

SMITH

Alumnae Quarterly Summer 2023

Reflections *on a* Decade *of* Growth *and* Change

From eliminating loans to boosting sustainability, retiring President Kathleen McCartney has transformed Smith in powerful ways



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'How Are We Ever Going to Leave This Place?'

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architecture firm in
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Kathleen McCartney was photographed by Aundrea Marschoun AC on Paradise Pond in April 2023.

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Ready for What's Next

Smith's latest graduates step fearlessly into the future, fully equipped for success

Boldness was a theme woven through this year's Commencement weekend—from the outside peonies blooming in Capen Garden to the proud mix of generations parading on Ivy Day. Resilience was celebrated in speeches from the podium, as the college awarded degrees to 626 undergraduates and 40 graduate students. "I look to the future," said senior class president Haley December Brown '23 in her address to classmates. "I know that I bring all of you and all of our memories with me, and I feel ready for whatever comes next." Activist and author Reshma Saujani—founder of Girls Who Code and Moms First—urged graduates to "focus less on being perfect and more on being brave." She added, "It's not your job to fix yourself. But it is your job to fix the system. ... And I am absolutely certain you're up to the task." —BARBARA SOLOW



Thousands of graduating seniors, family, friends, and reuning alums gathered in the quad for Smith's 145th Commencement.



Gender equality activist Reshma Saujani, top, gave the Commencement address.





Graduates were praised for the resilience they showed during the pandemic.

Speaking Volumes

Grounded Knowledge Panels provide an empowering forum for difficult discourse

BY CHERYL DELLECESE

As people become more divided and less likely to engage in conversation about challenging issues, it is essential to find a meaningful way to talk about tough topics. This is where Grounded Knowledge Panels come in.

Created by Valerie Joseph, mentoring administrative director of Achieving Excellence in Mathematics, Engineering, and Sciences (AEMES) programs at Smith, Grounded Knowledge Panels are public conversations conducted in small groups with those who have personal experience with a particular topic.

Joseph developed Grounded Knowledge Panels in 2015 and has since convened numerous panels on various subjects, including queer students in the sciences, racial bias and discrimination in academics, students with invisible disabilities, and students and staff managing COVID-19.

A cultural anthropologist, Joseph focuses her research interests on social and structural bias and discrimination. She is a skilled mediator and a diversity consultant and trainer.

In her position at Smith, she works with David Gorin, associate professor of chemistry and AEMES mentoring faculty director, to manage programs and events that support students from populations that have historically been excluded from the sciences.

Here, in her own words, Joseph talks about Grounded Knowledge Panels and the value of both speaking and listening.



I was inspired to create Grounded Knowledge Panels out of a deep hunger to have and hear public conversations where people confronted difficult issues in environments that allowed time and space for them to converse and be heard. I love many of the conversations that take place in my family and among my friends where there is spirited, free—and usually fun—discussion about a range of topics from politics to history to spirituality. I wanted to replicate that beautiful and vibrant energy.

The concept for the panels is grounded in Black culture and is a synthesis of my work in various fields, including anthropology, theater, Authentic Movement [a meditative improvisational movement practice], energy healing, social justice education, and mediation. In the past year, Grounded Knowledge Panels have become based in the Office for Equity and Inclusion, which sponsors them on campus.

Grounded Knowledge Panels begin with a convener selecting a small group of people who have authentic understanding of a particular

topic. The convener also takes part in the panel discussion. My goal for each Grounded Knowledge Panel is for the process to be facilitated in such a way that a latecomer could not easily tell who is leading the conversation because the panelists are so comfortable with each other. While it's true that I—or someone else—is facilitating the process, I use the term “convener” to emphasize my goal for effortless, flowing conversation that doesn't need formal facilitation.

As the Grounded Knowledge panelists converse among themselves during the public conversation, audience members serve as “witnesses”—people who don't simply listen and observe the discussion but who understand their role as responsible and respectful beholders of a group of people who often call upon courage to speak their truth. Both groups—panelists and witnesses—bring a distinctive power and depth to the experience of speaking and listening. Those ordinary activities become “extra-ordinary” in the Grounded Knowledge Panel model. The process creates a sense of connection, dynamism, and mutual responsibility that acknowledges a level of mutuality and respect that seems absent from much public discourse.

Witnesses often report that the experience is quite profound. In fact, some have reported that it has been transformative. One witness wrote, “Every Grounded Knowledge Panel I've attended both in person and on Zoom has expanded my understanding of what being human is.” This is at the crux of what makes Grounded



Participating in a Grounded Knowledge Panel can be a transformative experience, Valerie Joseph says.

Knowledge Panels so powerful for witnesses. Without the pressure to speak, they have little choice but to be present as their authentic selves as they engage in deeper listening. I also think that witnesses are moved by the courage of panelists who have decided to share themselves in a more intimate way than in typical panels. It's a powerful juxtaposition of two groups being authentically present.

At the University of Colorado Boulder, I have co-convened Grounded Knowledge Panels with Donna Mejia, associate professor of theater and dance. We are in the preliminary stages of designing a research project there to measure the effectiveness of Grounded Knowledge Panels. In addition, through my collaboration with Gilburg Leadership, an organizational change consultancy, I did a Grounded Knowledge Panel on the experience of gender bias for the USDA's Agricultural Research Service, and I am planning to do one for another branch of the U.S. government related to Indigenous peoples' right to respect for their culture and history as it relates to sacred sites.

My job at Smith is about the dedication of efforts to support students from marginalized populations to succeed in STEM fields. To my mind, that's a job grounded in social justice. I work with students from disenfranchised communities who may not believe they have a right to be a doctor or a vet or a scientist—or even to be at Smith. We need to help these students understand they can accomplish anything they set out to do.

New Digs for Smith Duds

For the Smith College Bookstore, it's all about location, location, location

The Smith College Bookstore has seen the light. Literally. After occupying a subterranean space in the Campus Center for the past two decades, the store recently relocated to 8 Green Street, where floor-to-ceiling windows flood the newly renovated building with natural light.

"It was dark being at the bottom of the [Campus Center], not really seeing much of the outside world," store manager Shari McDonald says. Green Street, on the other hand, is "a great location," McDonald says. "I love all the light."

What the bookstore gained in visibility, however, it lost in size. Its footprint shrank from 5,000 square feet to "maybe 2,000 now," McDonald says. The biggest change? Students can no longer browse textbooks in person. Books are shelved in an employees-only area and must be ordered online.



What's in the store



Vintage-wash cropped T-shirt in mint (\$30)



Plush keychain with elephant "buddy" (\$9.95)



Laser-engraved rollerball pen (\$16)





Precious floor space is reserved for school supplies, sundries, and, of course, Smith-branded merch. “We sell a ton of merchandise, so we need as much as possible out there visible for everybody,” says McDonald, adding that the store does \$1 million in annual sales. (It is among more than 1,200 bookstores managed by Follett, the largest campus store operator in North America.)

Bestsellers in the sea of blue and gold include a \$60 Champion reverse-weave crewneck sweatshirt with the Grécourt Gates logo and a \$24 Champion T-shirt that says “Smith College Football” on the front and “Still Undefeated” on the back—a perennial favorite.



TEXT BY CHRISTINA BARBER-JUST
 PHOTOGRAPH BY JIM GIPE
 ILLUSTRATIONS BY GIOVANNI ALBERTI

Magnetic clip with Smith College decal (\$5.95)



Adjustable cotton twill ball cap in white (\$24)

Aluminum keychain with bottle opener and LED flashlight (\$8.95)



Cropped long-sleeve T-shirt in honey brown (\$38)





Inside the Grubb Lab

Alicia Grubb shares the secrets of building a successful software engineering lab

BY DUSTY CHRISTENSEN

Ask students about Assistant Professor of Computer Science Alicia M. Grubb's software engineering lab, and they will undoubtedly tell you about the camaraderie they've developed with their labmates.

"It's a tightknit community that we've fostered," Sonora Halili '25 said on a recent afternoon. Natural light flooded through the lab's big windows as classmates huddled around computer monitors filled with code, wheeling their chairs around the room to collaborate with each other. "Some of my best friends at Smith I met here."

Evidence of that closeness pervades the room, from the pictures of former lab members on the bulletin board to the sweatshirts several students are wearing, which feature an aggressive-looking bee and the words "Grubb Lab" emblazoned across them—calling to mind a Metallica concert T-shirt.

"That's another part of the fun," Grubb says. "All of our logos, all of our swag, is all done by the students, for the students. They design what they want. They feel ownership."

What makes a great lab? Giving it a

Smithies conduct research projects in the Grubb Lab. The lab's popularity among students means it is almost always at capacity.

name and fostering belonging is certainly part of it. Here, Grubb, who this year won a National Science Foundation CAREER Award—the agency's most prestigious award in support of early career faculty—outlines other elements that contribute to their lab's success.

Having personal space

"Every student needs shared space, but also their own space. They can leave a book in the lab. They can leave a sweater there because the labs are very cold. They sometimes leave stuffed animals there. It's important that they have a space where they know they belong. It's that sense of, 'This is mine and so I can come here whenever I want to work. And I'm valued enough that I'm given this little piece of real estate.'"

Getting off to a good start

"At this point, we have probably a three- to four-page [onboarding] document that links to different videos, different training modules. When you join the lab, you are assigned a buddy, and that buddy is your guide, your mentor, in the first month. In the first week or so, students just go through the document line by line. It's kind of like an instruction manual on all the different things that you need to know about being a part of the lab. The other thing that is very helpful for new folks feeling welcome is they get added to a secret Slack channel. I don't know the name of it, and I'm not allowed on it. It's the channel where students can ask each other questions that they're afraid to ask me."

Making time for fun

"In my lab, we are very serious and we are very intense. But we are also very joyful and ridiculous. And so we can work hard and write papers and produce software and do research, but we know that it's not going to go right the first time. And we know that we're going to, as a team, hit our heads against the wall for a couple months, and it's

going to be OK. I always tell my students, 'You have to know what you know, know what you don't know, and know what to ask questions about.' So they'll meet with me and they'll ask me these questions and I'll be like, 'I don't know, you're now the expert. You need to come up with some wild ideas, and then we'll go investigate them.'"

Growing slowly

"Scaling only works when it's done intentionally. By growing a lab slowly, you can add in those practices and customize them for your individual context over time. So I can manage a lab of 14 this semester, but that's only because

we already have all of these mechanisms in place and because we understand how to work in teams; there's a culture of everyone working in teams and everyone helping with everyone else's success. I don't think we could have grown and been efficient at that scale if we hadn't done it slowly over time."

Championing students

"When people talk about underrepresentation [in any field], there seems to be a big focus on mentorship. And I strongly believe in mentorship, but I believe that a bigger issue is what I'll call 'championship' or 'sponsor-

ship.' Who's going to advocate for you when you're not in the room, and who's going to do the things behind the scenes to help you succeed? That's what I spend a lot of time thinking about with my students. It's something I know I've benefited from greatly with my past mentors. They were fighting for me, and I never knew until years later. They really championed my work, even when they were being extremely hard on me. That's what I want to do for my students. I am giving them tough love sometimes, but I'm looking out for them in the things that they don't know that they don't know and where they're going to fall into those traps."



Alicia M. Grubb, above, is a teaching scholar whose work focuses on how individuals learn, make decisions, and understand change. They address these questions in the context of empirical software engineering.



PHOTOGRAPH BY JESSICA SCRANTON

The Global Dimensions of Africana Thought

Meet the inaugural Ruth J. Simmons Professor of Africana Studies

BY JAN MCCOY EBBETS

Aaron Kamugisha is a scholar of the social, political, and cultural thought of the African Diaspora. He is an author or editor of six essay collections and five special issues of journals on Caribbean and Africana thought. His latest book, *Beyond Coloniality: Citizenship and Freedom in the Caribbean Intellectual Tradition*, is described as “an extended meditation on Caribbean thought and freedom at the beginning of the 21st century.” Kamugisha is the first to hold an endowed professorship named for Ruth J. Simmons, Smith’s ninth president. Here, he reflects on his teaching, his scholarship, and his vision of dismantling oppressive power structures through the study of ideas.

What brought you to Smith?

After 15 years living and working in the Caribbean, I was interested in uncovering different intellectual possibilities—especially since my scholarship was turning toward an exploration of the global dimensions of Africana thought. For some while I was aware of and admired the teaching and close mentorship offered by the liberal arts colleges of the northeast U.S., and so I was pleased to accept Smith College’s offer to be the Ruth J. Simmons Professor of Africana Studies. Ruth Simmons’ career as an academic and administrator of great distinction is well known, and it has been an honor to be the inaugural professor in a chair named in tribute to her service to the Smith community.

You study the intellectual history and the social, political, and cultural thought of the African Dias-

Kamugisha says it has been an “honor” to be the first professor in a chair named for Simmons.

pora. Can you summarize for the lay reader what this scholarly work encompasses?

