

## Halla, Halla, Halla

Students sing this song when a person or group on campus has done something noteworthy.

Here's to (insert name),  
Halla, halla, halla  
Nothing that you cannot do.

Here's to (insert name),  
Halla, halla, halla  
Nothing that you cannot do.

Work for the good and work for the right  
Always doing something and doing it right.

So here's to (insert name)  
Halla, halla, halla  
Nothing that you cannot do.

## First Year Traditions

### Freshman Show

In the spring the first years put on a sketch comedy show for the Aint's N' Asses.

### Big Sister/Little Sister

Just before returning from summer break, each junior is assigned as a big sister to a member of the incoming class. Big sisters are supposed to help their little sisters acclimate to college life and answer any question the first year may have about Sweet Briar. Sadly, a handful of juniors do not contact their little sisters, so you might have to initiate contact with your big sister if you want to meet her.

### Freshman Caroling

In December the first year class gathers together to sing their way up and down Faculty Row.

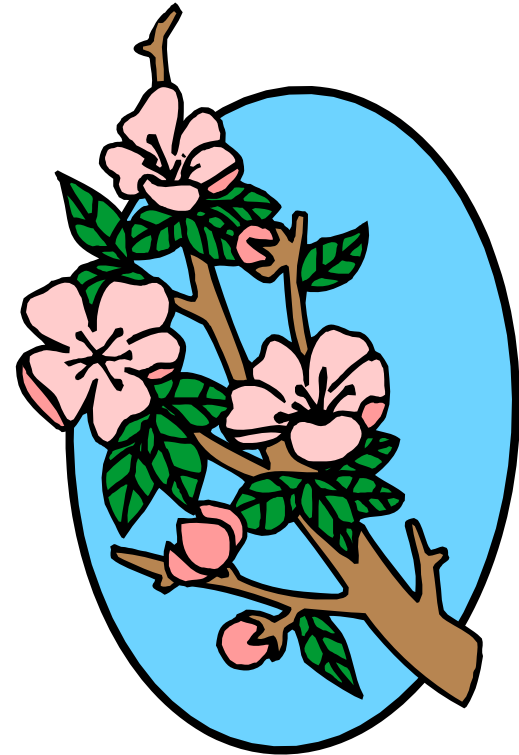
### "Brownies with Betsy"

The president invites the first years to Sweet Briar House to chat over brownies and other desserts.

### Think it's hard being a first year? It could be worse.

In the early days of Sweet Briar College, first years had to scrub the senior steps every Friday, wear green beads and aprons, and recite on demand the names of all of the seniors in alphabetical order.

# Traditions of Sweet Briar College



# Places



## 1. Freshman hitching post

The hitching post located next to the bell tower is defended by the first years during the rock and hitching post fight. It is periodically painted by campus organizations.

## 2. Sophomore rock

Next to the freshman hitching post is the sophomore rock, which is defended by the sophomores during the rock and hitching post fight. It is often painted by campus organizations, in matching colors to the hitching post.

## 3. Junior bench

Only juniors are allowed to use the semi-circular bench located between Randolph Hall and the Memorial Chapel.

## 4. Senior steps

Seniors sit on the front steps to Pannell during step singing.

## 5. Senior doors

The center set of doors to the main Prothro dining hall are for seniors only.

## 6. Sweet Briar House

Sweet Briar House has been the home of the college president ever since President Benedict, our first president. Although a different house had been selected for the residence of the president, President Benedict elected to live in Sweet Briar House in order to be closer to the students.

## 7. Faculty Row

Sweet Briar has a long tradition of faculty members living on campus, and the street of houses just before the Prothro parking lot was the original faculty housing. Some professors invite students to their homes for dinner.

# Traditions

## Scroll Game

A variation on the ring game, the scroll game is sometimes played to announce one's acceptance into grad school. A paper scroll is substituted for the ring.

## Secret Sophomores

Throughout the year, seniors receive gifts from an unknown sophomore, and leave gifts for their secret sophomore in the Prothro commons or at the senior's door. At the end of the year, the seniors find out who their secret sophomore is during a senior class/sophomore class party.

## Senior Robes

In addition to the robes worn at graduation, seniors also have decorated robes that are passed down each year. Each freshman is assigned a senior and is expected to add more decorations to that senior's robe. Seniors wear these robes once a month on the day of the month that their graduation will occur in May (For the class of 2009, it will be the 16<sup>th</sup> of each month). The junior has to "earn" her new robe during junior week. When she receives the robe, it usually contains an interior pocket filled with the junior's favorite candy.

## Honor Code and Self-Governance

Ever since the first students arrived at Sweet Briar in 1906, the honor code has been enforced through self-governance. Unlike many schools, infractions of the honor code are dealt with by a panel of students, not the administrators of the college. Although honor code mediations are confidential and closed to the students at large, every student is a member of the Student Government Association (SGA) and can contribute to the policies and programs of the college.

