One thing on our list is Highclere Castle aka Downton Abbey if you are a fan. When SBC determines the Sweet Work Weeks schedule, it would be fun to see if we can get some classmates to go back to the patch. It was fun being back in the dorm.

1982

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Jennifer Rae: Gratitude and grace are the two words that come to my mind, sharing thoughts of the past year. Sweet Briar College has always been with grace and intelligence — and continues. Continues of course with so many, many special people with all their fortitude and focus. Thank you so from my heart! Sisters: The Wellness Spot in Richmond, VA is doing well after her first season. Dear husband Luigi was buried and honored at Arlington National Cemetery by the Air Force on Dec. 6. Wonderful friend took photos and videos. Luigi was a professional photographer. Felt like he orchestrated is own funeral. Have secured apartment in Chevy Chase, Md. Great to have my own place again. As of March 31, my address is 4740 Bradley Blvd, #104, Chevy Chase, MD 20815. Sole phone (cell) number is 202-763-3836. I am grateful for being an Uber driver, for it has enabled me to get cash flow again and market Sweet Briar and build my business back up after being out of work for many years. Yesterday. I picked up a gal whose sister is applying for fall 2018 admission. I have the car’s back seat pockets filled with SBC handouts that I picked up at Potomack Company Auctions and Appraisals’ event recently in Old Town Alexandria. A father I picked up wants his daughter to attend a liberal arts college to “teach her how to think.” He noticed the handouts and started to converse with me. Many stories — these are just a few.

Gracie Tredwell Schild: I took the plunge in January from working for a non-profit to working for myself! It was planned as a 5-year process and ended up being 15 months, because of a toxic boss. I’m offering data management, bookkeeping, and editorial services. No clients yet, though a couple of prospects. I’m acing my accounting course at the community college — last time I studied accounting was at SBC in ’81/82. Onward and upwards!

Polk Green: 2017 was a very challenging year for me. Lost the animal love of my life in August after 14 wonderful years and then we lost our mom a month later to the day. She fought her leukemia for 8 years, and I don’t think I’ve ever seen anyone so determined and brave. She will be missed by everyone. Still in Dallas, but accepted an engineering position with the nuclear weapons complex in Amarillo, TX. After 4 years in Dallas with no credible job prospects, I decided to go back to the weapons complex. Melissa and I will commute again, but it’s worth it. Good job, good retirement and a chance to be with my dad for a while.

Monika Kaiser: Our trip to India was magical. We were in Mumbai and Chennai, and I really would love to visit again. I also traveled to New York, where I met up with Claude Becker Wasserstein. In January, Richard and I celebrated our 30th anniversary. Julius (22) is spending six months in Guatemala, observing doctors and helping out in hospitals. Hopefully, we are able to visit him in March. Alexa (27) took a break from stage performing and living out of a suitcase and is now working for a start-up, finally earning enough for a living. It is strange not to have at least one child in the house. Something to get used to.

Lizeth Kauffman: Keith and I are getting the Kentucky farm in shape (new horse fencing, automatic waterers in paddocks, seeding pastures, etc). Going to breed several mares this spring, so hoping for some beautiful foals in 2019!

Liz Hoskinson: I have been busy enjoying the winter here in NY, and have found the January blast of cold really quite wonderful. Spring means continuing my committee work with the U.S. Eventing Association, which included travelling to Long Beach, CA, for its convention, and ramping up to serve again as chief dressage steward at Millbrook Horse Trials. The winter also found me in the barns looking after my own two horses and pursuing my own training: picking through the catalogs in anticipation of re-seeding my heirloom garden with new herbs, while also taking steps to enter the certificate program at the NY Botanical Garden, which is just a train stop away; participating in my book club — finishing the books in time has been, hmmm, tilting at windmills, but it’s worth trying; cooking; knitting; working in retail; and, like so many of us here, keeping a close eye on a gem in my life, my mother, as she (mostly) uncomplainingly makes her way through her days.

1984

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The past few years have been full and eventful for our class, and I have enjoyed hearing from so many of...
you. I received emails, electronic notices from the SBC website and snail mail postcards from you all. If I inadvertently omitted someone, I humbly apologize! Send me an email, and I’ll add your news to the next magazine in autumn.

Anne Hutchison Pede is feeling truly blessed as she reports that her husband was promoted to Lieutenant General for the Army, they sold their house and moved to the beautiful Fort Myer Post in Arlington, VA, she retired from teaching so she can travel with Chuck and her son graduated from college. Sharon Ingham Brown is still in FL, splitting time between Tampa and Miami with her job as vice president of Assurant. Sharon’s son, Davis, seems fully recovered from brain surgery two years ago, and her daughter Caroline, a student at Georgia Tech, enjoyed lunch with Louise Jones Geddes recently, and thanks Helen Pruitt Butler for recommending her for ADPi sorority! Sharon loved reconnecting with SBC friends this past year — an amazing group of women! Vida Henry Fonseca writes, ‘About every 18 years, I get rear-ended by a drunk while doing favors for hung-over friends on long weekends. I have studiously avoided doing favors or even going out of the house on holiday weekends for years, so this time I got hit on the cusp of the Saturday Women’s March and the Sunday Women’s March. Car to-taled; body bartered. Maybe I should take up drinking?’ Gosh Vida, we hope the year improves!

Caroline Reece Aquino lives in The Plains, VA, with her husband of 30 years, Agustin. Her son, Jamie, attends Old Dominion University and is doing well. Caroline teaches and trains foxhunters, hunts with Orange County Hounds and helps the MOC Beagles, which is a mounted children’s pack.

Karen Williams Wickre hosted the Washington, DC, area alumnae back-to-school event in fall 2017

Sharon Ingham Brown with her Sweet Briar roommates: Louise Jones Geddes, Penney Parker Hardline and Cynthia “Skip” Pierce Kohlensberger

Skip Pierce Kohlensberger and Debbie Jones

Chris Svoboda, Ginger Reynolds Davis, Helen Pruitt Butler, Louise Jones Geddes, Sharon Ingham Brown, Sue Walters, Liz Sprague Brandt, Penney Parker Hartline, Elizabeth Harley Willet, Cathy Toomey Gregorie, Debbie Jones

The RioQuijos EcoLodge, second home for Juliet Jacobsen Kastorff
at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. When visiting her son, Parker, at Hampden-Sydney College, Penney enjoys seeing Mary Earle McElroy and Lee Sparks’ 83 whose sons are also at H-SC. Through her visits to VA, Penney has also reconnected with Mary Baker Brockman, who is in Lynchburg. Elizabeth Harley Willett writes that she has enjoyed recent SBC events, particularly the 2018 SBC Day event at the Swan Coach House in Atlanta and also a recent mini-reunion of several 1984 classmates in Charleston. Colleen Kuebel Lewis is still transacting commercial real estate in New Orleans. Her two sons, Alex (17) and Colin (29) are well, and Colin recently began his own real estate career. Colleen recently celebrated three years with an “amazing fella,” and with their union Colleen gained two beautiful daughters, their husbands and even has grandchildren added to the mix! She is incredibly grateful for this new family and for the SBC friendships that transcend time.

Karla Kennedy Hicks writes, ‘Autism is really tough when your twins hit 21. I will not gloss over this. So many resources go away on that birthday. My husband is a saint and rock!’ Karla also reports that her career is going great and that she loves Vanguard and will sit for the CFP exam soon. Her daughter is working in Korea. Karla misses her but loves her sense of adventure.