African Diaspora (or Africana) intellectual history and Africana social and political thought are new fields of formal academic inquiry that echo and clarify a centuries-long tradition of people of African descent making sense of their worlds. Both fields are capacious and daring in their scope and field of vision, as they explore the ideas that Africana people have invented in their journey through the world. Given the history of the last 500 years, themes of racialization, colonialism, and imperialism are of great, structuring significance here, but they do not tell the entire story. Africana thought is present in the music, religion, dance, and cultural thought of its people as much as it is in the more recognizable formal arena of academic social thought and political theory.

What sparked your interest in this area of scholarship?

I’ve always been a reader, and while my first great interests were Africana literature and history, I settled on the study of Africana social and political ideas in my formal academic work. It’s challenging to trace all the different influences that led me to this point. Certainly central were my family, my many academic mentors, and specific authors I read. But foremost was a conviction that can’t quite be explained. It was that in the study of ideas, I could truly appreciate the bewildering realities of the contemporary world and make my own contribution to dismantling relations of power—racism, class oppression, patriarchy, imperial-

ism, homophobia—that prohibit the true flourishing of individuals, societies, and humanity.

What do you teach at Smith?

Since joining Smith in the summer of 2021, I’ve taught six different courses in a number of areas, including Caribbean cultural and political thought, African American history, and the Black radical tradition. All I’ve enjoyed considerably. However, to pick just two, I’ve found myself drawn most toward the courses Caribbean Cultural Thought: The Plantation, Diaspora and the Popular and a course on classic Black texts. The former is a second-year course; the latter, a 300-level seminar.

What else are you working on now?

I am always working simultaneously on a couple of different books. The first is a co-edited collection titled *The Caribbean Race Reader*, which is due to go to press this summer and should be out next year. The other work is a study of the Caribbean Canadian novelist and social and political thinker Austin Clarke. Clarke was the first West Indian to publish a novel in Canada and the first writer of African descent to become a major Canadian literary figure, winning numerous awards including the Giller Prize in 2002 and the Commonwealth Writers Prize in 2003. He also served as a mentor for an entire generation of writers in Canada. He is increasingly recognized as one of the major figures of 20th-century Caribbean and Canadian literature, and one whose life-work is situated at the crossroads of the vast literary and cultural terrain that constitutes African Diaspora studies.

The Journey Toward Transformation

On May 20, after 10 years as president, Kathleen McCartney delivered her final Ivy Day address to seniors and alums gathered for Reunion. Here is what she had to say.

Seniors, your time on the Smith campus is coming to a close. So is mine. For the past year, many people have asked me the same question: What is your next chapter? I think my answer has surprised them—a bunch of empty pages.

Let me explain.

Like you, I know a very significant life transition lies ahead. And I know from experience that change is always hard, even

when we choose it. This was the case 10 years ago when I moved to Smith; I chose Smith, but I left behind a life I loved. Now, as I prepare to leave Smith, I am about to leave people I love, cherished traditions, and this stunningly beautiful campus.

KATHLEEN MCCARTNEY
PRESIDENT'S
PERSPECTIVE

Anthropologists sometimes refer to these moments with the term “liminality,” a word that denotes a transition between one stage and the next. The word “liminal” comes from the Latin word *limen*, which

means threshold. A person experiencing liminality is between rooms, metaphorically speaking. And when we are between rooms, we are neither here nor there. As a result, liminality is necessarily disorienting.

Commencement and retirement mark two significant life transitions.

“A very significant life transition lies ahead. And change is always hard, even when we choose it.”

For this reason, I feel a special connection with the class of 2023.

On July 1, I will experience a rite of passage as I become a retired person. I know that I will always be a part of this community, just like all of you here today. But I also know that I am preparing to move to another house in another town. And I won't have my work to provide the kind of structure that has grounded me each day since 1982, when I began my career in higher education.

My overscheduled life is about to end. In the beginning, I am sure I will feel a sense of relief as I find time to take walks along the beaches of Cape Cod; time to read *War and Peace*, which I have always wanted to do; time for photography, a passion of mine; and time to be with my five grandchildren. But I am guessing that sometime in early fall, I may find myself at a crossroads as I reflect on how I want to spend my time meaningfully.

The writing teacher Joe Bunting says that every good story needs liminality, which he defines as the time between “the inciting incident in a story and the protagonist's resolution.” Bunting gives some great examples: In *Crime and Punishment*, it is the time between Raskolnikov's crime and his confession; In *The Lord of the Rings*, it is Frodo's



“I take comfort from knowing that we will always belong to Smith, and Smith will always belong to us.”

journey to Mordor; and in *Pride and Prejudice*, a favorite novel of mine, it is the time between Elizabeth Bennet's realization that she is in love with Mr. Darcy and her acceptance of his marriage proposal. Bunting describes three stages of liminality that resonate with me: discomfort, waiting, and transformation.

Whenever we let go of what we know, there is discomfort. Discomfort sounds unpleasant, and it is. Yet, the author and poet Wendell Berry offers this heartening advice: "It may be that when we no longer know what to do we have come to our real work and that when we no longer know which way to go we have begun our real journey. The mind that is not baffled is not employed." Berry is telling us that we cannot be afraid of discomfort. Instead, we can reframe it as the first step in our journey toward transformation. I am a developmental psychologist by training, and I used to lecture about how children learn. In every theory, it is confusion or bafflement that motivates learning; without bafflement, there would be no reason to change.

The second stage is waiting. Why does waiting play a critical role during liminal moments in our lives? The answer can be found in four brilliant lines from T. S. Eliot's *Four Quartets*:

I said to my soul, be still, and wait without hope

For hope would be hope for the wrong thing; wait without love,

For love would be love of the wrong thing; there is yet faith

But the faith and the love and the hope are all in the waiting.

Eliot knows that we desire certainty over uncertainty whenever we stand on a threshold. For this reason, there is a tendency in all of us to grasp for easy answers rather than to take the time to discover the right answers. Eliot advises us to be still—to wait—and to have faith that the right path will reveal itself. Still, waiting is a tall order because it makes us anxious. We want to know the future now.

What makes the waiting easier? Again, the answer can be found in poetry. A good poem is a revelation. It has the power to change us. Maya

Angelou asks whether we can be "present in the present" because "it is the wisest thing we can do." In other words, we can put the future on hold. Perhaps, in doing so, we can take pleasure from the journey itself.

Development takes time. Life lessons take time. Without time, we cannot do the real work of life: discovering who we are, what we believe, and what we are meant to do with the precious gift of life we have been given. Seniors, let's embrace liminality; let's stand on the threshold together courageously, knowing that transformation awaits us.

Perhaps some of the alumnae here remember my presidential inauguration in the fall of 2013. I closed my address by saying, "As individuals and in community, we are busy being born." Here, birth is a metaphor for transformation.

Now, 10 years later, I can look back with pride and say that together we have done much to push Smith—and,

by extension, the world—forward. In profound ways, we have risen to the task set forth by Sophia Smith: to do "the most good to the greatest number."

Together, Smithies, we made magic. And I love the Smith we have created.

In truth, preparing to leave Smith has been difficult. This has been my home. The campus has been my sanctuary. You have been my friends and extended family.

All of you, and this place, have enriched my life immensely.

But I believe change is good, for individuals and for institutions.

So even as I look forward to a new life beyond Smith, I take comfort from knowing that we will always belong to Smith, and Smith will always belong to us. I also take comfort from knowing that good work lies ahead—for all of us.

This has been a remarkable journey. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for being by my side at every step.

Plan your visit



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**SMITH COLLEGE
MUSEUM OF ART**



‘How Are We Ever Going to Leave This Place?’

President
Kathleen
McCartney
forged a
powerful
legacy of
access,
innovation,
inclusion, and
community

by John
MacMillan

Photographs
by Aundrea
Marschoun AC

On a

warm spring afternoon in early April, President Kathleen McCartney is in her office on the second floor of College Hall sharing stories about a few of the most important people in her life—her grandchildren. Photographs of each of them line a bookshelf behind her desk. In one, Callie Rose and Viola—both will be 4 years old this summer—are grinning from ear to ear. “These photos represent joy personified,” McCartney says. “My daughters had babies one month apart. Can you believe it?” Then there’s her only grandson William, 7, as well as Charlotte (Charlie), 6, from Seattle, and Tessa, the oldest at 8. “Tessa recently came with me to a Smith basketball game,” McCartney says. “Afterward, she said to me, ‘I don’t want you to retire,’ and I said, ‘But why not? I’ll get to see more of you.’ And she said, ‘But I want to go to Smith, and I want you to be the president when I go.’”

Despite her granddaughter’s heartfelt pleading, McCartney is sticking to her decision to retire on June 30 after a decade on the job. “It’s the right time,” she says. “I believe that institutions need to evolve, and new leadership will bring a fresh perspective.”

McCartney, a developmental psychologist by training, arrived at Smith in the summer of 2013 promising change—and she delivered. Her inauguration address, titled “Busy Being Born,” was all about continuous transformation and the need to avoid stagnation. At the time, she said, “A strong institution encourages its community to seek change, to risk change.”

From the start of her presidency, McCartney had a vision to make Smith a more accessible, welcoming, and innovative place that would be the college of choice for leaders in the making. “Kathy knew exactly where she wanted to take the college and has pursued her goals tirelessly, overcoming many challenges and never giving up,” says Carrie Baker, professor of the study of women and gender.

By all accounts, McCartney accomplished everything she set out to do. In the past 10 years, applications for admission to Smith have soared more than 122%. In the face of climate change, Smith has become more sustainable;

thanks to a range of initiatives, including a transformative geothermal energy project currently underway, Smith will reach its goal of carbon neutrality by 2030. As the nation grappled with racism and responded to calls for racial justice, Smith developed a comprehensive plan to acknowledge its own history and take concrete action to address systemic racism and become an anti-racist campus. As the cost of college increased nationwide, Smith doubled down on its commitment to access and affordability, embarking on a \$200 million fundraising campaign for scholarship aid and making the historic decision in the fall of 2021 to eliminate loans from its financial aid packages.

“Kathy is a true visionary,” says Alison Overseth ’80, chair of the Smith College Board of Trustees. “She led Smith with love and trust and heart and soul. We are so strong as an institution now because of what Kathy has accomplished. Our future looks so hopeful because we are coming off of a leader like Kathy. We owe her an incredible debt of gratitude.”

Times were not always easy, though. Namely, the pandemic was impossible to predict or plan for, and it disrupted—at least for a little while—some of the momentum of McCartney’s final few years. The campus went into lockdown, the pace of major projects like the renovation of Neilson Library slowed, and the college braced for potential budget reductions as revenue dipped and the need for more financial aid increased. Nonetheless, McCartney kept going, earning widespread praise for her thoughtful and compassionate leadership during one of the most challenging moments in the college’s history. “Steering the college through the pandemic is, I think, Kathy’s greatest accomplishment,” says Provost and Dean of the Faculty Michael Thurston. “She got pretty much

every move right, even when it was a really risky move like shifting the fall 2020 semester to fully remote instruction. She was able to lead as we struck a balance between health and safety and academic effectiveness.”

With just a few months left in her tenure, McCartney took some time to reflect on what she calls “one of the greatest privileges of my life,” what she’ll miss most about Smith, and why colleges like it remain an important option.

What is on your mind as you enter the final stretch of your presidency?

The transition, for sure, because I want to do everything I can to ensure that Sarah [Willie-LeBreton] is prepared on Day One. I asked my team to put together a briefing book for her; she’s coming to cam-

REFLECTIONS ON A PRESIDENCY

Erin Cohn ’00 | Director of the
Wurtele Center for Leadership

THANKS TO KATHY’S LEADERSHIP, Smith has made enormous strides in expanding access for students and has subsequently attracted a beautifully diverse student body. As an alumna, I can’t tell you how proud I was at the announcement that Smith was eliminating loans from financial aid packages and replacing them with grants. This policy creates space for brilliant future Smithies of all backgrounds to experience the exceptional educational opportunities of this place, and to leave Smith unsaddled with debt.

I APPRECIATE THE WAYS KATHY HAS ADVANCED opportunities for students to create connections between their academic work and their growing sense of purpose. Under her leadership, Smith has made great strides in its ability to help students put all the pieces of their undergraduate experience together, such that they’re better equipped to tell the story of what they’ve learned here and how they might apply it in their lives and careers beyond Smith.



Michael Thurston | Provost and
Dean of the Faculty

KATHY IS AN EXEMPLARY COLLABORATIVE LEADER.

Because of her leadership, the college has evolved to reaffirm the value of a liberal arts education by developing ways for students to gain solid experience and translate their disciplinary knowledge and expertise into possible career pathways. Areas like leadership and entrepreneurship, long of interest to students, are now available for real and meaningful development. Curricular and co-curricular experiences that help students to develop capacities for living in diverse communities, for acknowledging and addressing racial power structures, and for redressing injustice are hallmarks of the college's development during Kathy's tenure.

pus a few times this spring to meet with various departments, and she'll have plenty of time with me. I'm also focused on fundraising for my priorities, especially for career development and financial aid, so that eventually we can be a need-blind college. And I'm trying to savor these last few months. Spring is such a beautiful time here, filled with wonderful traditions.

