



Many are aware of the four-year legal effort, 1964-1968, by Sweet Briar College leaders to integrate the school. But many are equally unaware that this campaign, fought in the courts from Amherst to Washington, D.C., was preceded by a gradually swelling tide of civil rights activism on the part of Sweet Briar’s professors, alumnae, and students. Their role in pushing the administration towards integration—towards challenging and reinterpreting the last will and testament of founder Indiana Fetcher Williams—propelled Sweet Briar into the inescapable political and social currents of the mid 20th century. While “4 Women Parading” may seem a quaint and picturesque headline to readers in 2016, those students—and their peers who joined in letter-writing and boycotting—played a crucial role in the healthy, forward-looking evolution of Sweet Briar College.



No exhibition reaches fruition without the work of many individuals. The Museum staff offers thanks and collegial appreciation to: Hannah Male ’14 relentlessly combed through *The Sweet Briar News*. Her zeal was matched by Mary Margaret Freeman ’16, who searched through the College archives with care. This semester Kimberly Colbert ’18 has provided similar support by looking through decades of administrative records. The exhibition materials have been prepared and installed with the assistance of Art Gallery/Museum workers Mariah Miller ’16 and Abigail Schutte ’17. Alumna Rachel (Rusty) McHugh Lilly graciously answered questions during a long ’phone interview. Joseph C. Knakal Jr. kindly shared recollections of his role as a young associate lawyer working on the Sweet Briar College case. Lynchburg businessman Tulane Patterson graciously shared his time to answer questions about his father’s drug store and to offer personal reflections. Several individuals provided key research assistance over the past two years: Ms. Valeria Chambers, Clerk of Council, Lynchburg City Hall; the research librarians at Jones Memorial Library; Douglas Harvey, director, and Laura Lembass, curator, Lynchburg Museum System; Caroline Glickman, managing editor, *The News and Advance*; Carolyn Bell, professor emerita of Randolph-Macon Woman’s College; and

Sweet Briar colleague Lynn Rainville, director of the Tusculum Institute. The timeline was designed and produced by Nancy Blackwell Marion, The Design Group/Blackwell Publishing.

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Karol A. Lawson
Director, Art Collection and Galleries, and the Sweet Briar Museum

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