Susan Dickinson Lindner has been working as an oncology nurse for the last eight years and loves it. She had the opportunity to get together with Holly Pflug Allport several time in 2017 and loved re-connecting with her. Susan also took a trip to Zimbabwe last year with both brothers and a sister-in-law. She spent two weeks traveling and went on an incredible five-day safari. Susan is looking forward to seeing everyone at Reunion next year! Juliet Jacobsen Kastorff writes, “I sit in my lodge, the Rio Quijos EcoLodge in Ecuador, thinking about what a monumental year this will be with the 25th anniversary of my company, Endless River Adventures. 25 years includes a lot of really special memories working with Sweet Brier students and alumni, sharing days on the river whitewater kayaking and rafting. I have so much to give thanks for, including how my time at Sweet Briar helped me in so many ways.’ Congrats to Juliet and I think we should attempt a road trip to visit her lodge!

Michelle Venema changed jobs. After 30 years rising through the ranks of the banking industry, from teller to executive vice president of business banking of a community bank, she switched career paths to the nonprofit world! She followed her passion of community volunteering and is now the CEO of Home of the Sparrow, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the prevention of homelessness for women and children in Chester County, PA. She has been in the role for over a year and continues to be inspired, challenged and energized every day by the success stories of the women and children who are safely housed. After SBC, Michelle returned to her hometown and thinks it’s the perfect place to live. She enjoys the Philadelphia suburbs and is very happy that the Eagles won the Super Bowl!

Suzanne Stovall Clarke visited SBC last summer with her parents, and they walked up to Monument Hill to see the beautiful “We Keep The Faith” plaque. Suzanne lives in Fort Meyer, VA, on the same street as Anne Hutchison Pede, with whom she has enjoyed reconnecting by riding their new Peloton bikes and attending local SBC events. Suzanne’s daughter Madeleine (20) is a sophomore at Tufts University majoring in community health with minors in food systems/ nutrition and Arabic language. She ran the 2017 NYC marathon and is a varsity rower and RA at school. She plans to study abroad in Morocco where she spent a gap year after high school. Son Will (16) is a junior at Washington-Lee High School and also a competitive rower. He will actively pursue collegiate recruitment for rowing this summer. Suzanne is looking forward to Sweet Work Weeks on campus in the fall.

Liz Sprague Brantd reports that all is well in Kansas City. Liz runs a high-end designer consignment business out of her home and enjoys being a first time business owner. She has also enjoyed visiting with SBC friends recently, especially her SBC roommate, Elizabeth Harley Willett. Liz writes that after all these years, they are still thick as thieves! Liz’s daughter, Betsy, is in NYC but headed to business school in the fall. Laura DeHaven has been studying Reiki since November 2017 and will complete her Reiki Third Degree Mastership Class in March 2018. She will continue studying other healing modalities and other things of interest. Debbie Jones still loves her small farm outside Richmond and still enjoys playing a small part of her sister’s Square One Organic Vodka business. (Note to readers: If you haven’t tried Square One vodka, you are in for a treat! And, think of the SBC connection!) Debbie’s day job is director of mortgage capital markets at Citizens Bank. She recently had a great time catching up with many classmates and a couple gals from ’83 in Charleston. For the last ten years, Diana Cran dall Nielson has been living in her husband, Clark’s, state of Utah. She, her husband and three kids love the lifestyle — mountains, skiing, hiking — but she misses the South and the East Coast. She has been busy volunteering and her husband is enjoying his first year of retirement. They are almost empty nesters as their youngest, daughter Leigh, will go to University of Utah in the fall. Diana’s son, James, will graduate soon and older daughter, Claire, is a working woman. Janet Lewis Shepherd writes from Ponte Vedra, FL, where her daughter Anna is a junior in high school. Son William is a freshman at Florida State, daughter Gracie is a junior at Vanderbilt and her oldest, Robert, graduated from Georgetown, completed a fellowship at Princeton and is now working as a consultant in Santiago, Chile. Janet is manager and assistant buyer at LalMae Boutique, and she and Anna recently completed a breast cancer half-marathon. Two cats and two dogs help round out her full house!

Gretchen Hustings is in Santa Monica, CA, and she lives close to her brother and her awesome, surf-loving nephews. She has been studying Spanish for many years and will attend a wedding in Mexico in May and she is planning a trip to Madrid. Gretchen writes of the wonderful memories of her years at Sweet Briar. Tracy Graves Spalding is in CO and will celebrate 30 years of marriage to Randy in July. Tracy is the lead chef instructor at Nutrition Therapy Institute in Denver and she loves training natural food chefs. Her children are almost launched. Emma (24) is back in CO getting her masters at Denver University. Preston (22) is finishing up at Wyoming this year. She enjoys having them close, but she also enjoys being an empty nester. Shannon Young Ray writes that her youngest
children — triplets! — graduated from University of TX, TCU, and Wake Forest in May, with jobs. Her husband, Breck, promptly retired in Oct. and they hope to travel later this year. Her middle son, Peter, lives and works in insurance in Dallas, and her oldest, Breck Jr., is in private wealth management in Fort Worth. He and his wife, Meredith, have a 16-month-old boy, Breck III, with a baby girl, Madison, arriving later this spring. Shannon still does volunteer work, manages family interests and babysits. Virginia Lynch Kiseljack and her husband Charles are in Marietta, GA, and will soon officially be empty-nesters, despite their four dogs and two cats. Daughter Katie is a sophomore at Georgia College, the state's liberal arts university that was once its women's college, and son Chase is a high school senior and will be joining his sister at Georgia College in Milledgeville in the fall.

Holly Pfug Allport is enjoying being the Afternoon Coordinator at the Rollins Child Development & Student Research Center. She and Peter just celebrated their 27th anniversary. Peter is still in banking. Son, Peter, is a programmer in INTL FCStone. Sarah graduates with her BDN from University of Florida in May. Kate is a sophomore at Louis- ville, where she is a coxswain for the women's crew team, and Julia finishes her junior year in high school this spring. Holly will visit Susan Dickinson Lindner in March. Mary Trotman retired from the FBI in Sept. 2016 and since then has been working as a consultant with the U.S. Attorney Office in Lexington, KY. She still has a horse farm with three horses, which keeps her busy. This spring she’ll celebrate her husband’s 60th birthday and their 29th anniversary. In May, she’ll attend Lynne Largy Goldfarb’s son, Daniel’s, graduation from Purdue. She is looking forward to seeing the Goldfarb family and her “bestie” Lynne. Patsy Roby Gottfredson will have two graduations this year — Teddy will graduate from University of Michigan and will move to Dallas, TX to take a position with Qualtrics, and George will graduate from high school and start college at University of Richmond in the fall. Patsy is looking forward to connecting with SBC friends in both places. She and Ed are enjoying life in Grosse Point. Patsy is on several boards and is the incoming President of the Garden Club of Michigan, a GCA club. Sister Mary Leanne (Lee) Hubbard is in her tenth year as an assistant professor and formator at St. John’s Seminary for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. She is still working on her graphic “novel” on discernment that you can see at www.godseekersnd.com. Hopefully it will be in print some day!

Vernice Thompson has been living in Williamsburg for the past 11 years. She works in sales at a timeshare resort, but she is hoping to change jobs and is working on doing so. Vernice would like to connect with other SBC alumni in the area!

Karen Williams Wickre enjoys working with the DC area alumnae to support SBC students, including helping host the annual Back to School event with Katie Maxwell Schellhammer ’95, Christina Savage Lytle, Brendy Reiter Hantzes ’81 and Suzanne Liscouski — other DC area alumnae. Karen was also glad to join Washington Career Day with SBC students, and works near Capitol Hill as trade attorney. She lives in Bethesda with husband Paul and two chocolate labs, and enjoys travel.

As for me, I am not working currently but find my days are busy nonetheless. The empty nest syndrome has hit me too, but I am getting used to it. I’ve been able to join Jim on some fun trips, so the empty nest advantages are certainly apparent. I have loved reconnecting with Sweet Briar and many classmates. Elizabeth Harley Willet and I are neighbors in Atlanta, and recently I visited with Penney Parker Hartline. Melissa Cope Morrissette ’83 and Laura Morrissette Clark ’85 during road trips to New Orleans, where my daughter, Lucia, is a student at Tulane University. I hope to make my first reunion ever in 2019, as we celebrate 35 years since graduation.