What influenced your decision to step down?

Ten years is what I agreed to from the start, and I do think new leaders help places like Smith continue to evolve. Also, the timing just felt right. Looking at our strategic plan, Lives of Distinction and Purpose, I can say that we have really accomplished everything that I hoped to do. Of course, we can always do more, but we have so much to be proud of. And, on a more personal level, my husband, Bill, is 11 years older than I am, and I know he's looking forward to spending some quality time together in retirement.

He has been such an integral part of Smith. How does he feel about leaving?

He loves Smith so much too. About a month ago, we were having dinner and he looked out the window at Paradise Pond and said, "How are we going to ever leave this place?" And I said, "It means so much to me that you feel that way." He's traveled the world with me for Smith. He's attended almost every event I've been to. He is Smith's best advocate, and I've been grateful to have him by my side on this journey.

Thinking back to your first year, what excited you most about joining the Smith community?

There were many things. Some colleges have a reputation for being strong communities, and Smith is one of them. I quickly found that to be so. This community really embraced me from the beginning. I also wanted to be at a liberal arts college, and particularly at a women's college, because they are, in their own way, disruptive. Nobody questions a woman's ability to lead here. That has been incredibly empowering for me.

Now, a decade later, what excites you about the Smith community?

We're in the business of changing lives. This is our mission, this is our work, this is our honor. I have come to know quite a few students, and it is thrilling to watch them grow and change and develop such passion for putting what they learn here into action in the world. What better work can you do? I wake up every morning excited about going to work.

Why are women's colleges like Smith still necessary and critical to the higher education landscape?

I believe higher education should be offering a variety of educational experiences. For some students, a women's college experience is the right one. And consider some of the things going on in the world today: gender discrimination, violence against women, threats to reproductive rights. It is clear that Smith's mission remains unfinished. Students continue to choose Smith because of our commitment to addressing structural inequalities of all kinds.

You've had remarkable success with fundraising. One of your first major accomplishments was completing the college's Women for the World campaign. You soared past the goal of \$450 million, raising more than \$486 million. Then, in the fall of 2021, Smith received the largest gift in its history—\$50 million from an anonymous alum. Does fundraising just come naturally to you?

I am a people person; I suppose most psychologists are. I see fundraising as a partnership. When I meet with someone, often an alum, I share Smith's philanthropic priorities. Philanthropists are searching for a good idea, and Smith has an abundance of them. Often, donors share how grateful they are for the opportunity. The first time this happened to me is when I went to visit Viola (Vi) Spinelli, class of 1947, to thank her for her \$5 million gift, which was definitely a stretch gift for her. She grabbed my hands, shook her head, and said, "No, no, you don't understand. I'm grateful to *you*. This is my legacy. Long after I'm gone, the Spinelli Center [for Quantitative Learning] will be at Smith College, my alma mater." She had tears in her eyes, and I often tell people that there are a lot of happy tears in fundraising. When people make significant gifts, it brings them joy. It can be very emotional.

During your tenure, we saw an increased urgency around climate change. We experienced the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement and a national call for racial justice. We saw basic rights being stripped away. What role do you think colleges like Smith can play in addressing these major cultural issues?

Colleges can amplify voices and ideas for change. Our faculty, for example, are scholars who create knowledge to address every critical issue facing the country and world. Many members of our community—students, staff, and faculty—are activists who are working hard to identify solutions. Importantly, colleges can be models for the wider world by solving some of these problems on their own campuses. At Smith, we take this task very seriously. For example, we partnered with four other institutions to build a solar farm in Maine that is

Making Smith

Stronger

President Kathleen McCartney's impact can be measured in numerous ways: the dramatic increase in the number of applications to Smith, the remarkable philanthropic support of thousands of Smith alums and friends of the college, the number of new and innovative programs and initiatives launched during her tenure, and the range of capital projects that have made Smith the envy of its peers. Here is a snapshot in numbers of the McCartney presidency.

\$729+
million
Raised since July 2013

122%
Increase in applications
over 10 years

46%
of alums made a gift to Smith during
McCartney's tenure

Smith's admit rate - a measure of the
college's selectivity - fell from

45%

in 2013 to

19%

in 2023

\$740
million
Total student financial aid awarded from
FY14 to FY23

58%
Growth in endowment.
It now stands at \$2.5 billion

387

Total fellowship awards
over the past 10 years,
including 134 Fulbrights

Purchases of local
and sustainable
foods increased from

9%
in
2013
to

24%
in
2022

Marianne Yoshioka | Dean of the
Smith College School for Social Work

WHEN I THINK OF KATHY, I THINK WARM AND GENUINE, clever and razor-sharp, effective and powerful. Kathy's record shows that she knows how to zero in on what is most important. She has moved this entire campus forward, not only in terms of infrastructure but, perhaps more importantly, in terms of culture. There have been enormous obstacles set before her in this work. Even so, she has succeeded in bringing great and important change to Smith.

providing about 30% of our electricity. Last summer, we broke ground on a transformative geothermal energy project that will get us to carbon neutrality by 2030. With respect to racial justice, we developed a three-phase plan where we get educated, reflect on the history of racial injustice, and engage in action planning, with the goal of ensuring that everyone has a sense of being welcome and belonging at Smith. This has been some of the most consequential work of my presidency.

Take us back to the early days of the pandemic. Smith was one of the first colleges to send students, staff, and faculty home. What was going through your mind when you had to make those tough decisions with often little information at your disposal?

There were rumblings very early on, in March of 2020, that colleges were thinking about not bringing students back after spring break, so I called an emergency meeting of my leadership team at my house. Deborah Duncan [’77], chair of the board of trustees at the time, joined via teleconference; this was before Zoom calls became the norm. Together, we mapped out the advantages and disadvantages of our options. By the end of the night, we were leaning toward sending students home, but it was such a big decision, so I asked everyone to take the night to think about it. We reconvened the next morning. Everyone agreed that sending students home was the best course to take for health and safety, and in hindsight, I think it was absolutely the right thing to do.

Was there any backlash to that decision?

There was. We received a petition from more than 200 students who said they didn't want to go home—that they were young and would be fine. I had to say to them, “But what about the faculty and staff? I'm worried about them.” Remember, in those early days, we were afraid to go to the grocery store. We had little information and weren't entirely sure how the virus would affect individuals. I had to confide in some of the students that I never thought I'd have to make a life-or-death decision as president, but that's where we found ourselves.

Amid all of this, the business of the college needed to continue. How did you personally stay motivated, and how did you motivate the community to keep moving forward?

Crisis management is part of the job of being a president,

but I never thought that I'd be managing through a global pandemic. My work never felt more important to me than during the early days of the pandemic, so it was easy to stay motivated. My team and I knew we had to prioritize the health and safety of members of the community, communicate often and with transparency, and support the faculty as they developed new ways of teaching and learning. I am so proud of how everyone stepped up. On a personal level, there were times when I, like everyone else, felt a bit lonely. I had two infant granddaughters that I couldn't visit for several months. One thing Bill and I did to stave off the feeling of being isolated was start walking 3 miles a day. It's something we continue to do.

Of all your major accomplishments, is there one you are most proud of?

Eliminating loans from our financial aid packages. This goes back to what I was talking about earlier—how the work we do changes lives. With one vote, the board of trustees made a Smith education more accessible and more affordable—in perpetuity. I'll never forget that day. I, and several trustees, had tears in our eyes because we knew the impact our decision would have on the lives of our students and their families. It was an incredibly emotional moment, and perhaps the proudest day of my professional life.

Smith students are known for their creativity, innovation, and unwillingness to accept the status quo. What have they taught you about using education to push the world forward?

Every day, I am inspired by our students. They're smart and funny and care deeply about their college, and they push us

Andrew Guswa | L. Clarke Seelye
Professor of Engineering

THERE ARE MANY THINGS ASKED OF A COLLEGE PRESIDENT, involving everything from academics to finance, from fundraising to student life. Amid all of these competing demands, Kathy has always maintained an enthusiasm for the core mission of our institution: teaching and scholarship. Her response to the climate crisis has been particularly meaningful. When I was director of the Center for the Environment, Ecological Design, and Sustainability, we could see the tremendous potential that Smith has with respect to faculty and resources—including the botanic garden, the spatial analysis lab, and the MacLeish Field Station—to study the environment and help our students take on environmental challenges. For many institutions, that might be sufficient. But Kathy wanted Smith to lead by example and make serious and substantive progress toward carbon neutrality. The implementation of ground-source heating and cooling will make a real, positive impact on carbon emission reduction and position Smith as a leader for the environment. I can think of no better place for a student to learn and live their commitment to sustainability.

Daphne Lamothe | Professor of
Africana Studies

I HAVE LONG ADMIRERD THE TIME AND ENERGY Kathy has invested in broadening student access to financial aid, as well as her commitment to diversifying Smith's faculty and curriculum. Over the last 10 years, her tremendous leadership in these areas has led to noticeable, indeed impactful, improvements in equity and accessibility within all aspects of campus life. That she accomplished these things during a period of great social and political turmoil, including a public health crisis, makes it all the more admirable. On a more personal note, as someone who works in literary studies, I have also appreciated Kathy's appreciation of the importance of the humanities (and her love of poetry!), particularly at a juncture in which the value of a liberal arts education seems to be perpetually up for debate in American society.

to be our best selves. I remember when students were pushing for Smith to divest from fossil fuel managers. They did such a good job. Their strategy was incredibly effective. I appreciated how they used data to inform their arguments. At one point, they met with the Advisory Committee on Investor Responsibility. During the meeting, they brought in this brilliant PowerPoint presentation that was full of great data on the impact of climate change. They made a very compelling values-driven argument. They were occasionally funny too. They came to my office once with a giant valentine that said, "We love you, Kathy. Divest!" Then they signed it. It was huge. And they had very successful protests. When the board of trustees was on campus, the students held up signs and stood silently outside the Campus Center, so when the board came out we noticed them and would stop and read their signs and listen to what they had to say. What inspired me was that every time they got a win, they just kept going. I admired that. In everything we do, we empower students to lead change. I find great comfort in knowing that Smithies are out there leading movements, fighting for justice, and making a better world.

You have a deep love for poetry. Does any particular poem come to mind now as you think about leaving Smith?

There is one that I've turned to quite often lately. It is called "The Lesson of the Falling Leaves" by Lucille Clifton. It goes:

*the leaves believe
such letting go is love
such love is faith
such faith is grace
such grace is god
i agree with the leaves*

You are a developmental psychologist. Applying that lens to your own experience over the past decade, how have you grown and evolved personally?

I think in a lot of ways leadership offers opportunities for personal growth. For example, you get to mentor people, and I have found great joy in mentoring people on my team. That has helped me grow. If you do it right, you own your mistakes and see criticism as caring about the institution. And if you can do the work with equanimity, you will change for the better. You just will.

You've often said that Smith is defined by a profound sense of place. Why do you think that is true, and what campus spaces will you miss most?

That is absolutely true. When I ask students and alums why they decided to attend Smith, they always mention the beauty of the campus. They tell me they visited and could see themselves here. They use the same language. We all know that nature soothes the soul, and we're so fortunate to be on a campus that is itself a botanic garden. Personally, I'll miss the Happy Chace '28 Garden that is adjacent to the President's House and overlooks Paradise Pond. It has brought me such joy through the seasons. I'll also miss the unexpected and at times serendipitous encounters that occur along campus paths. Some of the most joyful encounters I've had have hap-

pened while I was walking to my office in the morning. The landscape encourages these kinds of personal connections.

Are there particular images of Smith that will stay with you?

There are so many: a sea of students and alums in white on Ivy Day; the foliage of the trees by Paradise Pond; the smiles of the newly tenured faculty as they receive a bottle of Champagne at a faculty meeting; the first snowwoman I saw on campus; interviewing Nancy Pelosi, the first woman speaker of the House, who received an honorary degree and shared that she was proud to be a Smithie; students picnicking on Chapin lawn during the first warm spring day; interviewing Jericho Brown and Alena Smith about Emily Dickinson at the first Presidential Colloquium this year; giving the trustees a tour of the new Neilson Library; the Smith basketball team making it to the Final Four amid cheers from the fans; every single Mountain Day. And maybe one very personal moment—my inauguration day, when students from the quad met Bill and me and started marching alongside us to the ITT [Indoor Track and Tennis Facility]. There is a picture I keep near my desk that captures that moment. It's beautiful. We're both looking at each other like, "Can you believe this?" It was an incredibly special day.

What comes next for you, after Smith?