# Other To Know

## Daisy's Ghost

Daisy, the daughter of Sweet Briar's founder Indiana Fletcher Williams, died when she was only sixteen. She supposedly still haunts the college, causing mischief in the halls and screaming through her statue on Monument Hill. In several sightings she has been accompanied by her mother.

## The Game

Participating in The Game are new sophomore QV members and sophomores who want to become Bum Chums. The activities of The Game are a secret, although you'll find out more at the end of spring semester when the QVs and the Bum Chums hold joint information sessions to help first years decide if they want to participate during the following year.

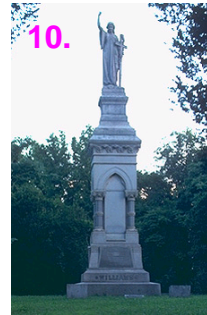
*On hiatus for 2008-2009 school year.*

## Class Ring

The Sweet Briar Class ring is a pinky ring worn on the left hand. Engraved on the ring is the Sweet Briar Seal. If a Sweet Briar woman is engaged or married, she switches it to her right hand. While at Sweet Briar, the student wears the ring with the Chapel pointing towards her heart. Once away from Sweet Briar, the graduate turns the ring around so the Chapel is pointing away from her. The color of the stone in the ring is determined by class colors (black onyx for the class of 2011).

## Ring Game

To announce the engagement of a member of the senior class, the class president calls the seniors together to play the ring game. Everyone gathers in a circle, each holding onto a long piece of string. The engagement ring is put onto the string and passed around the circle three times. On the third pass around the circle, the newly engaged woman puts on the ring, informing the class of her engagement.



### 8. Boathouse

Located on the bank of the lower lake, the boathouse has been the location of parties for generations of Sweet Briar students, faculty, and staff. From departmental get-togethers to 21<sup>st</sup> birthday parties, the boathouse has seen it all. It is frequently used on Thursday nights.

### 9. Slave Cabin

Located behind Sweet Briar House is the last slave cabin to remain standing on Sweet Briar property. Originally one of about twenty-four such cabins located strategically throughout the plantation, the slave cabin was occupied into the twentieth century. Today the cabin houses the farm tool museum collection.

### 10. Monument Hill

In the will of Indiana Fletcher Williams, there was but one stipulation for the college: the graves of the founding family must be maintained in perpetuity. These graves, which include a large statue honoring Daisy, on Monument Hill, from which the buildings of campus can be seen.

### 11. Slave graveyard

In recent years, the slave graveyard beyond the upper lake has been marked to honor the silent founders of the college. A second, smaller graveyard is near the outing cabin.

### 12. Outing Cabin

Built in the 1930s as a place for students to relax away from main campus, the outing cabin is a great place to spend a weekend in the woods. Although a fire broke out near it last year, the cabin survived unscathed, except for a few scorch marks.

# Special

## Opening Convocation

At the start of each school year, Sweet Briar holds a convocation to mark the official start of the academic year. A community picnic, to which all staff, faculty, and students are invited, occurs in the Commons Courtyard after convocation.

## Founders' Day

Seniors wear their graduation robes for the first time, while all other students wear black and white. Following the convocation, everyone walks up to Monument Hill to pay respect to the founding family, and each senior is accompanied by one or two underclasswomen. Each student leaves a daisy on Daisy's grave.

## Hanging of the Banners

At the beginning of each year, a ceremony is held at Le Bistro in which the banner for the senior class is moved to hang over the fireplace and the banner for the incoming first year class is displayed for the first time in its location by the doors.

## Rock and Hitching Post Fight

In a fight to create a mess of the landmark of the other class, first years defend the hitching post and sophomores defend the rock. At the end of the fight, the juniors determine the winner (which is usually the first years) by the amount of paint worn by each class.

## Scream Night

On the night before exams begin, everyone gathers in the quad to let out their stress in a scream as the bells chime ten o'clock, as well as pick up some study snacks.

## Step Singing (Spring and Fall)

The classes gather together, and each class sings a teasing or admiring song for each of the other classes and one bragging song of themselves.

# Clubs

Membership is by selection of the current members or in some cases by election. New members are given hats in the club's colors that have been decorated by current group members. Be forewarned: tapping generally occurs on nights during the last weeks of the semester (i.e. final crunch time) and involves the members traipsing through all of the residence halls singing (or more accurately, shouting) at the top of their lungs.

## Paint N' Patches

Rival: Aint's N' Asses

Colors: purple and green

The tap group for students interested in serious theater.

## QV

Rival: Bum Chums

Colors: green and black

Freshmen vote to select which members of their class will be QVs the following year. The identities of those selected are kept secret until spring step singing. Throughout the year, QVs leave treats for their fellow sophomores, wearing masks and costumes to hide their identities.