On a sad note, since our last Reunion in 2014, we have lost two classmates to cancer: Whitney Ball and Lili Gillespie Billings. Both women fought bravely and valiantly, and we remember them and their families.

Laura Morrissette Clark: I’m enjoying my new role as granddaughter of Lee and Caroline. I keep busy with Brownell Travel — love helping clients discover more of our world! I also love keeping up with Sweet Briar friends and traveling!

Jeanie Guthans Wilkins: Time flies!! Richard and I are in Mobile. Son Richard and his wife Lindsey live in DC. Christopher is working in Nashville and Micheal is a 2nd class man at VMI. Richard and I just returned from a great trip to Thailand and Cambodia with Cathleen Brooke Dunkle and her husband. If you get down south, come see us in Mobile! Laura Morrissette Clark and I love visitors!

Renata Leckzas Davis: Bill and I have been traveling the world extensively. We moved from the suburbs back to Annapolis when Andrew graduated high school in May,

Laura Morrissette Clark ’85 and Burton Clark with grandchildren

1985

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Jennifer Campbell: I’m still living life in Paris after all these years: oenology, gastronomy, European travel, museums, theatre, concerts. Currently, I’m the Global Director of Corporate Citizenship at Cirrix Systems, an American software company. I’m recovering from a divorce after 26 years of marriage. Eldest son, Jordan, is working on his photography. Gillian is getting her 2nd master’s and PhD at Imperial College in bio and tissue engineering, and younger son, Blaise, graduates lycée in June. He hopes to go to Montréal for uni. Come visit!
James is a senior at Hobart College. I’m headed to Uganda in February with Rotary International, where we have two separate grants to administer. Bill, W&L ’79, has been with Merrill Lynch for thirty-five years. Nancy Finley Worcester: Jim and I continue to be amazed by our children and are really enjoying their accomplishments. I continue to work in early literacy outreach with the city of Virginia Beach. Lately, I have enjoyed reconnecting with SBC friends and getting to know more alumnae in my area.

Ellen Carver: I am living the dream. Girls on the Run of Hampton Roads is serving 1,850 girls a year with a powerful program. We teach girls, in the dawn of adolescence, strategies to be joyful, confident and healthy. At home, I am raising Sophia (13) and enjoying married life with Will, who was as big a fan as any during our campaign to save our college!

Beth Anderson Kearns: I’ve been in Hollis, NH for nearly 20 years. My son Jack is a sophomore at Seattle University, so I often make West Coast treks to see him. Work keeps me busy most of the time. I’m a director at Fidelity Investments and my 20-year anniversary is coming up. I also find time for running and hiking.

Suzanne Weaver Zimmer: My boys are grown. Joshua (23) graduates this May from Auburn with a degree in architecture and James (20) is waiting for the Navy recruiter to process his paperwork. Jeff and I have started a small independent record label and enjoy getting out to see lots of live music!

El Warner: I am incredibly happy 2017 is over and will never return. I broke my ankle and lost my beloved dog last fall. But, it’s 2018 now, and I’m healthy and ambulating all over Easton with my new canine companion. If I can stop being a klutz, this should be a great year!

Kim Knox Norman: In January I left my position as Conservator and Preservation Manager at the Georgia Archives in Atlanta. This month I’m excited to return to Emory University as Head of Library Conservation.

Barbara Tragakis Conner: I still love living and working on Foxcroft’s boarding school campus in Middleburg, VA. I’ll be traveling south in March to visit Suzanne Weaver Zimmer and over ten college campuses. I’ll also travel to New England for a conference and more college visits. If you will be in Virginia, I would love to meet for lunch or dinner and a good catch-up.

Ginger Ryon Church: I’m still in NC. Alex, our oldest, graduated Western Carolina University and is an Outdoor Pursuits Manager at Mountaintop Golf and Lake Club. Chandler, the youngest, is a Junior at East Carolina University, studying Construction Management. I’m still a nurse on the surgical floor, though working part time now, John upgraded to captain with Delta Airlines. We have adopted our grand dog, Sadie, a spoiled, much loved pit bull.

Heidi Belofsky Turk Cromwell: In May I married the love of my life Douglas Cromwell. We moved into a new house up the street in the same neighborhood. We were thrilled to have more than a dozen Sweet Briar vixens at our wedding reception. I try to host Sweet Briar wine and martini night on a regular basis. My three sons continue to be the light of my life.

Leigh Watkins Taylor: Good day from Down Under! I recently moved/opened a BnB. I’m still training riders full time with my three businesses: Reel NZ Productions, Position = Control, and Love2Jump. I travel, teaching riders all over NZ and Australia. My new house has a large art studio upstairs, overlooking a polo field. I’m very excited to get back to painting. I caught up with Emery Jones in January. All Vixens are welcome at my NZ abode.

Laurie Limpitlaw Krambeer: My family and I live in Lawrence, KS, where I finally work for myself after many years in hospitals. My older daughter, a high school senior, was invited to the Presidential Scholars Competition at SB. My younger
daughter is a high school freshman. Also, it has been fun to catch up with the KC Alumnae Group.

Christine Corcoran Trauth: Life is great in Falls Church, VA John and I just celebrated our 29th anniversary. My three sons attended the University of CO in Boulder; my youngest is a sophomore. We love visiting them and skiing at Breckenridge. I enjoyed a wonderful week getaway this January in Jamaica with SBC classmates Katie Hearne, Kim Knox Norman, Ann Gonya Lenetta McCampbell, and Karen Gonya Nickles ’86.

Leanne Weber Kreis: I enjoy working with my brother and nephew in the commercial furniture business. George and I still reside on the Severn River in Crownsville, MD, just outside of Annapolis. Our son Phillip also lives in the Annapolis area. Our daughter, Katie, graduates from the University of Georgia in May and will work in finance in Atlanta. I enjoy boating, gardening and outdoor/indoor cycling! I enjoy staying at the Elston Inn when visiting SB and walking around campus.

Caperon Morton: Chris and I still enjoy living in Kansas City, MO and exploring the beautiful Midwest. I do cherish our visits back East with my son Elijah (28), my brother and his family, and Aunt Sadie. We also soak up Cherrywood Farm, near SB, as often as possible. I love the audio production path I’ve chosen. I’ve been developing an audio production business that I’ll launch later this year, along with a podcast. Eli’s in Asheville, NC, living his food passions as a managing chef with great road-fork choices ahead. Berit (21), lives with us while figuring out which creative path to take. Last summer, Chris and I so enjoyed dinner with Madge Hall Vosteens and husband Paul in Lewisburg, WV. They’ve got a great radio show, Celtic Highlands & Byways, on Allegheny Mountain Radio. I keep up with Martha Shorter Lanier Doughtery. She and Geoff sold Pear Tree Farm last year and moved to Shaker Heights, OH. (Lots less snow to shovel now.) I had a brief conversation with Sally Geer Lockett. It was great to hear her voice. I enjoy meeting the KC-area alumae. It was great to see Laurie Limpitlaw Krambeer at our SBC Day celebration at my home. My co-host, Sarah Machinist ’01, is a joy to hang out with. Please come visit us in KC or at Cherrywood.

1986

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Alis (Piper) Van Doorn reports not much has changed in the last six months. She is still caring for her beloved Mama, enjoying Sophie, their rambling walks and the Facebook group Lee Graybowski Sakowicz created. Piper is hoping to make a late summer trip to England.