Retirement is a significant life event, and I want to be thoughtful about it. In particular, I want to carefully consider what new projects I take on. I know a few things that I'll be doing. First, I plan to take some time to decompress and really reflect on the past 10 years. I'm on a board that will provide me with some meaningful work. I have a new camera and want to return to photography as a creative outlet—something I used to do. I plan to spend more time with my family. Time is our most valuable resource, and I want to spend it wisely.

John MacMillan is the senior editorial director at Smith.



B

Ways President McCartney Changed Smith Forever

Eliminating loans

1 Deciding to eliminate loans from the college's financial aid packages was an emotional moment for President McCartney and members of the board of trustees, several of whom had tears in their eyes when the vote to approve the initiative passed. "We all understood the extent to which our students' lives would be transformed," McCartney said at the time. "It was incredibly moving." More than just a professional high point, the no-loans initiative will make it easier for students and Smith graduates of the future to pursue their academic and career dreams without the burden of large amounts of debt.

Going geothermal

2 Smith is making good on its promise to reach carbon neutrality by 2030 thanks in large part to an ambitious campuswide geothermal energy project championed by President McCartney and the board of trustees. In announcing the initiative in 2022, McCartney declared that it was nothing short of a "moral imperative for Smith College to do its part to mitigate the devastating effects of climate change on our planet." The project will make Smith one of only a handful of schools nationwide that will achieve net-zero carbon emissions through the elimination of on-campus fossil fuel combustion rather than through other means, such as carbon offsets.

Centering inclusion and racial justice

3 In response to the urgent need to address issues related to race and racism in our world and at Smith, McCartney unveiled *Toward Racial Justice at Smith College*, a comprehensive strategic plan to make Smith a more inclusive and welcoming place. "How to achieve racial justice is the moral question of our time," she wrote in a letter to the Smith community in July 2020. Education, reflection, and action are three key tenets of the plan, which consists of close to 50 concrete action items, including improving the hiring and retention of more diverse faculty and staff, instituting a Campus Safety Advisory Group, and bolstering mental health and wellness services, particularly for Black students, faculty, and staff. "I have been inspired by Kathy's

commitment to investing in our diversity and inclusion efforts," says Floyd Cheung, vice president for equity and inclusion. "It is difficult work, but Kathy has been willing to engage in systemic change guided by community input that advances anti-racism on campus."

Reimagining Neilson Library

4 From the earliest days of her presidency, McCartney dreamed of renovating Neilson Library. She knew that a destination college like Smith deserved a destination library. To bring that vision to life, she made the bold decision to hire renowned architectural designer Maya Lin to reimagine Neilson. The result—after nearly three years of construction, much of it in the midst of the pandemic—is a stunning piece of architecture as art that encourages learning and discovery in bold and creative ways.

Endowing the Boutelle-Day Poetry Center

5 McCartney has called poetry one of our highest art forms, saying it inspires us to "learn from another's experience about the human condition." It was long a dream of hers to endow Smith's poetry center, one of only nine such poetry centers at an American college or university. That dream came true in 2020, when the Tamis Day Foundation—named in honor of an Ada Comstock Scholar from the class of 2005—made a transformative gift that, in McCartney's words, will "ensure the work of the poetry center continues in perpetuity."

Innovating the curriculum

6 The past decade has seen the expansion of Smith's curriculum in ways that address the needs of society and the expectations of students and scholars. Under McCartney's leadership, the college launched new courses and academic programs in data sciences, environmental studies and policy, Middle East studies, biogeology, writing and public discourse, and journalism, among others. As Provost and Dean of the Faculty Michael Thurston says, "Kathy has taken Smith and our curriculum in exciting new directions. Her willingness to invest in new areas of study, as well as the faculty, has made Smith stronger." —JM

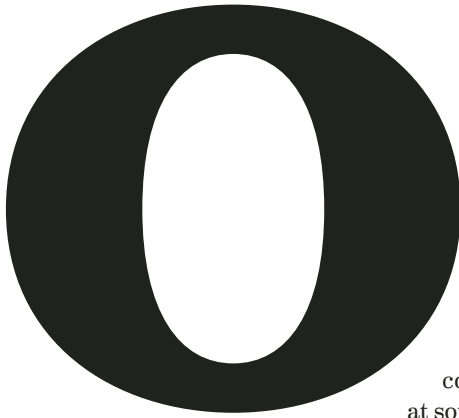
**The Incredibly True Story of
a Long and Winding Road
From South Africa to Smith
to the Silver Screen**

Jane Dawson Shang '82, left, and Tandiwe Njobe '94 were photographed at Constitution Hill, a national heritage site in Johannesburg, South Africa.

For eight years during apartheid, a special program offered two Black South African women per year the opportunity to study in Northampton on full scholarships. A new film documents this little-known slice of Smith history. How *Where I Became* came to be.

BY LORI L. THARPS '94
PHOTOGRAPH BY LEXIE KNIGHT





ONE DAY IN 2012, Tandiwe Njobe '94 attended a strategy session at Standard Bank in South Africa, where she worked. During the lunch break, the global head of investment banking—the man leading the session—struck up a casual conversation with Njobe and at some point asked her where she went to college.

When she told him that she graduated from Smith, his response surprised her. “My wife went to Smith College too!” he said. “You two should meet.”

One email introduction later, Jane Dawson Shang '82 and Tandiwe Njobe started a friendship that would lead to a life-changing experience for both of them. With little more than a healthy dose of curiosity and courage, they decided to make a feature-length documentary film, *Where I Became* (whereibecame.com), that would bring to light the incredible but mostly unknown story of Smith College's South African scholarship program and the 16 women who were its beneficiaries.

But the road from that introductory email to an award-winning film was long and winding and makes for an excellent story in itself.

Shang and Njobe attended Smith more than 10 years apart. Njobe is a native South African who was raised in exile in Tanzania and Zambia, and Shang is an American with New England roots, but the two women immediately hit it off. After corresponding by email for a few months, they decided to meet in London, where Shang was living at the time. They ended up bonding over their Smith experience—both majored in economics—and their shared interest in travel and learning about people and culture. “Like Jane,” Njobe says, “I think I have a knack for just wanting to understand people, understand their journeys, understand where they came from, and understand why they do the things they do.”

As the two women learned more about each other and their similar experiences living and working abroad, an idea took hold to somehow share the remarkable story of Njobe's family, particularly her parents. Her mother and father were career educators in South Africa who chose to live in exile as an act of defiance against that country's horrific apartheid policies—policies that severely limited what Black South Africans were allowed to teach and learn. In exile,

Njobe's parents continued to teach and stressed the importance of education to their children. Njobe explained to Shang that her decision to go to Smith was the perfect epilogue to her parents' story because she attended on a full scholarship specifically intended to give Black South African women the opportunity to get the college education that their own country denied them.

Because Njobe and Shang lived on separate continents and had other work and family obligations, the notion of telling Njobe's family story remained in the idea phase. But when Njobe's father died in 2014, they knew they couldn't just keep dreaming about getting the story out into the world—they had to put a plan into place.

The question then became how to capture Njobe's family story and how to tell it. Were they writing a book? Recording a podcast? Simply collecting memories for some sort of archive? To complicate matters, Shang and Njobe also decided they wanted to share the experiences of the other women who had attended Smith on the South African scholarship. Inspired by the lengths to which Black South Africans had to go—both physically and emotionally—in order to get a decent education, Njobe and Shang were determined to tell as many of the women's stories as they could. But they didn't know how to get started.

While they struggled to straighten out the details, Shang was introduced to a well-known Johannesburg-based media company executive. When he learned of Njobe's mother's remarkable story, and those of the South African Smith scholars, he volunteered his company's services to film at Njobe's home. It was an offer Shang and Njobe could not refuse. They loved the idea of telling the story with an audiovisual element, but it still didn't occur to them that they were making a movie. “We didn't call it a film,” Shang says now. “It was just ‘our project.’”

In 2016, Shang and Njobe finally filmed Njobe's mother sharing her experience of fleeing South Africa and finding a way to continue teaching while in exile in Tanzania and Zambia. Since a film crew was already in place, they also captured three of the South African Smith scholars on camera on the same day. It was the first official forward step in their “project.” Sadly, Njobe's mother passed away later that same year, and it would take two more years of mourning, healing, researching, and learning before Shang and Njobe decided that their “project” was going to be a film—a film that would shed light on and contextualize Smith's South African scholarship

VOICES OF THE SCHOLARS

“After participating in this film, I am now able to look back at my time at Smith with a lot of pride and gratitude—proud of who Smith has molded me into, and gratitude for the support, encouragement, and opportunity to attend Smith. I can tell you that Smithies are my peeps, and I would change nothing about my time there.”

Meagan Van Harte '95

The scholarship gave Black South African women the chance to get the college education that their country denied them.

program and give voice to the women whose lives were irrevocably changed because of it.

In 1948, South Africa officially codified segregation and called its system apartheid. Based partly on the Jim Crow laws of the American South, apartheid made it illegal in almost every way for different races to mix in South Africa. And, as in the United States, separate did not mean equal. The quality of everything from schools to housing to job opportunities was based on a racial hierarchy wherein white South Africans received the best of everything and Black South Africans received the worst.

Even more insidious than the separation of the races in schools were the policies that regulated what Black and other non-white South Africans could learn. The curriculum for Black people was so limited and biased in favor of white supremacist doctrine that there was no way for a Black person to legally receive an effective education. What's more, Black South Africans weren't even allowed to attend the same universities as their white counterparts. They had very limited options for a good education. Taking a cue from American slave owners, the South African government knew an uneducated population was easier to control and oppress.

Meanwhile, in the United States, activists were lobbying American companies to divest from

South Africa until it abolished apartheid. As protests in South Africa intensified, the demand for divestment in the United States grew more insistent as well. Large American companies with a global reach, including Coca-Cola and GM, were publicly targeted to divest, but so were American colleges and universities that had investments in these very same companies. No business or institution that had economic ties to South Africa was off the hook, including Smith College.

At the time—the early 1980s—many American colleges and universities were trying to do their part to help South African college students disadvantaged by apartheid by offering them scholarships to study in the United States. A consortium of American institutions called the South African Education Program (SAEP) even

“Participating in this film reminded me once more how privileged we were. It also challenged me to reflect on what I was doing with all that privilege. How have I opened doors for the less privileged? How has my education benefited others?”
Siphokazi Koyana '89



Filming in Johannesburg, South Africa, are, from left, producer Jane Dawson Shang '82; producer and scholar Tandiwe Njobe '94; scholars Heather Sonn '95, Kholeka Mabuya '96, and Vuyiswa Majova '97; and director and editor Kate Geis.

A 1986 protest at College Hall demanded that Smith divest from South Africa.

"This film allowed me to pay homage to Sophia Smith's vision of educating women in an environment that enables excellence. That vision she had all those years ago has created a cohort of women in the world that are at the fore of changing nations, communities, and families. If I were to do it again, I wouldn't change a thing, because Smith is the reason I am and how I became."
Vuyiswa Majova '97



facilitated the placement of such students in American colleges and universities.

Peter de Villiers, a native South African who joined the Smith faculty in 1979 and is now a professor emeritus of psychology, was watching all of this unfold. As the chair of Smith's newly formed faculty committee on international students, de Villiers says Smith joined SAEP but never received any South African students because the program primarily sponsored male graduate students interested in business or technical fields.

De Villiers knew that simply participating in SAEP was not going to bring South African students to Smith. He was particularly adamant about this and took his concerns to Jill Ker Conway, then the president of Smith. He wrote her a memo that read, "We will not get students from this program. If you want students from South Africa, you need to recruit them directly."

As de Villiers remembers it, Conway had a lot

to consider when it came to South Africa. Students and faculty members alike were demanding that Smith divest from companies that did business in the country. Meanwhile, the college's trustees were wary of taking any actions that would diminish the school's endowment. As Smith's first woman president, Conway knew everything she did would be heavily scrutinized, and there were several stakeholders she needed to appease.

De Villiers recalls, "President Conway came to me and asked, 'Can we really do this? Can we recruit young women directly from South Africa ourselves?'"

He didn't pause before saying yes because he had a secret weapon in his back pocket: His father was a well-respected local minister in South Africa who sat on the board of the famous Inanda Seminary, one of the oldest schools in the country for Black South African girls. De Villiers knew that with his father's connections, Smith could find students who would jump at the chance to come to Northampton.

With that problem solved, Conway had to figure out how to pay for a comprehensive scholarship that would fully fund all four years of the

girls' education and provide air transportation to and from South Africa.

To convince the college's trustees to come up with the money for her ambitious plan, de Villiers says, Conway told them that since they had not yet decided whether to divest, the college was going to use the money it was earning from South African industries to educate its citizens. She then persuaded the trustees to set aside a chunk of money to form the South African scholarship program. It was thanks to Conway, de Villiers says, that the program came to fruition. A short time later, the first two scholars arrived in Northampton.