## Sweet Tones

Rival: Earphones

Colors: white and purple

The Sweet Tones are a group of talented a cappella singers, and auditions are part of the membership selection process.

## Taps N' Toes

Rival: Falls On Nose

Colors: pink and black

Taps N' Toes are selected from the ranks of the dance and fine arts majors.

## Tau Phi

Rival: Chung Mungs

Colors: red and black

Supposedly witty, Tau Phis are more academically oriented students.

# Tap

Named for their tradition of informing girls of their new membership by tapping them on the shoulder, tap clubs have a focus that is social and service oriented.

## **Aints N' Asses**

Rival: Paint N' Patches

Colors: blue and red

The Aints N' Asses are the sketch comedy group on campus. The selection process involves participation in the Homecoming Spirit Days.

## **BAM**

Rival: none

Colors: pink and blue

BAM seeks to recognize the hard work of all members of the SBC community including students, faculty, and staff.

## **Bum Chums**

Rival: QV

Colors: white and red

During sophomore year, the Bum Chums attempt to discover the identities of the new QVs. On special days, members wear "sacred" bells.

## **Chung Mungs**

Rival: Tau Phi

Colors: black and white

These "friendly ghosts" are among the nicest students on campus, and they have exactly thirteen members.

## **Earphones**

Rival: Sweet Tones

Colors: yellow and orange

Although not the best singers on campus (or anywhere else) the Earphones are enthusiastic crooners who don't fear being out of tune.

## **Falls On Nose**

Rival: Tap N' Toes

Colors: black and blue

Falls On Nose members enjoy dancing, even though they don't necessarily have any rhythm.

# Events

## **Homecoming**

Only begun a few years ago, homecoming is preceded by a week of themed dress-up for Spirit Days. Homecoming weekend is packed with events, including a cardboard boat regatta sponsored by the engineering department. During the weekend, the Pink Team (even years) and the Green Team (odd years) compete for greatest participation, and the winning team gets a party at the Farmhouse.

## **Junior Week**

During junior week, each junior gets costumes from an unknown senior, who will give her senior robe to this chosen junior. The senior reveals her identity at Junior Banquet, the culmination of junior week.

## **Junior Banquet**

At Junior Banquet, juniors receive their class rings as well as their senior robes. Each junior has a friend write an ode in her honor, and these are read at the banquet.

## **Senior Toast**

Seniors are invited to Sweet Briar House for a champagne toast with the college president as part of commencement activities.

## **Lantern Bearing**

Near the end of the year, seniors ask an underclasswoman to make a "lantern" for her. The students gather, seniors wearing their graduation robes and underclasswomen in white. To represent the four years the seniors spent at Sweet Briar, everyone walks around the quad four times. The seniors then sit on the senior steps while the underclasswomen line the pathway and sing to the seniors, marking the final tradition the seniors participate in at Sweet Briar.

## **Faculty Show**

Once every four years, the faculty and staff members of the college get together to write and perform a variety show. It is hilarious every time, but since one was held two years ago, you'll have to wait until you're a junior to find out what the talk is all about!

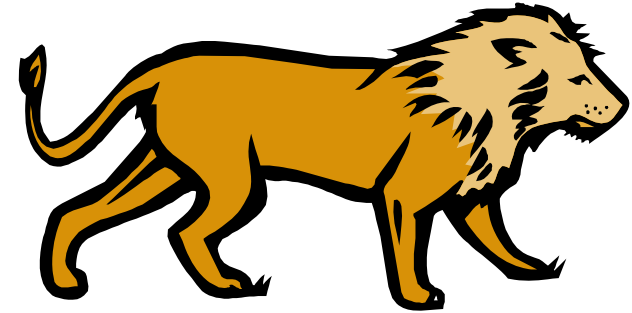
# Class Symbols

The Class of 2009



*Honor ante honores*  
(Honor before reward)

The Class of 2011



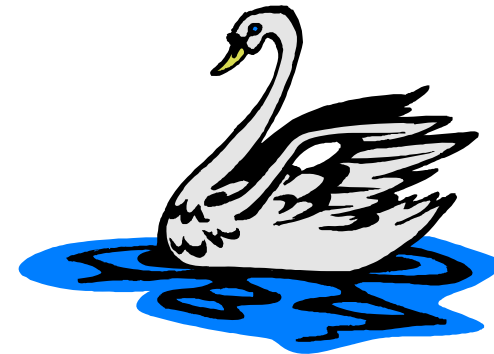
*Spectamur Agendo*  
(We are proven by our actions)

The Class of 2010



*Ne obliviscamur*  
(Lest we forget)

The Class of 2012



*Factum non verbum*  
(Actions not words)