April Adelson Marshall shouts a big Holla Holla from Hilton Head Island, SC! April reports that the past year has brought her a few little setbacks, but her Vixen sisters covered her with love and support for which she is grateful. She has no regrets moving south. April is super proud of daughter Lily, who works in digital design for Stuart Weitzman in NYC and son Hayden, who is attending grad school at the London School of Economics. She is looking forward to visits with Vixens in 2018!

Karen Harcum Levy says, “Empty nesting is a wonderful thing.” Her kids are both doing great and the family wholesale flower business is still going strong, although she notes that gardening this spring will be a challenge after so much damage from heavy nor’easter snows this winter, which broke most of her ornamental shrubs! Karen also reports the sad news that both her mother and sister were diagnosed with cancer this winter, so she’s been helping where she can. Karen is looking forward to SBC work weeks again and encourages everyone to come participate for a couple of days, not just for the work, but for the sisterhood bonds that are made!

Leigh Ann White returned home to Boston last summer after her two-year commitment to SBC as a visiting professor of economics. She now works for Evidera, Inc., helping biotechnology clients communicate the clinical and economic value of their products to global stakeholders. Leigh Ann and her horse, Hamilton, are both settled and enjoying New England. Hammy is a character and learning how to behave at horse shows. Life is good!

Susan Finn Adams has had an exciting year. Her youngest, Thomas, is headed off to college at Old Dominion University and son Ben is in his third year as a chemistry major at James Madison University. Lizzie, her daughter, is living at home and working locally. Sue says these are new beginnings as empty nesters; Husband Michael started a new job for an international fiber optic cable company and travels frequently. Sue is giving up her telecommute after 19 years and is on the William and Mary campus working in advancement for the Dean of Arts and Sciences. Sue hopes to see some of her favorite sweet Vixens at the Old Lady Laces game in April!

Sally Engleby Farrell reports that in the summer of 2017, two days after her twin boys graduated from high school, she and her family moved to Exeter, NH. She writes, “Leaving our home of 22 years was bittersweet but we enjoy the slower pace of New England life.” She took a job at Christ Church in Exeter as associate for Christian Formation and Parish Life. Her twins are sophomores at Sewanee and University of New Hampshire. “My Sewanee son is friends with many SBC grads’ children!”

 Jesse White has sad news: “In October I lost my almost 11-year-old black lab, my constant companion. I didn’t think I could move on this quickly but I found that as I looked at rescue dogs, my heart was urging me to take one in. Now I have Bernie, a TX black lab mix — silly, sweet and has helped me perk up. I’m still working at the school. Kids make you smile even on your toughest days!”

Sally Mc Govern Barber is still living in Dublin, OH, and keeping in touch with many SBC alums. She had a fantastic mini SBC reunion last fall in OH with Meme Boulware Hobbs, Nancy Buckey Rothacker, Mimi Holland Dinsmore and Missy Duggins Green. She writes, “I am extremely thankful for the love and support the Barber family has received this past year.” It’s been a difficult year with Ralph’s brain tumor diagnosis. Holly says she could not have made it through without her amazing SBC friends.

Terry Cerrina Davis says that she’s still enjoying the Fribbit step SBC sisters and looking forward to better walking weather this spring! She’s going back to work part-time for the time being. She loves keeping up with everyone through Facebook and social media.

Spunk Kuehlwein says, “So excited to go on our honeymoon, after being married for three years, to a beautiful resort in Punta Cana in March!” They will also be celebrating her 20-year mark of being a law enforcement officer in New Hampshire. She is not quite ready to retire, but may be in 2020. She also just enjoyed her wife’s son’s wedding recently, and they are feeling very blessed with life in Vermont.

Leigh Ann White returned says that daughter Farley is a freshman playing D1 softball for Florida Gulf Coast University and that it’s been great fun to go see her play all over FL and the Southeast. Son Hampton is a sophomore at University of Alabama. Rushton has been able to see MeMe Hobbs on visits to AL and Mary Jo Brown on visits to Ft Myers, FL. She writes, “Love being an empty nester so we can travel.”

Judith Bell Huot is excited to share that she just started building her new home at the end of Feb. She’ll be exactly seven minutes from the beach, though it’s not a southern beach. Daughter Sophia is expecting her first baby in March — a boy who will be named Carter Robert. Judith writes, “It will be exciting to be a Mimi. I should stay very busy in the next couple of months. Enjoy the longer days!”

Holly McGovern Barber is still living in Dublin, OH, and keeping in touch with many SBC alums. She had a fantastic mini SBC reunion last fall in OH with Meme Boulware Hobbs, Nancy Buckey Rothacker, Mimi Holland Dinsmore and Missy Duggins Green. She writes, “I am extremely thankful for the love and support the Barber family has received this past year.” It’s been a difficult year with Ralph’s brain tumor diagnosis. Holly says she could not have made it through without her amazing SBC friends.

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1987
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Kristen Kreassig Carter and hubby, Dave, (VMI) will celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary on May 20th. It really has been decades since her ring game! In the fall, their son, Scotty, will head to Randolph-Macon College on an academic scholarship and will play on the men’s inaugural volleyball team. He was named to V A ‘s Class 6-A 1st Team All Beach District, All Region, and All-State volleyball teams. Kristen can’t stay calm; she’s officially a volleyball mom!

Laurie Starrett Yanacek has been working for the Delaware Dept. of Transportation in Community Relations since 2006. She has a daughter, Sabrina (21), who is attending college Delaware Tech in Dover, DE. Laurie lives in Milford, DE, and got married in 2015 to John A. Yanacek. In March 2017, Laurie was diagnosed with colorectal cancer. The pathology after surgery was 100% clear. She is currently going through chemo and hopes to be cancer free in 5 years.

1989
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Hello everyone! It has been a crazy start to 2018, so I can only hope things settle down and we all have a great year!

Kim Malone working for Calvert County Public Schools in MD Her husband, Davis, is still at Andrew’s AFB. They are very proud that their oldest son is now in the US Merchant Marine Academy. The twins are juniors in high school, and I can believe they will be starting their college search soon!

Camelia Gunn is reporting from Ramstein, Germany. Her husband was transferred, so the family moved there in July 17. Their son is learning German and Spanish. Camelia finished an Ed. S. in Ed. Leadership in 2016, and is hoping to get back into education.

Elizabeth Fokes is enjoying her new Information Security job at Anthem, a new apartment, and happy kitties. She says, “Life is wonderful.”

Tiffani Minatel-Schreiber has had a big year! She sold her dog walking business in July to the woman that helped her get started 10 years ago. She is living the life of leisure and traveling. She celebrated her 50th with a trip to Italy with her husband and his family. Next up is Hawaii! She will explore “next steps” after Labor Day.

It has been wonderful catching up on Facebook, so don’t forget to join the class page. Also, start making plans for our 30th Reunion next year!

1993
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Class notes submitted in Fall 2017 by Lauri Dabbieri:

Another year has come and gone for the mighty class of 1993. It was great fun collecting notes this time. It looks like we will have a nice showing at our 25th reunion next year. I will save my news for last. Here is what we have been up to.

Patty Sagasti Suppes: I am still living in Roanoke, and loving this...
beautiful place and this community. I just got back from Spain, where I presented my research at a conference. My husband and I extended that trip into a vacation for just the two of us, driving through southern France and northern Spain. Our kids are growing up fast. Our oldest, Sebastian, is getting ready to apply for colleges. He’s getting ready to leave this week for an internship in Mexico before school starts. Our youngest, Adrian, starts high school this year!

Sabryna Roberson (who sent a picture of her lovely children): Well, sadly, our children have NOT stopped growing... HA! HA! Son Brooks began freshman year of high school with interests in music (French horn), cross-country track, soccer, and baseball. Daughter Lilly is ready for fourth grade and soccer to get into full-swing. In his 22nd year with ORACLE, Greg has traveled more in the first half of ’17 than he did in the past decade! I absolutely LOVE my job at our local Chamber of Commerce, still sell my spice blend “Geasoning,” and continue to learn Bowenwork/BowTech — a relaxation and pain management modality from Australia. Looking forward to seeing everyone in JUNE 2018!! Make your best donation NOW — so we may focus on catching up and having fun!