It was 1986, and the scholars were welcomed by de Villiers and his wife, Jill, who is now a Smith professor emerita of philosophy and psychology. For the next five years, de Villiers says, his father was instrumental in recruiting students from South Africa for the program, and he himself acted as both an academic adviser and

Students and faculty alike were demanding that Smith divest from companies doing business in South Africa.

a mentor to the women coming from his home country. As word spread about the scholarship, recruitment efforts widened across South Africa, more Smith professors got involved in advising and mentorship, and more South African schools started encouraging their students to apply.

When, in 1990, Nelson Mandela was finally released from prison, the scholarship program continued. And when South African universities slowly started allowing Black students to enroll, Smith still continued the program, knowing equality in education wasn't going to happen overnight. It wasn't until 1994, when Mandela became president, that the trustees and President Conway's successor, Mary Males Dunn, decided to roll the South African scholarship monies into the college's greater international student scholarship fund, effectively ending the program.

that Smith divest from companies doing business in South Africa.

If you didn't attend Smith between 1986 and 1994, you may have never known about the South African scholarship program, why and how it was created, and the women who came to Smith because of it. It might have been a forgotten piece of Smith's history if Njobe and Shang hadn't decided to tell the story in *Where I Became*.

"What an amazing opportunity Smith, the trustees, Peter and Jill de Villiers, Jill Ker Conway, etc., gave to each and every one of us [South African women]. It was more than just an education. Look who and what we have become—even stronger and more influential women than we already were."

Thlorthamay (Thilo) Simadari '89

Full Scholarship, Full Potential

BY CHRISTINA BARBER-JUST

Desiree Lalbeharie '90 and Verna Lalbeharie '93 were one of two pairs of South African sisters who attended Smith on full scholarships during apartheid. Desiree, who appeared on the cover of the Winter 1990 SAQ (bottom right), went on to receive a master of education from Smith and a doctorate from UMass Amherst.

Describe your early life in South Africa.

My siblings and I grew up in Pietermaritzburg, the capital of KwaZulu-Natal. Our parents did not finish high school, so education was super important to them. They were loving, kind, avid readers, smart, and hardworking. Life was complicated, as South African culture is vibrant, diverse, warm, and joyful—in contrast to apartheid.

How did apartheid affect you and your family?

Apartheid controlled where we lived, where we went to school, and even where we ate. During my teen years, I was involved in school boycotts and marches against apartheid. There were many nights when desperate calls would come to our home and my dad would go out to help family members who were being attacked or arrested or having their homes ransacked by government police because they were involved in the struggle against apartheid.

What was it like to come to Smith in the late 1980s?

I had never been surrounded by so many white people before! I had experienced very little contact and interaction with white people before I arrived at Smith. My comfort level grew thanks to my roommate, who was white and very supportive; other

Smith friends, especially my fellow South African Smith sisters and my international friends who I met at the international student pre-orientation program; and a bumper sticker I saw that said "End Apartheid," which made me feel safe and welcomed.

Why did you decide to stay in the area and make a life here?

In my senior year at Smith I met Craig Josias, a South African anti-apartheid youth activist who was on a similar scholarship program at Amherst College. Together we raised three children while completing our doctoral degrees at UMass Amherst. Over the years this area has grown in diversity and become our second home. I appreciate being part of the wonderful community here, and I visit my family and community in South Africa as often as I can.



Desiree Lalbeharie '90 was featured on the cover of the Winter 1990 SAQ.

They realized they were making a movie about the radical act of providing a free education in the face of oppression.

WHEN THEY started filming in earnest in 2018, neither Shang and Njobe had made a movie before. “I didn’t realize how courageous and bold we were at the time, because we really had no idea what we were doing,” Njobe says. What they lacked in technical skills, however, they made up for with the conviction that the story they were trying to tell—that of a particular moment in history when a small college took a stand against injustice and changed the lives of 16 women in the process—needed to be told. In true Smith fashion, the two women decided they would figure it out as they went along. But it wasn’t easy, especially since Shang was now living in the United States and Njobe was still in South Africa.

Njobe and Shang divided tasks, making use of their strengths and locations. Shang dug through the Smith College Archives to find information about the scholarship’s origins and key figures. Meanwhile, Njobe got busy contacting the South African scholars and convincing them to revisit their Smith experience on film and reflect on how it changed their lives. Ultimately, the two were able to highlight 14 of the 16 scholarship recipients in the movie (two declined to participate for personal reasons). The voices of these women—who willingly left behind their families, friends, and culture in order to get a college education—are at the emotional heart of the film.

To interview the scholars, their family members, and current and former Smith faculty and staff, Njobe and Shang had to crisscross the globe, filming in South Africa, Northampton, Boston, and New York City. Luckily, they wrapped up their interviews in January 2020, right before the world shut down because of the COVID pandemic.

Shang says they leaned on Smith’s film and media studies program whenever they needed help. It was through Smith connections, in fact, that Shang found the film’s director, Kate Geis, an Emmy Award-winning documentarian who lives in Northampton.

“It was a privilege to listen to the stories of these women,” Geis says. “And I hope it is empowering for the audience who sees the film. I think the most important lesson in their success is how the scholars supported each other as students, and how they continue to do that in their lives today.”

At the beginning of their journey, Shang and Njobe thought they were making a movie about a group of South African women who came to Smith College on a special scholarship program.

They realized they were making a movie about the radical act of providing a free education in the face of oppression.

Their mission expanded when they realized that what they were really doing was making a movie about the revolutionary and radical act of providing a free education in the face of oppression. At its core, *Where I Became* is a love letter to Smith, a thank-you to an institution that made good on its promise to educate women and redress the wrongs of society. “I think deep in our hearts we want all Smithies to see *Where I Became* and be proud,” Shang says.

Where I Became is also a film for South Africans to take pride in, Njobe says. Although she was initially worried that a South African audience might find the story disconnected from the reality of the many South African people who never had the opportunity to study at an American college or university, she now feels differently.

“From a South African point of view, it’s a piece of our history,” Njobe says. “The film shows something positive that came out of something that was very negative. It’s so human on so many levels, and we think it can reach anyone who has a dream.”

The movie has already won a number of awards at film festivals around the globe, including Best International Documentary at the 2022 Hollywood North Film Awards. At press time, Njobe and Shang were in the process of finalizing a partnership with PBS to show *Where I Became* on local public television stations across the United States in the fall of 2023. (Editor’s note: Thanks to a special arrangement with the filmmakers, readers of this magazine may scan the QR Code on the back cover to stream the film for free through the end of August.)

“We’re excited to see the opportunities that this film has,” Shang says. “We really want it to soar.”

Lori L. Tharps '94 is a journalist, author, and creative writing coach. The host of the Read, Write and Create podcast, she lives in the south of Spain with her family.

“I left South Africa at a time of much upheaval and unrest. I was initially angry, uncertain, and displaced. The film offered a balanced reflection of how I discovered myself at Smith in the books, resources, discussions, engagements, interactions, experiences, and relationships. It is a bigger, more important part of my life than I had previously understood.”
Heather Sonn '95

Snapshot of the Scholars



Siphokazi Koyana '89

Thembekile Mazibuko '89

Thlorthamay (Thilo) Simadari '89

Desiree Lalbeharie '90, M.Ed. '91

Chuma Mbalu Keswa '91

Thandeka (Thandi) Mvakali '91

Verna Lalbeharie '93



Cordelia Nolwandle Mgoqi '94

Tandiwe Njobe '94

Heather Sonn '95

Meagan Van Harte '95

Kholeka Mabuya '96

Vuyiswa Majova '97

Dadawele Koyana '98

Name	Now living in	Smith major	Senior house
Siphokazi Koyana '89	East London, South Africa	Afro-American studies	Chapin
Thembekile Mazibuko '89	Burlington, Massachusetts	Psychology	Lamont
Thlorthamay (Thilo) Simadari '89	Amsterdam, Netherlands	Psychology	Washburn
Desiree Lalbeharie '90, M.Ed. '91	Amherst, Massachusetts	Education and child study	Cutter
Chuma Mbalu Keswa '91	Marietta, Georgia	Geology	Tyler
Thandeka (Thandi) Mvakali '91	Johannesburg, South Africa	Psychology	Friedman Complex
Sifanelwe Gangule '91	Unknown	Unknown	Park Annex
Verna Lalbeharie '93	Cary, North Carolina	Psychology	Friedman Complex
Cordelia Nolwandle Mgoqi '94	Johannesburg, South Africa	Psychology; sociology	Baldwin
Tandiwe Njobe '94	Johannesburg, South Africa	Economics	Scales
Heather Sonn '95	Cape Town, South Africa	Government	Chase
Meagan Van Harte '95	New York, New York	Government; religion and biblical lit.	Hubbard
Kholeka Mabuya '96	Johannesburg, South Africa	Biological sciences	Chapin
Patience Mbava '96	Cape Town, South Africa	Economics	Northrop
Vuyiswa Majova '97	Johannesburg, South Africa	Mathematics	Friedman Complex
Dadawele Koyana '98	Deceased	Theatre; Italian language and lit.	Friedman Complex



←● Sabrina Brier '17 parlays her passive-aggressive, white-girl-privilege-run-amok TikTok character ●→ into a lucrative career—and she's only just beginning...



→ Sabrina Rising

By Cheryl Dellecese

Photographs by Beth Perkins

As a first-year theatre major, Sabrina Brier '17 landed the title role in *Iphigenia and Other Daughters*, which was performed in Theatre 14, Smith's main stage. But it wasn't the highlight of her time at Smith. That would be joining SIKOS—Smith Improv Comedy Organization of Smith. Not exactly high Greek tragedy, but, in retrospect, it was a great first step to becoming a TikTok superstar. "I would not have auditioned for comedy improv if I was not at a women's college," Brier says. "I think when it comes to comedy and pushing the limits of comedy, Smith was a safe but exciting space for that."

Through SIKOS, Brier learned she could make an audience laugh. She also loved that improv was just one more way to create her own material—important for a showrunner in the making. "My big goal is to be like Quinta Brunson" (creator of *Abbott Elementary*), she says, "an actress on television in my own show where I'm coming up with the ideas."

To that end, Brier did a Praxis intern-

ship in Los Angeles as a production intern on the ABC show *Scandal*. "I knew I wanted to act and be on the creative side, but I also knew how difficult that was going to be," she says. "I decided to do the assistant route and learn from the inside of the business and make my own creative stuff on the side."

After graduating from Smith, Brier moved to New York City and worked as an assistant to a talent manager for two years. Then, through Praxis connections, she was hired as a writer's production assistant and promoted to a writer's assistant for ABC's legal drama *For Life*, which she worked on from September 2019 through the winter of 2021.

Along the way, she wrote, directed, and starred in *Pre-Mature*, a web series created by Brier and Marie Koury '17 about the impact of female friendship. The series also features Isabella Tagliati '19, Aisha Amin '17, and Sidni Standard '17, with original music by Grainne Buchanan '17 and Sam Davis '17.

Once COVID hit, Brier started playing around with Instagram sketches, mostly shot by her lifelong friend and roommate, Alice, a nurse, whose deadpan voice you can sometimes hear off camera. "I really wanted to stay in the digital space," Brier says, "but I wasn't sure how to get myself out there more."

She played with various aspects of a 20-something character living in New York City—the passive-aggressive roommate who is "not upset" you didn't take out the garbage, or the "old friend" you run into on the street who has no intention of getting together.

When *For Life* ended, Brier looked for another job, but she was also getting more proficient at uploading videos on Instagram. She had been on that platform for a year and a half and had also been toying around with TikTok when, in August 2021, one of her TikTok videos went viral. (A video is considered viral on TikTok when it has over 250,000 views. Some of Brier's videos have been viewed more than 1 million times, and she currently has more than 44 million likes and nearly 430,000 followers.)

Since then, Brier, who is represented by Creative Artists Agency, has been enjoying lucrative brand deals (with Google, Subway, eBay, Instacart, and Uno, to name a few), was prominently featured in March in the Style section of *The New York Times*, and is doing some stand-up comedy as she focuses on her professional goals by auditioning for parts and pitching scripts. Here, in her own words, she talks about going viral, who her TikTok character is really based on, and what's next.

GOING VIRAL

I would throw up the clips from Insta on TikTok. The quality wasn't great when I put them on TikTok, and they weren't resonating. I just wasn't really getting it. In August 2021, some friends came to town to help me shoot a video, but I was sick, so I suggested we stop. I went home that night. I had these clips we had started in Instagram. I thought I might as well string the clips together, throw it up on TikTok—because no one cared about my TikTok—and it went viral. It's super quick. I was in a blue shirt, out in the street, and I said, "This is SoHo. It stands for 'South of Houston,'" and I pronounced it like the city in Texas instead of 'HOW-stun.' It's very niche. It just hit a chord. Some people knew it was satire. But some people didn't, and it was nerve-racking to go viral for the first time and realize some people thought I was serious. But at the end of

the day, I didn't care what anyone thought because I wanted to go viral so badly. I knew that once I did, I was going to turn it into something.