Pamela Subrani Berman: “All good news to report thankfully. We are looking forward to celebrating the Bat Mitzvah of our daughter Jordyn when she turns 13 years old in December. Daughter Colby graduated from Lehigh University in May and now attends Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in New York and loves it so far. Daughter Logan is in her senior year at Penn State University. Son Blake will be 11 years old in September and is loving spending his time playing golf when he’s not playing soccer, lacrosse, or basketball. I am still a board member of The Children’s Crisis Treatment Center in Philadelphia, which is the region’s leader in providing quality children’s mental health services. I am also a Do-Gooder, which is a nonprofit of 39 women from the Main Line and Philadelphia who are committed to
supporting organizations and individuals who may be otherwise overlooked. I recently was made aware that Blake’s wonderful fourth grade teacher Maria Wells last year was also a Sweet Briar graduate! She realized we were both alumnae when she saw my family’s picture last year in the Sweet Briar magazine! I love it! Holla, Holla!"

*Dana Varnado Campbell:* Life has been fairly regular with work and the kid routines [in Chapel Hill, NC]. Luckily, some travel has been sprinkled in for fun, especially this summer. We got our summer started right at Lauri and Jerry’s wedding, and had a chance to reconnect with some of the ’93 classmates. We also got a visit from Molly Morris Flasche ‘94 and family and had such a great time. The summer finished up with a trip to Charleston to see the eclipse. Our next big travel — China in October! Hoping to see many friends at our big 25th!

*Beth Gilkeson King:* We finished building our house in April and we are s-l-o-w-l-y getting set -ished building our house in April and we are s-l-o-w-l-y getting set up for our local council twice on TV. Girl Scouts, has been a spokeswom-

*Alex Alexander:* I just passed 20 years with Lockheed Martin and still enjoy being an engineer testing underwater vehicles. I lost my mom this year, which was hard. My brother, Marshall, still fights cancer like a beast. I am so proud of him and to be his sister. Justin, my son, is also a source of great pride. He is an investigative specialist for the FBI. Lily, my daughter, is doing fabulous. She started fourth grade, is in competitive cheer, hip-hop, sings and loves math. She keeps me on my toes. See you at our 25th!!"

*Jen Mooney Riese:* I am working with my husband [in Atlanta] raising capital for growing companies and spend my free time sitting in traffic driving my kids around. I keep up with *Kerry Pollock Huskey* socially. She was so kind to throw me a wedding anniversary party with Edwin McCain two years ago. Kerry got so into the romantic element of Edwin playing in her living room that she decided to get married during my party, so now we share that, too. There may or may not be images on me and Edwin and a dead bear, but I can’t remember. Kerry may have those as part of her souve- nir wedding album. My oldest is in the throes of college recruiting and validating my philosophy of books before balls. My youngest, an aspiring supermodel with beginning mas-cara skills, has retired from playing tennis on a national level at the age of 13 and is now playing volleyball. My middle child is 6’8” as a sophomore, hates basketball and is a rower. I had the pleasure of visiting W&L on a recruiting trip and had lunch with Amber Vellenga ‘91 and she made me remember why I loved SBC so much. My dad is in the final stages of Alzheimer’s, so that isn’t great, but life is a gift, and I am thankful.

*Laura Warren Armstrong:* It’s been a busy summer for the girls! Katherine and Charlotte went to Camp Silver Beach on the Eastern Shore and started riding lessons. Christine attended the Virginia Governor’s School for Agriculture at Virginia Tech. Her advisor during the program was Katherine Brown ’16! Tim and I will celebrate our one-year anniversary in September. Looking forward to seeing you all at our 25th!

*Catherine Jannik Downey:* Husband Marc, Jacob (9), and Sydney (7), keep busy with softball, baseball, soccer, tennis, drama camp, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, science fairs, and talent shows. I see *Gretchen Smink Finley* as often as possible and are already making plans for re-union. Marc and the kids are looking forward to visiting campus again.

*Jennifer Jarvis Ballard:* My life is mostly about my kids. My twins just turned 16 and are starting their junior year in high school. I am looking forward to the next year and a half as they look for their perfect college. Sweet Briar is in Jessea’s top three! Ethan just earned his Eagle Scout rank and went to the national Boy Scout Jamboree. He has made me into a die-hard wrestling fan who spends most of her Saturdays in winter yelling him and his team mates on. Jessea just came back from a two-week Girl Scout trip through Ireland, Wales, England and Paris. She loved it. She is currently working on her Gold Award with Girl Scouts, has been a spokeswom-an for our local council twice on TV. She is working with a mule rescue and helping at endurance rides. As for me, I have been spending most of my time in the car shuttling these wonderful kids from activity to activity. So now that I have two new drivers, I am looking forward to maybe a little bit of me time. Ha. We will see if that happens. But other than that, a chauffeur, I am a full time Scout mom. I love working with our local Girl Scout troop and now have girls at every level in my troop and a wonder-

*Heather Swenberg Craft:* This summer will be 10 years since we moved to Charlotte from the New York City/Connecticut area. Our boys are growing up too quickly. Braedon is 11 and Lucas is 8 years old. Jason is in his final year towards his master’s in architecture and lov-ing his career change. I am working as an HR executive and I still ride horses regularly. This year we were fortunate enough to spend time with Camille Crawford Finley, Melanie Junker Hooper, and Melissa Thomason O’Toole. I have also loved helping with AAR and local alumnae events. I can’t wait to see ev-everyone this coming summer! Holla Holla Class of 1993!"

*Tracy Parker:* I am continuing to be a business partner in a growing business working with adults with developmental disabilities. Can’t say enough about how rewarding it is. Tim and I are still together and going strong after 23 years. Our son will be...
22 this year. He found a job he loves (followed in mom's footsteps). Can’t wait to catch up in person at reunion.

Camille Crawford Finley: It’s been a fast spring for the Finleys. We moved to a new home closer to D.C. this February which Graeme (10) and Vivien (8) are loving. We spent some fun days at Spring Break with Heather Swenberg Craft and her family and we’re hanging out at her house in Charlotte right now. Such fun! We enjoyed our annual summer stay at Squam Lake in New Hampshire and lots of sailing in Annapolis. The kids and I are riding and foxhunting too and looking forward to reunion next year. Vivien is a Vixen in training. Foxes are her favorite!

Thomasin Foshay: After a 20-year stint in Manhattan, I’m moving back to Virginia, a bittersweet but welcomed change. I will be splitting my time between my new house near Free Union (Foxfield), the family farm in Culpeper and my work as an interior design client representative in Charlottesville. I’ve recently inherited a large black German Shepherd named Martha and a 14-year-old Jack Russell named Toast, quite a handful! Thank you for all your support this year especially Courtenay, Mo, Squeak, Lauri, Amy G. and of course, EOP!

Courtenay Cranford is living in Richmond, VA, and enjoying life with her two dogs, Jack (4) and Lucy (9). She often sees Thomasin Foshay, who recently moved back to Orange.

Stacey McClain writes that she is looking forward to attending reunion with her husband and seventh grade daughter in 2018.

Amy Edwards recently took a job at Prosper Portland, the economic development agency for Portland, OR, as their Asset and Investment Manager. She manages a portfolio of business and property redevelopment loans, as well as the agency’s diverse real estate portfolio (a variety of commercial properties, vacant land, and other interesting assets such as the city’s Union Station). She and Brian just celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary.

Dianne Hayes Doss continues to share her love of adventures with her husband Bill, and their two kids, Dan and Jenny. Jenny, a rising 8th grader, went on a school trip to the Galapagos June 2017, and is active in yearbook, chorus, and musicals at her middle school. Dan, a rising 12th grader, is working on finding and getting into that just-right college, while finishing out his senior year of high school and last year of youth rowing. Dianne took Dan on a tour of colleges in July 2017, because sometimes it takes a visit to find home.

Norma Valentine: Still in real estate. Happy to go to Reunion and see classmates Dianne Doss Hayes, Katherine Polevitzky, Debra Elkins, Dianne and her son, Dan stayed with me this summer for a few days as they were looking at colleges. Tracy Imse Thomson visited our farm in South Carolina looking for horses in April. She fell in love with my donkey, EeyOR I’m still splitting time between our homes in South Carolina, Portsmouth, NH and Wellington, FL.

As for me, Lauri Dabbieri, 2017 was a big year. I married my keeper, Jerry Rapp, on June 10, 2017 at the Inn at Mount Vernon. I was so happy to have family and friends from all over the world come to celebrate with us. I was especially touched that my Sweet Briar sisters came out! Ellen Ober Pitera, Thomasin Foshay, Dana Varnado Campbell and Sarah Andres Sale ’90 all got to see pigs fly! We went directly on our honeymoon, three weeks in Greece both on land and on sea. If you can stand your new husband in six-foot swells on the Aegean Sea, you know it is going to last! I come home and turned right around to head back to Italy for my annual two-week sojourn. I spent two weeks in Manhattan in August with my sister-in-law and niece, who was dancing with the American Ballet Theater. A quick trip to Nashville, where I got to catch up with Dubney Ledyard Hopkirk ’92 and witness the eclipse, rounded out the summer before I headed back to work. I start my third year at Sidwell Friends School as one of the Latin teachers. I will be travelling to Basel in October to present a paper at the EuGeSta Conference on Gender in Antiquity. I can’t wait to see everyone at reunion in 2018. I hope 2018 will be great for everyone, but it will have to be SUPER great to beat my 2017! Holla, holla!!

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Eileen Yates Von Herbulis reports they are enjoying their third year living in Eagle, ID, where they relocated from San Diego after Brian retired from his career in the Marine Corps. They stay busy with local travel, hours at the barn with Brinley’s new horse, kids, activities and exciting business ventures. They are loving the Idaho lifestyle! She randomly ran into Wendy Long Holland and her lovely family last summer at Redfish Lake in Idaho. What are the odds!? Wendy and her family live in Haldsburg, CA (near Napa), and were on a road trip in the area. She said it such fun reuniting with them and letting the kids get to know each other.

Kelly Hall spent her spring on the high seas teaching English/literature to Navy sailors aboard the SS Oak Hill. Last summer, she spent time in Spain/France/UK with her boyfriend Roy.

Kristina Pody Hibdon is finally unpacked in her new, old home. She says, “We have purchased a 1900 renovated home located next to our local university. I love being able to attend functions on campus and interacting with young students. This only intensifies my appreciation of my time at SBC. I am also starting to tour other local colleges as my twin daughters are now in high school. Of course we started looking at SBC!”

Gwen Hickey Babcock says “2017 was a good year. Kaeden finally got a diagnosis! She will have a battle for the rest of her life, but she is strong. Gwen is still coaching swimming for Dallastown HS and Dallastown Swim Club. Rory is swimming well and getting coached by Mom. Curse or blessing? Devin’s business is doing well. Bought some land and building a new home. Hope to see some classmates in 2018!”

Carson Scheppe Hobby enjoyed the Sweet Briar Party at Helen Murchison Lane ’46 home, but President Woo was delayed because of snow. Carson looks forward to seeing the President during her next visit. As class president, Carson says “We have 2 years until our big 25th reunion. We would really love to have as many people come back as possible so start marking your calendars now. Holla Holla Class of 1995!!”

I, Katie Maxwell Schellhammer, decided weekdays were too quiet and moving home alone with my guinea pig, so I began substitute teaching for my daughter’s elementary school. It keeps me on my toes and pays for my tennis addiction. In my ideal week, I play not-so-good-but-fun tennis 3+ days a week! I Facetime with Chrissy Patten Hundertfund, who lives in England with her daughter and husband. We hope she can visit us soon. I see Heather Aspinwall Chiles and Anna Reilly regularly. In March, I enjoyed walking the halls of Congress with Professor Jeff Key and SBC students to visit Carolyn Leddy ’98 and Anna Reilly’s Presidential Inauguration colleague Amy Elizabeth Burton ’90.

Keep in touch and make sure SBC has your most current email and mailing address to get updates. We enjoy hearing about you!
1996
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Sarah Reidy Ferguson reports that it was super exciting to be back on campus in Feb. to participate in Sweet Briar’s Alumnae Alliance Council meeting. She is the AA co-chair for social media and manages the AA’s Twitter feed. Follow @sbcalumnae for her daily tweets! Keep a lookout for two of Sarah’s article assignments published in the upcoming issue of Atomic Ranch magazine, and check out her weekly posts featured on her lifestyle blog, Duches Fare, at duchesfare.com

Kelly Collins Lear was on campus for President Wool’s inauguration with Sarah Reidy Ferguson. She and her family including Evelyn (12), Teddy (10) and Penelope (7) had a great family trip to Yellowstone and Sun Valley, ID, last summer. Kelly loves volunteering at her children’s schools, as well as with her local food bank.

Amy Daugherty Michel writes that she, Sam and the kids love living near Lexington. K.Y. Xander (11) is in fifth grade, Owen (8) is in second grade, and Octavia (5) is in preschool. They spent time with Paige Vaught Campion last summer in Carolina Beach, NC, and she’s happy to be in touch with so many friends and classmates through social media.

Lasty, Sarah Chaffee Paris and family are excited to be moving from Austin, TX, to the Myrtle Beach, SC, area this summer where husband, Jonathan, has started a new job as director of sports tourism. Bella (15), Stevie (10), and Charlie (7) hope they can canoe from their new backyard like they used to at Sarah’s mom’s Cape house. They are thrilled to be moving back to the beach, and are so happy to be closer to family and friends!

1997
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Katrina Balding Bills It is so fun getting to be back on campus supporting my niece Katie Balding ’21 at her competitions! The kids keep getting bigger and Kevin and I are about to go to Ireland for a long overdue anniversary trip. I am really enjoying volunteering for SBC as an Admissions Ambassador and chair of on-campus events for Friends of Riding. Being able to give back is just priceless.

Stephanie Pappanikou Foley: Life is good in the Foley Family! I’m on my last year with a pre-schooler and trying to enjoy every minute. We still live in Raleigh and I get to see Leigh Wilson pretty regularly. Keeping up with three kids and their activities, volunteering in schools and riding whenever I get the chance sums up life these days. Holla Holla!

Kate Hall: We’ve been busy moving to Powhatan, VA Starting college tours with Grace and SBC is on the list! The kids, work and Netflix keep me busy. I love keeping up with Melanie Vracas and Lisa Hoffman-McGeorge.

Dr. Stacy McKimm Stevens: Our family just finished an exciting seven-month total house remodel, focusing on both the interior and exterior! Mattie (10) and Lily (6) still keep us busy with their theater, piano and dance competitions.

Becky Moats Miller: My husband, Chip, and I are proud parents to our 3 boys, Michael (9), Brent (4) and Steven (2). Our real estate business has continued to thrive and we are now looking forward to spending more time in our recently purchased beach home in the Outer Banks. I would love to have some mini SBC reunions there!

Melanie Chriscoe Peters: We are still living outside of Greenville, SC, in Fountain Inn, our own little “Mayberry.” This past year I enjoyed getting together with my favorite people, my SBC sisters, not once, but twice! I am still homeschooling my three children, and am helping to start a new classical homeschool co-op in our area. My kids and I volunteer once a week at an after-school program for disadvantaged kids. We have learned MANY things there.