GIVE THE PEOPLE WHAT THEY WANT

It seemed like I was bringing in a very New York audience, where they are looking at me as this symbol of these annoying white girls who move to New York and take up space in the city. So, I thought, I'm going to run with it because it's striking a chord. TikTok creator directions reference this strategy—it's all about repetition. For the next few videos, I just kept coming up with things that were very New York-specific to keep bringing in that audience. I did the next video within 24 hours. I had this idea that I would do "cheugy," which is a Gen Z word that doesn't get used as much now, but it basically just means millennial and corny. So, I did "cheugy girl"



giving a tour of New York, listing establishments that people make fun of. And that did even better. And then, a few days later, I visited my friends in Philadelphia and I did one that was Philadelphia versus New York. I was obsessive about it. I remember my mom calling me and saying, “Aren’t you so excited that you went viral? You’ve wanted this for so long.” And I said, “I’m excited, but I’ll be more excited when I’ve gone viral five times.” I didn’t just want five seconds of fame. I wanted to create a platform.

THE TIKTOK CHARACTER

The character that I play is sometimes a caricatured version of myself, or people I’ve met, or friends, or the parts of me that I think are annoying. She is usually narcissistic, vapid, materialistic, and can’t read the room, but she is also very insecure and is

Brier has scored lucrative brand deals and was recently featured in the Style section of *The New York Times*.

Sabrina on Smith

The theatre faculty made us get involved in every production in some way. I learned about different kinds of theater, different kinds of material. I learned about writing and finding your voice. I’m really glad that I didn’t end up going to a conservatory where I would’ve only focused on theater. My best friend, who lived next to me in Jordan House all four years, was premed. I was with all these people who were different from me. And that, I would say, was the most important part of my creative origin at Smith, because it really taught me that you can’t just be with actors. Otherwise, all you’re going to think about and talk about and learn about is the industry. You have to have other experiences, other perspectives, and be a citizen of the world in order to come up with ideas to then put into the industry.

still a good friend and has redeeming qualities. I would say that in most of my videos, I'm that girl. She is kind of my main character. When I perform stand-up, that's who you will see.

There are definitely iterations and different kinds of things if you really look closely at what I'm doing; sometimes it's a version of my character where she has the upper hand and sometimes she doesn't. Sometimes she's nicer, shyer. Sometimes she's mean and judgmental. Sometimes I'll do the passive-aggressive roommate. I feel like the No. 1 thing people say about my TikTok characters is that they are all relatable.

Lightning Round

- 1. Smith house:** Jordan.
- 2. Most valuable lesson:** "It's important to always put yourself into environments where you can really be you. That's how I felt in my house, on campus, and especially in SIKOS."
- 3. Most embarrassing moment:** "For Convocation, my friend and I wrote 'F*** the Patriarchy' on my stomach, and the next day I realized that we had spelled it 'Patriachy.'"
- 4. Most exhilarating moment:** "Performing as Iphigenia, getting accepted into SIKOS, and winning the Denis Johnston Playwriting Prize."
- 5. The first time I thought I was talented:** "In SIKOS we all always made each other feel this way, so supported!"
- 6. Favorite music:** "Kind of everything! Musical theater, classic rock, sad girl rock, currently SZA's new album, and, of course, anything Taylor Swift."
- 7. Favorite films:** "*The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, *Edward Scissorhands*, *The Dark Knight*, *Clueless*, *Bring It On*, *Mean Girls*."
- 8. Favorite Smith read:** "*All Other Nights* by Dara Horn, read in Justin Cammy's class."
- 9. Favorite Smith tradition:** "Convocation, because it's so unique and fun!"
- 10. Favorite place on campus:** "The quad!"
- 11. Because of Smith, I am:** "Confident and supported by community."



FULL-FLEDGED INFLUENCER

I went viral in August 2021, and my first two brand deals happened in November—Sleepytime tea and Neon Zebra drinks. Typically, I'll get a DM from a marketing agency person, someone working directly for a brand whose job it is to source out influencers.

Over the years I maintained a friendship with the talent manager I worked for initially (she's also my mentor), and it was always my dream to be represented by her. When that first deal came in, I asked her opinion about it. Eventually I was signed by her and Creative Artists Agency (CAA). When I got my first deal, I was just like, "Whoa!" It was the first time I was getting paid to be creative and to perform, which was amazing. Since then, I have been working with my talent manager/mentor and CAA.

TIPS FOR GOING VIRAL

This sounds so TikTok-y, but it really is true: To start, find your niche, find your brand. I was putting videos up from Instagram, and they weren't making sense; they didn't transfer well. But when I did the video that went viral, I looked at the elements of that video: I was outside. There was a New York theme. I had a cute outfit on. I took the elements of that video, and I repeated it—just with a different concept—and then I did it again. You're more likely to go to someone's page if you know what to expect from their page. Find what's specific to you, regardless of what it is. Find what's really you and repeat it. That's a good way to get started.

NEXT STEPS

I recently had some pitch meetings for a TV show based on my character. That's the dream. But in the meantime, I'm really looking for more on-screen acting experience and to break out into the industry in a bigger way. There are a million things I want to do. I want to write, direct, and act in films, TV, and on stage. I want to live a creative life, which of course is really hard because it's a business.

At this moment, I see myself in a comedy. I would love to take the comedy skills I feel like I've been cultivating and put them on the screen in a bigger way. The things I audition for and everything I'm working on currently—whether it's auditioning or trying to develop my own material—it's definitely all in the comedy zone. But, in my mind, what I do always has an element of drama in it. That's evident in *Pre-Mature*. That's really what I'm most interested in—dramatic situations told in a funny way.

Cheryl Dellecese is a senior editor at Smith.

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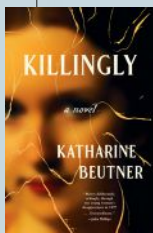
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Smithies Create

Murder, She Wrote

In May, Katharine Beutner '03 was looking forward to attending a 20th Smith Reunion “full of book signings”—her own, that is. Beutner’s second novel, *Killingly*, launched in time for Reunion-weekend book events at the Odyssey Bookshop in South Hadley. Published by Soho Press, her novel is a fictional dive into the true-life, unsolved disappearance in 1897 of Bertha Mellish, a “peculiar, quiet” Mount Holyoke student.



Beutner (above), an assistant professor of English at the College of Wooster in Ohio, bills her new work as a “queer historical crime novel”—a fit for fans of Donna Tartt and Sarah Waters. Early reviews cite *Killingly*’s resonance as “a story of women who defy strict rules” (Kate Manning) and a book that bears “witness to the sacrifices many women have made to live—and die—authentically” (Elizabeth McKenzie).

Beutner won the Edmund White Debut Fiction Award for her first novel, *Alcestis*, a queer retelling of a Greek myth that she says was inspired by her major in classical studies at Smith. That book will be out in September from Soho as a reissue. —BARBARA SOLOW

KILLINGLY

Katharine Beutner '03
Soho Press, June 2023

Poster Child

Poster historian Angelina Lippert '07 is chief curator and director of content at Poster House in New York City, the first museum in the United States dedicated to posters. Its mission is to present the impact, culture, and design of posters as historical documents and contemporary visual communication. Lippert’s latest exhibit, opening this September, is *Art Deco: Commercializing the Avant-Garde*, which chronicles the rise and fall of what came to be known as Art Deco; it features posters from the 1925 Paris Exhibition through the beginning of World War II, including Hungarian painter Róbert Berény’s 1929 *Modiano* (right). Current exhibits include *Black Power to Black People: Branding the Black Panther Party* and *Advertising Type: Women in Digital Design*. Lippert, who earned a graduate degree from the Courtauld Institute of Art in London, is the author of *The Art Deco Poster: Rare and Iconic*. —CHERYL DELLECESE



POSTER HOUSE

Angelina Lippert '07
posterhouse.org

Cheese, but Make It Queer



Bloomy, tangy, nutty. Milky, earthy, funky. Briny, crumbly, gooey. There are so many words to describe cheese, and Round Table Farm in Hardwick, Massachusetts, is seeking to add one more to the lexicon: queer. Marlo Stein '17 and Archer Meier '18 strive to create artisanal cheeses that—like them—resist categorization, defy labels, and smash expectations. Self-described “proud, queer Jewish farmers,” Stein and Meier (below) specialize in the true farm-to-table experience. From pasture

to creamery, all of the magic takes place right at the farm. Though inspired by traditional styles of cheeses, Stein and Meier aren’t afraid of a little delicious iconoclasm, relying on their own tastes, preferences, and techniques to push their cheeses in a new direction.

Alex Piccarreto, a cheesemonger at Northampton specialty store Provisions, agrees: “They are definitely transformative within the artisanal cheese world, especially for American-style cheeses.” Round Table Farm currently offers four raw cow’s milk cheeses (a \$65 sampler is available on the farm’s website), but has recently added goats to their herd with plans to expand their offerings. Whether creamy, sour, or sharp, we know for sure: It’ll be unexpected. —MEGAN YOUNG '07



ROUND TABLE FARM

Marlo Stein '17 and Archer Meier '18
roundtable.farm

Music To Love

Kara Jackson '23 has released a debut album that weaves a country/folk tapestry of sorrow and joy. *Why Does the Earth Give Us People to Love?* is dedicated to a friend of Jackson's who died of cancer when they were both in high school. Jackson (below) wrote and recorded the demos for her 13-track album in her childhood home in Oak Park, Illinois, during the first months of the pandemic lockdown. The finished LP transfers her strengths as a poet and storyteller to music—to rave reviews. "Mournful, Joyful, Unapologetic," read a headline in *Pitchfork* magazine. "Biting and tender," noted poet Hanif Abdurraqib in his review in *The New Yorker*. How does Jackson—a former National Youth Poet Laureate and dedicated follower of Black, queer women's writing—describe her work? She centers delight. "At the end of the day you just have to do things that make you feel very joyful," Jackson told *Pitchfork*. "And guitar-ass music just makes me feel very joyful." —BARBARA SOLOW

WHY DOES THE EARTH GIVE US PEOPLE TO LOVE?

Kara Jackson '23
September
Recordings
April 2023



BEUTNER: ALEXANDER COX; MODIANO: COURTESY OF POSTER HOUSE; CHEESE: ARCHER MEIER; STEIN AND MEIER: AMELIA MOSES; JACKSON: LAWRENCE AGYEI