Dr. Alexa Schriempf: Hi everyone! It’s been an exciting year for me since leaving PA after fifteen years there. I saw many of you at reunion 2017, and since then I’ve been busy as class president (most of you have received barely legible notes from me) and living and working on campus! I hope to see you again at reunion 2018 and any time you’re near SBC!

1998
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The countdown is on ladies! In just a few months, we will be celebrating our 20th Reunion. It’s rather remarkable at how quickly the time has gone by. I greatly look forward to reconnecting with all who are able to attend.

Astrid Liverman attended Sweet Briar Day in Denver and was excited to share it with her daughter, Apol line (class of 203-ish!). Additionally, Astrid just started an exciting new position as a historian with the National Park Service.

Lisa Williams shared that she is now living in Oslo, Norway where she works for a startup specializing in virtual reality and mixed reality entertainment. Lisa leads on social media and set up a side business as well — it’s called PierDigital. Recently, she and her Norwegian boyfriend purchased a home near the Oslo fjord. It’s really idyllic and where she hopes to write her book one day, “A big shout-out to my class mates, and the fantastic Drama and English departments.”

Diana Jordan Avery said that her family is starting a kitchen renovation and downstairs remodel on March 19 — “I’m finally getting a real pantry!!” They are excited, but really dreading the mess their house will be for the approximately 6 weeks until it is complete. Aaron (8) has been promoted to the level 4 boys’
Pamela Fine Auble recently celebrated College Coloring Books’ two year anniversary with the publication of the UVa coloring book and she is gearing up to work on the W&L book next! Other upcoming releases include: TX A&M, University of Illinois Chicago, NC State, Briar Cliff University, Navarro College, Flagler College and a half-dozen K12 schools. She loved hiring fellow Vixens Emily Calle, Melinda Brown, Adair Collins, Becky Lambert ‘05 and Jennifer Dick ‘07 for special projects!

Cynthia Hineline recently returned to work as an office assistant for The Blonde Swan Hat Shop. She says, “It’s exciting to once again be surrounded by creativity all day.” She is still acting and singing as well, but much of her time is spent educating herself and raising awareness for Ehlers-Danlos Syndrom, a rare genetic disorder with which both she and her son have been diagnosed.

Finally, just a brief update from me (Chantel). My mom and I finally closed on our new build on Feb. 15 and moved in the next day. We are slowly making the house into a home — lots of painting going on. Looking forward to seeing everyone at Reunion!

2002

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Katie McNamara Brown has really enjoyed reconnecting with classmates in her role as Class Secretary — please keep in touch! Katie continues to be involved in community outreach through her church, her work and as the leader of her daughter’s Girl Scout troop. If you are ever in DC let her know! She would love to catch up over coffee, lunch or Happy Hour! Meg Fronk and Casey Nice are engaged to be married in July 2017 — a three-point charge including Beckham United Methodist Church, Irisburg United Methodist Church and Carroll Memorial United Methodist Church. Katie Gjeldum Fraser is enjoying life as a stay-at-home mom of seven. She lives in Michigan with her family. Amanda Davis Stevens completed the California International Marathon (CIM) for the second time in Dec. and has already signed up to run again this year. She and her family moved to Davis, CA, in July 2017, and are settling into their new town. Amanda is in her 5th year with the same firm and loves her job.

Meg Fronk and Casey Nice are engaged to be married in July.

Meg Fronk and Casey Nice are engaged to be married in July.

Stacey Armentrout Fallah's son
Jackson and daughter Emma
(future SBC class of 2039)!!
2007

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emilynicoolson@gmail.com

Lisa Wolff Terwey and her husband moved to Hudson, WI, in 2016, and are building up a goat herd to reclaim 17 wooded acres that are currently covered in buckthorn. Their two sons, John and Joe, are having a blast living the country life, and are going to be welcoming a little brother or sister this summer. Lisa has started a house-call practice for her veterinary business and will be fully launching this spring. She writes, “I loved seeing everyone that came to the ’07 10th Reunion last year and hope to visit Sweet Briar again this fall.”

In February, Morgan Roach Vina celebrated her one-year anniversary working for Ambassador Nikki R. Haley at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in New York. Since relocating from Washington, DC, she and her husband, Stephen, take advantage of their new home, exploring the city every weekend and travelling whenever Morgan can get away from the office. Morgan and Stephen will celebrate their five-year anniversary in May.

Kimberley Battad is still living in Beaverton, OR, and working as a Life Enrichment Coordinator with a memory care facility and incorporating a lot of art and music therapies with residents who suffer from dementia. She writes, “It’s very challenging and rewarding, and I am enjoying the work. I have also been volunteering quite a bit with Beaverton Civic Theatre, doing everything from marketing to stage management. It’s been amazing to work with theatre people again and tell creative stories. I even won a ‘Civic’ award at our banquet early this year called the ‘Golden Plunger,’ awarded to one volunteer each year who is willing to roll up their sleeves and do anything. It was a big surprise, but I love it and it now stands proudly on my bookcase. I try to connect with the Portland vixens whenever I can, including my classmates Rebekah McSpadden Burger and Laura Jane Schaefer. Hope you all are well.”

Jennifer Dick is happy to report that she has just started two new jobs, after searching since Aug. She writes, “I am the new assistant swim team coach at my local YMCA until the end of March, and I will then decide if I have time to continue into the Summer season. I also just started a new position at Mary Baldwin University as a Logistical Services Associate. This is a “floater” position, which means that I will be helping in four different departments when people are out on vacation or are out sick. I am excited, but also nervous as there will be a learning curve for 4 different departments, but I think it will give me a lot of new skills to add to my resume! My mom and I have also been renovating my late grandparents’ house and I will be moving in when it’s done. I’m excited that the home will stay in the family and that I will get to have many more memories there! I hope that everyone is doing well! Also, I am the new Stewardship Officer for our fantastic class, and so I need your current addresses so that I can send out birthday cards! If you have a birthday coming up, please feel free to shoot me a message on Facebook with your current address!”

Corinne Davies Asakevich still lives in Oklahoma with her husband, Scott, and their two children. She is currently working as needed as a pharmacist. She writes, “My ‘as needed’ position has given me more time to be with my babies who are growing up much too fast and to travel with them and my horses. My daughter just turned 4 and my son will be 3 in May.”

In Oct. 2017, Heidi Trude was named the Foreign Language Teacher of the Year for Virginia. She will now compete for the Regional Foreign Language Teacher of the Year at the SCOLT Conference in March 2018 in Atlanta, GA. Heidi completed her graduate program in Dec. 2017 and now has a graduate certificate in Instructional Technology and Language Learning. Heidi was selected as one of four teachers from Virginia who will travel to France in April as part of the Virginia Partner School project. During the trip, she will receive training at the Ministry of Education in Paris and Reims, as well as visit her partner school in Charleville-Mézières.

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2008

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Ellie Donahue Boyd writes, “In July 2017 I joined my parents, Marianne and Jeff Donahue, full time in the real estate business. We are truly a family business and have been proudly serving the greater Richmond, VA, area for 25+ years. I’m absolutely loving it! Learning from and working alongside my parents has been a wonderful experience, although not without its challenges.”

Julie Midgely was recently promoted to director within the business optimization practice of KPMG. She is looking forward to her upcoming Oct. wedding to Joseph Fisher, who she met her junior year of college while studying abroad in Munich, Germany. She is looking forward to having SBC classmates in Munich, Germany. She is looking forward to the joyous occasion!

2009

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Lauren Schwartz Lazaro and her husband Brice welcomed their daughter, Virginia Michele Lazaro, into the world on Dec. 19, 2017. She weighed 8lbs, 5oz and was 22.25in long.

On Oct. 28, 2017 Amanda Strickland attended the wedding of fellow SBC classmate Melissa Diehl Perry and Martin Perry. Maggie Nicholson, Abigail Adkins, and Melissa Ramos Jacklin ’10 were also present. They sang and danced the night away. It was a beautiful and joyous occasion!

Nikki Soulsby is working in Strategy & Planning at MetLife in their regional technology hub. In her role she gets to coordinate vulnerability management, manage the seating for their campus, design and implement an internal website for the CTO, and create dozens of reports used by executives. She has been dubbed official “fun person” and responsible for planning all activities and purchasing all cupcakes! Nikki has decided to pursue an MBA at New York University’s Stern School of Business in their Executive program starting in May. She was also recently asked to be on board of directors for her third community non-profit and is signed up for a half marathon in June!

Jadrienne Brown Atkins has completed all her postgraduate work. She has been focusing on raising her three daughters — Remy Innessa Hope (6), Jubilee Wyvonna Joy (3), and Raven Briar Pryde (2). While doing this, she has been working as a local author, artist, and furniture designer. Jadrienne also volunteers a great deal with Grace Studio of Motion and Dance as well as the local community baseball and soccer leagues.

Lucy Hankinson married Konrad Stawicki on Feb. 22, 2018. They are moving to Senegal where he is going to be stationed at the U.S. Embassy for two years. Lucy says she is looking forward to the adventure and is excited to work in the international realm again.

Doreen McVeigh says that teaching biology for five months at the King’s School in Canterbury has been wonderful, and that she’s just been appointed as housemistress of a girls’ boarding house for the next twelve years. Ken and Doreen (and cat) will move into a 19th-century house with its own chapel, and she will have 52 girls boarding next year. “We look forward to creating an encouraging, stimulating, and welcoming atmosphere for the girls, just like Sweet Briar!”

Jessica Baker asks if everyone saw “The Last Jedi.” “Man that, was so awesome! I can’t wait for the next one!” In other news, Jessica can’t stop going to school. She’ll complete an Associates of Science at NVCC, and in the fall she’ll begin pursuing a Masters in Public Health at George Washington University’s School of Public Health. “May the force be with you!”

Kimberly Shrader Butterfield reports that the Butterfields welcomed William Nash on Oct. 8, 2017 at 8lbs. 9 oz. and 21 inches long.

I, Jenny Walkiewicz Dill, recently accepted a new position at Portland General Electric as a project manager with our GIS department. I am still working part-time from
home with my daughter, Alexa, and am looking forward to several family trips this summer. As always, I love hearing from my Sweet Briar classmates and can’t wait to see what this spring has in store for them!

2011

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Emily Barton Bottum: Emily was married Aug. 12, 2017 to Douglas Andrew Bottum at Wood Acres Farm in Terryville, CT. Kirsten Blaesing and Brianna Belter ’12 were both at the wedding. Emily is currently working as an RN and is in the MSN for Nursing Management program with University of TX.

Kayt Colburn: She just moved from Houston for a new job in Austin, still working as a GIS Developer but now in the Transportation industry. She’s living in Wimberley, just south of Austin, where she’s riding and training her event horse, Tika, and living with her dog Banksy. Unfortunately, she had to put her cat to sleep within a week of moving, but sends a HUGE Holla Holla to Mai McCarthy who showed what Sweet Briar women are made of and made the three hour drive from Houston to Wimberley, called the vet ahead of time and made an after-hours appointment, and was there with her during a very difficult time. She would have been a blubbering puddle of human if not for the amazing help of her sweet friend Mai who had been there before and helped her cross over this sad and inevitable part of pet guardianship.

Alexandra Schlomer: She is celebrating her one year anniversary working for the Lynchburg Public Library. She started as a shelfer and is now a circulation clerk. Also, she started a Master’s of Science in Archives at Simmons College in Jan. 2018 and is currently interning at Jones Memorial Library. And finally a word to her sisters still looking for their calling/place: don’t give up! Holla, holla, holla! Nothing that you cannot do! It took me six years!

2012

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Greer Gordon completed her MA in teaching, got engaged and will get married in July! She was able to see a plethora of SBC girls at the wedding of Grace Caskey Jones ’14, and was the officiant at Grace’s wedding. Ebet Davy is still her favorite human on the planet.

Alexandra Grobman started a new job as the development manager at PlayCo, a non-profit theater in New York City. She’s excited to be co-chairing the newly formed Young Alumnae Squad with Sara Buttine Parsatoun’11. They look forward to increasing young alumnae engagement over the next couple of years!

Brooke Watts will graduate from nursing school at South Piedmont Community College in Monroe, NC, in May 2018. President of the Nursing Class of 2018, she has accepted a position in Charlotte, NC, with Novant Health in the New Graduate Nurse Residency Program. As one of the top candidates, she will be part of the centralized residents in the Women’s Health Specialty Track.

Molly Johns Van Den Busch writes, “My husband and I welcomed our little girl at 12:53 on Jan. 9. Charlotte will be a future Vixen if I have my way!”

Emily Richonne Spraker mar-
ried Logan Alexander Spraker on July 8, 2017 at the Black Horse Inn in Warrenton, VA

2013

Jackie R. Montero
jackiermontero@gmail.com

Hello ladies! Can you believe it's nearly our 5-year reunion?! I hope to see you all of you in June! I am very happy to say that Ryan proposed to me in December at the Sweet Briar Boathouse. We are hoping for a 2019 summer wedding.

Jenness Gough: In 2017, Jenness started working as the Marketing and Communications Coordinator for VelocityTX, an innovation super hub, located in San Antonio, TX. Jenness also became a board member of the Young Texans Against Cancer - San Antonio and sits on many committees to help raise funds and awareness of all cancers.

Elizabeth Hansbrough Riley: Elizabeth and her husband, Jackson, are loving life in Raleigh, NC, with their dog, Daisy. They will celebrate their first wedding anniversary this spring and look forward to house hunting throughout the Triangle later this year.

Ashley Hester Harris: Ashley lives in Bumpass, Virginia with her husband, 2 children, and kitten. She is currently finishing up her Masters degree in curriculum and instruction in elementary education at William & Mary. She is excited to finish up her program and have her own classroom next year.

Dani Humphrey Daniels: Dani and her husband, Tim, reside in Historic Smithville, NJ, right outside of Atlantic City. Dani recently became assistant head coach for the Brigantine Greenheads, which is a USA swim team. She recently came out of retirement from the sport and is currently competing as a US Masters swimmer, along with her husband.

Ryan Sharpe and Jackie Montero ’13 in front of the SBC boathouse

Molly Johns Van Den Busch's daughter Charlotte

Comming out of retirement never looked so good! Southern NJ US Master meet, Feb. 2018

Jenness Gough

L-R: McKenzie Grundy ’12, Allie Cropp, Annie Rhodes, Emily Richonne Spraker ’12, Jo Tudisco-Guntert ’12, Hillary Richonne, Elise Stine Dolinar ’11, Kate Reinhard
In 1899, Indiana Fletcher Williams founded Sweet Briar College through a visionary planned gift. Indiana’s vision of a college for the education of young women inspired her to establish a trust of land and other assets that became her enduring legacy. This planned gift has provided transformational education opportunities for generations of young women for more than 100 years.

Please join us as a Williams Associate to ensure that her legacy — and yours — will prosper in perpetuity.

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For questions, contact:
Claire Dennison Griffith ’80
434-381-6479 | cgriffith@sbc.edu
REUNION WEEKEND: JUNE 1—3

It’s not too late to come home to Sweet Briar for Reunion 2018!

Although we will be celebrating classes ending in 3s and 8s in particular, remember that all classes are invited to attend and we hope you’ll join us!

Find out more or register at sbc.edu/reunion.