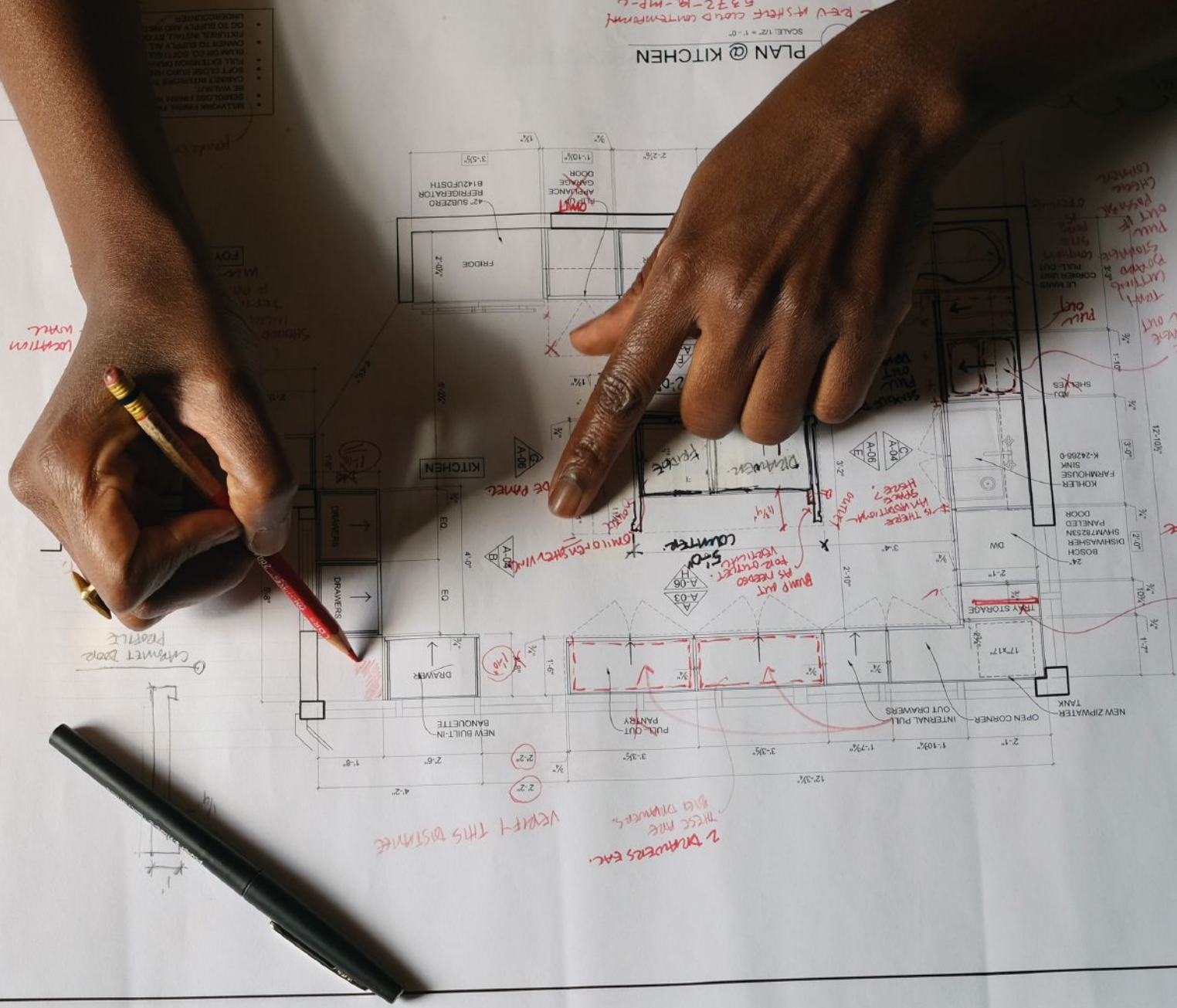
Navigating Fashion

Shortly after graduating from Smith, Emma Casey '15 boarded a sailboat in California and headed south by west. She became enthralled by life at sea and continued sailing for seven years, almost circumnavigating the globe. When she finally decided to drop anchor and settle down, she founded Landfall Leatherworks, handcrafting distinctive, durable bags from upcycled sails and leather at her workshop in Sausalito, California. "There's a whimsical idea of the sails having been on voyages," she says. "They each have a history ingrained in their fabric." Prices start at \$65. —CHERYL DELLECESE

LANDFALL LEATHERWORKS

Emma Casey '15
landfallleatherworks.com





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Smithie Lives

Blueprint for Change A native of Jos, Nigeria, Ruth Gyuse '99 recently launched

her own architecture firm, Ruth Gyuse Architecture Design. Among the mere 0.4% of licensed Black female architects in the United States, Ruth is an advocate for female and minority practitioners in the field. See her class note on page 64.

Photographed by Laylah Amatullah Barrayn on April 23, 2023, at Ruth Gyuse Architecture Design in Brooklyn, New York.



Smithie Lives Update

CONNECT WITH CLASSMATES Everyone has a story—share yours by writing to your class secretary. Secretaries compile columns for the *Quarterly* by the following deadlines: **August 15** (winter issue), **November 15** (spring issue), **February 15** (summer issue), and **May 15** (fall issue). Your classmates love to hear from you! You may also submit news or photos online at smith.edu/saq/note. By submitting a class note, you agree that the *Quarterly* can publish your note in print and online. Please be advised that the digital *Quarterly* is searchable by Google and other search engines.

Mary Stevens '49, right, and Aliza Leventhal '09 meet up at the MIT Museum in Cambridge, MA, where Mary has an architectural archive, the Mary Otis Stevens Collection.



1943

MARTHA GREGORY TOLLES writes, “I walk around the block every day with my grandson and a cane. I am still writing essays and have had nine published. A few are on my website, marthatolles.com. I once took an essay writing class at Smith, so perhaps that helped. I was also in a study for people over 100; they seemed especially interested in my diet! But who knows why some of us linger on and some don't. Hope classmates are doing well.”

Quarterly Office, Northampton, MA 01063, classnotes@smith.edu

1944

Cricket Beauregard Lewis, whose partner, Nick Steffey, is the son of **EUPHEMIA (PATTY) HARE STEFFEY**, shares news of “a very special celebration”: Patty’s 100th birthday last December. Nick and his siblings, Molly and Sue Anne, hosted a party for her in Brookline, MA, attended by seven of her eight grandchildren, 12 of her 15

great-grandchildren, and many friends. Cricket adds, “Patty was as fun, gracious, and happy as always. She is currently living at Fox Hill Village in Westwood, MA, having moved from Pittsburgh in the summer of 2020. Patty loves to swim, go to the opera, bird-watch, and partake of the many offerings at Fox Hill. Most of her family live in Massachusetts, so we’re always in and out to see her: for a visit, a walk, or a meal. Nick and I get to see a lot of her. So nice to have four generations getting together.” Another Smith connection: Cricket is the mother of **ABIGAIL BEAUREGARD-LEWIS '02**.

AMY GOLDSTEIN ADAMS writes, “My 100th birthday was on Aug. 11, '22. All 18 members of my family, who live scattered all over the United States, came to Carolina Meadows, the continuing care retirement community [in Chapel Hill, NC,] where I’ve lived since 2005, to celebrate my 100th birthday with me—two sons and one daughter-in-law, five grandsons, and

three granddaughters-in-law, and seven great-grands ranging in age from 7 to 18. On Thursday we had my 100th birthday party, and two days later we had a birthday party for my older son, Tom, who was turning 77. My oldest great-grand is now a freshman in college! Amazing to be 100 years old and to have a great-grand in college. I have a terrific family, and I’m so glad they all came to celebrate my 100th birthday with me.”

Quarterly Office, Northampton, MA 01063, classnotes@smith.edu

1945

RUTH WEISS FRIENDLY writes, “For our class of '45, 99 is the milestone for many of us this year—an awesome number. My family started celebrating early, and I realized the advantage of that—easing into my actual birthday with a soft landing. For starters, 12 of the family enjoyed *Funny Girl* on Broadway, which was a terrific performance. The wonderful cast included Tovah Feldshuh, a former neighbor of ours who went to school with my sons and spent some time reminiscing with us after the show. On my actual birthday, almost all of the 29 in our immediate family Zoomed in from all over the country, with poetry, family tales, political commentary, and future plans. I’m still glowing from the experience. Hope it’s a good year for the rest of you. I’d love to hear from other '45-ers. Onward.”

Your secretary, **VIRGINIA KROLIK AUSTER**, shares, “Dear '45-ers, I am sure I am among others who have reached the 99 mark, but it does seem a bit awesome. Celebrations are still showing up six weeks later. My Quaker meeting was especially gratifying, with a lot of love and two cakes. A gathering at a new restaurant arranged by my poetry group was made special by the Champagne ordered by my daughter from Seattle. I am indeed a lucky elder person. Still perpendicular and able to be involved in my activities. I hope many of you are as well. Do let me hear from you.”

From **EVELYN BOYD GRANVILLE**: “When I left Texas in 2010 to come to Washington, DC, I opted to reside in an assisted/independent living facility in Silver Spring,



Eleanor (Ellie) Echikson Barbash Berman '50, left, enjoys a visit from Nancy Hertz Ellis '68 in Rockville, MD.

MD. I was there until the facility closed five years later. I moved to a high-rise apartment building in Silver Spring and I am still here. I have part-time help with meal preparation and housekeeping. Several years ago, I had to resort to hearing aids and a walker, but overall, I am in pretty good health. My nephew Kurt comes frequently from New York City to check on me. The pandemic has curtailed almost all outside activities for me. Now that I have had five vaccine shots, I will be less fearful about venturing out into the public. I was truly disappointed that our class could not have our 75th Reunion. Maybe the 80th?"

Sec., Virginia Krolak Auster, vauster13@gmail.com

1946

Sec., Rosalie Taylor Howlett, PO Box 27, Soquel, CA 95073, 831-475-7549, rosalie.taylor@comcast.net

1947

Quarterly Office, Northampton, MA 01063, classnotes@smith.edu

1948

The next class news will feature our Reunion in May '23. I did not receive any news this past winter for class notes. However, it pays to read other class notes. **ISADORA (IZZIE) DEROW KUNITZ '62** mentioned **DIANA WARREN KUBICK** living at her retirement home in Rochester, NY. Diana has regaled her with tales of what it was like being at Smith around the time of World War II.

It was fun for me to hear from another class secretary, **LEIGH BERRIEN SMITH '49**, who wrote from Martha's Vineyard, MA, that she was always glad to read about '48. An Orange County, VA, friend, **BARBARA DUGALL DRINKWATER '63**, reads my column and called to ask how I was doing at age 97.

I was saddened to read the list of deceased class members in the Winter 2023 SAQ. We send condolences to the families of **PHOEBE HASEK BUNTING**, **LINDA BUTLER GANDER**, **ALICE LEWIS HOMAN**, **MARY HARTIGAN KILPATRICK**, **JOAN NELSON LEE**, **ANN HITCHCOCK MCCONNELL**, **JOAN ROGERS MCKEON**, **DORIS HALL PURDIE**, **NESTA RUBIDGE SPINK**, **V. CAROL HURLBUTT STOCKING**, **ANN CARSWELL SULLIVAN**, **NANCY CAMERON THOMPSON**, **ANITA KILLINGSWORTH WEBB**,

JOEL WISE WEINSTOCK, **HERMIONE HILLMAN WICKENDEN**, **JEAN WILHELM**, and **M. ELIZABETH BIGGS ZOLLNER**.

More recently, **ELIZABETH (BETTY) BAKER SHEFFIELD's** son, Charles, notified the college of her death in Nov. '22. Betty graduated Phi Beta Kappa and received a master's degree in special education. She became a lecturer teaching about the positive effects of dyslexia and the Orton-Gillingham Approach to learning. Betty received the Margaret Byrd Rawson Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Dyslexia Association.

Ladies, every day is an award. Tell us about yours.

Your secretary is still living alone in Green Garth, her garden home. She has two senior care helpers and an old caretaker, Andre, who pulls up weeds and trims bushes. Her daughter, **SARAH COLLINS HONENBERGER '74**, and her two sons come regularly to take her out for long rides on the old roads in rural Virginia.

Sec., Barbara McClelland Collins, 11504 Knolls Road, Orange, VA 22960, 540-672-5847, b_mc_collins@yahoo.com

1949

Time to ready another column, although not to be seen until summer. My Martha's Vineyard, MA, is a busy year-round island with much to offer in films, concerts, restaurants, and shops all the time. Enough introduction, herewith such news as I've received that's good; for the sad parts, the Obituaries section concludes each issue. Sadly, our losses do continue, but with COVID diminishing if not disappearing, some of us are back in the saddle, enjoying events, as I do with the help of my daughter.

BEATRICE BARTLETT still gets my "A" for "Annual" as she faithfully reports on lectures or trips. We are so glad she stays well and earns an "A" for active!

Two other "B's" remaining active are **RUTH (BABS) BERNSTEIN GOLD** and **BARBARA SINGER ZUCKER**, who are delighted to be seeing Broadway shows again. (A group from the Vineyard takes an annual winter trip to see the best Broadway has to offer.) My Smith daughter, **ALISON SMITH DRISCOLL '75**, enjoys attending with her son.

NAIDA DEITCH WEISBERG kindly keeps me posted. She is more homebound now with some walking challenges, but still enjoying book group meetings in her home in addition to a writing group. Naida gets to concerts with her family and prefers the warm season and her garden.

I haven't had enough news from '49ers west of the Mississippi. Please let us know how you are and what you're doing. We are interested!

Sec., Leigh Berrien Smith, PO Box 2527, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568, 508-693-9551, lbsmith15@yahoo.com

1950

We extend sympathy to the families and friends of classmates who have died: **VIRGINIA PALMER DAVIS**, **ELINOR LANDER HORWITZ**, and **CAROLINE HENDREN ROBB**.

A note of caution: In January, I had an

eight-day hospital stay with pneumonia, caused by choking on a pill! Be careful. Send your secretary some news!

Sec., Ann Field Cox, 125 Clover Leaf Lane, Asheville, NC 28803, 828-274-1838, afcoxe@charter.net

1951

I had the pleasure of speaking to **MARY (MANDY) BLAKE BOWERS**, who is still living in her family home in Oahu, HI. Mandy feels very fortunate because her son has moved back to Hawaii and is living with her, and she has other children and extended family members nearby. I loved hearing her cheery laughter on the phone!

RUTH (BOOTS) MATTHEWS CHURCHILL writes, "I am doing the regular jobs, such as planning menus, cooking, grocery shopping. We (my husband, Jim Churchill, and I) are very fortunate in that a woman comes twice a week to do grocery shopping and light cleaning. We are crazy about her. I read (books by Kate Atkinson at the moment) and do jigsaw puzzles. My children gave me an adult tricycle, which I ride on our condo streets when it is not too cold. It really works my quads and my balance. Also, I do *The New York Times* crossword puzzle every day."

JEAN HURVINS BERG says that her life has not changed and she continues as before: "Off to 'I Love NY' in March with Boston's Winsor School Model United Nations delegation. It's back to pre-COVID: 3,000 high school delegates from all over the world in the Hilton, arguing and writing resolutions on international issues. From whence I will segue into my East 60th St. apartment, before heading back to work in Beantown. Yup, I love New York. Look forward to my usual long, lazy summer with my daughter, who resides in Los Altos and Carmel, CA."

And I, your class secretary, **AGNES (STEVIE) STEPHENSON COPPIN**, keep busy with events organized by various groups with which I am associated, either as a board member or a regular member. I am learning mah-jongg, which is very stimulating for the brain! Working in our local thrift shop gives me the opportunity to meet and greet many visitors to our island. And recently I put on heels to "totter" down the catwalk in a popular fashion show for the Anna Maria [FL] Garden Club.

Our class has more losses to report and mourn. We extend our condolences to the families of our departed friends: **DOROTHY DERSHOWITZ STERNBURG** from Hubbard House, **CONSTANCE DULLES WEEMS** from Lawrence House, **ANNE MISSON POWEL** from Park House, **ISABELLE (PHILLA) CROCKER OSBORNE** from Parsons House, and **PATRICIA DAVIS KLINGENSTEIN** from Wilson House.

Sec., Agnes (Stevie) Stephenson Coppin, PO Box 1139, Anna Maria, FL 34216, steviefles@gmail.com

1952

BARBARA (CUTCH) CUTCHINS REED writes, "SUSAN HUBBARD SPADEMAN and I reconnected our close friendship in college at our 70th Reunion and have been getting together across Vermont and New



At a mini-reunion in New York City are class of 1955 friends, from left, front row: Katharine (Katie) Cowen Weldon, Janice (Jan) Carlson Oresman, and Joyce Loewenthal West; back row: Sheila Montgomery Cleworth, Sally Gooch Paynter, and Pat Rediker Goldstein.

Hampshire ever since! I am temporarily grounded with a broken pelvis but hope to walk soon."

LEE SCHWARTZ BERKLEY turned 92 in March '22 and is "both happy and grateful to be living at Ann's Choice in Warminster, PA, amid 2,000 others, average age mid-80s. There are some 150 resident-run clubs here, so we have to make a real effort to be bored. Do your children a favor and help them know that, health permitting, old age can be a great time of life."

Quarterly Office, Northampton, MA 01063, classnotes@smith.edu

1953

MYRNA BRODY BUTLER sends a newsy note updating us on her busy life. In 2022, she took her family—"four generations, 20 strong"—on an adventurous trip to Akumal on the Yucatan coast in Mexico. Myrna's granddaughter "found a B&B that worked perfectly—beach, pool, hot tub, private chef, way beyond our expectations." They visited "fabulous ruins, [and] swam in cenotes, some very deep in the ground, with stalactites surrounding the clear water—an amazing experience." In 2016, after the death of her husband, Bill, Myrna moved into a retirement cottage community that is conveniently located near three of her four children. "I still have more interests than time," she reports. "I've given up knitting and weaving and sold three of my five looms, but I dip into four book clubs and have fun with cooking. A library club is really fun: We browse a book each month and then bring a dish to a dinner meeting for tasting and talking. I always have loved trying new recipes and have two freezers too full! I'm still playing serious bridge (but not brilliantly); I've been a life master for eons, but it looks like I'm not going to make gold. I tend to over-program and my body is moaning a bit, but life is still so interesting. My kids are retiring and will be moving, so life will be more difficult ahead. One of my best friends just moved into this complex (at 100!) and has many creative projects on her docket. What an inspiration!" In a follow-up phone call, Myrna updated me on retirement communities in western Massachusetts—an alternative lifestyle that has become quite

popular. I would be interested in hearing your views on the pros and cons of independent and assisted living that could be shared in a future column.

I also received a lovely note from **BLOSSOM WILLINGER MILLER**, who continues to divide her time between Sands Point, NY, and Longboat Key, FL.

I look forward to hearing from more of you. Are you traveling this summer or fall? Did you attend the 70th Reunion, and how was your experience? Thanks in advance for keeping in touch.

Sec., Judith (Judy)
Lager Raymo,
judithraymo@msn.com

1954

Some good news comes from **MARY TERESA (TERRY) WILLIAMS WEBB**: Turning 90 was a momentous occasion for her, as it coincided with the wedding of her grandson, Charlie, and the arrival of her first great-grandson, Lucas. Molly, Lucas' mother, is a pediatric emergency room doctor. Terry traveled to Maine, Nova Scotia, and Charlotte, NC, to promote and sell her books, which are listed on her website. She sings in her church choir and joined a chorale group at Willow Valley Communities in Pennsylvania, where she lives. They sang onstage before a Rockettes show in New York City. "I manage to swim regularly and participate in Braver Angels events intended to bridge the political divide, and led a GOAL mission team to Uganda in February. Not bad for an old lady!"

NANCY DICKSON NEWCOMB writes of a recent phone call from **VIRGINIA (TITO) GAY FINDLAY**. Tito has moved from St. Louis to Shawnee, KS, to be near her son, David.

MARY JANE BROWN ANDERSON lives in a retirement home in Seattle. She became a widow a year and a half ago, and finds the adjustment "not easy." She played tennis until she was 83 and the doctor said "stop." Her children, three daughters, live nearby. "Our middle daughter has gone nuts for crew, and recently rowed at the Head of the Charles. Another, a first grade teacher, has an unusual bucket list and wants to visit all of the presidential libraries. We have traveled together to many of them. **JUDY MACKAY PHILLIPS** and I became good friends when she moved to Seattle. She passed away last year. I still keep up with **JOAN LEBOLD COHEN** and husband Jerry. Naturally, I see **BARBEE LEASE CRUTCHER** with some regularity, as we are neighbors. I am enjoying life trying to 'keep our balance'—both literally and figuratively."

NANCY BECKLEAN TOBIN has written the book and lyrics to *Golden*, her fourth musical-comedy effort. It's about couples and two women who are in their 60s, 70s, 80s, or 90s. At the time of writing, Nancy was looking forward to a May performance of the play in the Southbury, CT, community where she lives.

NINA VICTOR TAYLOR retired after a 35-year career as an attorney, "which I thoroughly enjoyed and felt useful." Post-COVID, she attended her first Broadway show in three years, *Hadestown*, which she recommends, and she hopes to see *Leopoldstadt* next. She is looking forward to her

90th birthday, when "East and West coast families will unite. We will share honors with my 1-year-old grandson, fitting the old with the new."

DORCASEASON MACCLINTOCK was pleased to see the art of Ugo Mochi (1889-1977) featured in *Antiques* magazine (Jan.-Feb. '23). "Four pages of this handsome over-size magazine are devoted to some of the artist's African animals, their black paper outlines deftly cut with a lithographer's knife." Originally, these paper cuts were illustrations for several books Dorcas did in collaboration with Mochi. She is a widow and has lost a leg, but she is able to live in her home of half a century thanks to a wonderful older daughter (one of two). She reads a lot and thinks about working with clay.

CAROL TRAYLOR HENDERSON winters in Vero Beach, FL, in the home that she and Bob built in 2000. "I wish golf and tennis were still on my schedule but [am] happy to walk a mile or two most days and work out with a trainer twice a week. Vero Beach has a wonderful museum and theater, each of which provide a great many interesting activities and programs." Carol will turn 90 in August and is celebrating by taking her four sons and their wives on a weeklong excursion on a small boat in Alaska. She is having great fun playing the piano again since discovering ragtime, her current passion. She spoke with **MARCIA DINES STRICKLAND**, who is still performing classical music on the piano, often with other musicians.

MARTHA (MARDY) REKER DURHAM visited **ANNE (CHEN) MERSERAUBYERS**, who moved to Lathrop Community, the independent living community in Easthampton, MA, where **RACHEL OLIVER** also lives. "It was nice to see a good friend in such a nice place."

Thanks for the news!
Sec., Barbara (Barbee) Lease Crutcher,
54smithnotes@gmail.com
Sec., Joan Schenck Leavitt,
hojoleavitt@comcast.net

1955

JANE SEIDEN JASPER reports that she's living in Chevy Chase, MD, and keeps busy taking online classes. Life is good. Jane's third great-grandchild arrived in Feb. '23.

MARILYN (MIMI) THUNFORS BREMSER says that in 2018, living happily in Back Bay Boston, she had to make a long-range decision about her ultimate "shelter." Among many prospects was Visby, on the Swedish island of Gotland, a lovely city from which her maternal grandparents had emigrated. The archivist there even helped her find their house within the walled UNESCO Heritage site! However, Mimi made the practical decision to return to a mild climate and settled in at Rossmoor in Walnut Creek, CA, a senior community of over 10,000 people that offers unlimited activities and clubs and, most importantly, beautiful landscaping that she enjoys on her daily walks. Widowed in 2012, Mimi is happy to have a daughter nearby in Piedmont, CA; her sons live in distant Boston and Port Aransas, TX. She is always happy to hear from classmates.



Attending their high school reunion in New York City are Ravelle Silberman Brickman '58, left, and Barbara Ellison Lacey '58.

We are all heading for 90, which is rather unbelievable, says **ANNE GOODKIND BIRD**. Widowed for three years, she has written two books and is working on another. Though she hates being on her own, she is blessed with good health, a sound mind, and loads of wonderful friends and neighbors, as well as three daughters, one stepdaughter, and five grandchildren. Although Anne stopped traveling when John died, she still gets around a lot in London and other parts of England. Her best friend at Haven House was Sylvia Plath, who remains much in the news, as she died 60 years ago. Anne is also close to Sylvia's daughter, Frieda Hughes. The world situation is atrocious and she is sure we are all affected. In the United Kingdom, people are facing power cuts but no frigid ice bubble as in the United States.

EDITH (EDIE) STENHOUSE BINGHAM writes that the thought of bordering 90 is a bit shaky, but so far, she is fortunate and can do most things with care and caution. She still drives with some reasonable constraints. While a bit forgetful, Edie still "works" out of her office with the help of very good employees. When it is not bitter cold or inclement, she likes to walk her 40 acres of woods and lawns or hike the woods for fallen trees and management. She socializes much less and carefully, rarely visiting friends in retirement homes. She feels very fortunate to have so many freedoms, plus good medical care and a daughter, a son, and grandchildren who live nearby. She has resigned from most of her nonprofit organizations, as she feels she doesn't have much current experience to offer. Books on Kentucky history and *The New Yorker* are her preferred reading.

LOLA FORTMILLER BALDWIN is enjoying books by Paul Doiron about a Maine game warden who gets into all sorts of challenges. She highly recommends the Tom Hanks movie *A Man Called Otto*. Lola missed a family trip to Costa Rica due to some health issues. By now we hope she's on the mend.

DEBORAH (DEBBIE) TOLL REYNOLDS always reads our notes with interest. She says she's lucky to still have a spouse in good shape. Living in Greenwich, CT, most of their married life, they remain involved in many activities. They are blessed to have a very large family. Always interested in early American history, Debbie has written a few booklets on Greenwich and family history. Another interest is teaching Bible study, which she's done for over 35 years. Responding to **ROSWITHA LEUTHOLD MCINTOSH's** question in the Winter 2023 *Quarterly*, Debbie says she does believe in heaven. She says it is a great blessing in her life, especially as she gets older, to know that she will be in the presence of God forever.

I recently visited New York City and met a few classmates for lunch: **JANICE (JAN) CARLSON ORESMAN**, **SALLY GOOCH PAYNTER**, **SHEILA MONTGOMERY CLEWORTH**, **PATREDIKER GOLDSTEIN**, and **JOYCE LOEWENTHAL WEST**. It was great fun to get together. Everyone is doing well. We did not discuss our health!

Sadly, I report the passing of five more classmates: **ALKY PETSIAVAS DANEZIS** in Jan. '22; **JOAN LANCASTER** on Nov. 19, '22; **JILL SHORTLIDGE DRABELL** on Dec. 22, '22; **ANNE ELMENDORF IMPELLIZZERI** on Jan. 5, '23; and **ELINOR LOCKWOOD YEO** on Jan. 10, '23. Our condolences to their families and friends.

Please visit our website at alumnae.smith.edu/smithcms/1955/. Send your news! We're interested.

Sec., Katharine (Katie) Cowen Weldon, 71 Clubhouse Drive, Pocasset, MA 02559. 55qtrly@gmail.com

1956

SANDRA VAN FOSSEN reports that she is surrounded by Smithies at her new independent living community in Washington, DC, including **SARAH CHAPPELL MILAM** and **SALLY BROWN TROYER**. Life at 88 is filled with the wonders and worries of multigenerational families: one great-grandchild and three on the way. "The loss of my beloved husband, Kirk Davidson, three years ago still saddens us all. I still spend my summers in Minnesota and have turned in my water skis and boat for a pontoon."

ANNA GODE-VON AESCH MERRITT reports that eight years ago she moved into a two-bedroom apartment with a gorgeous view in a retirement community in Urbana, IL. "The path here was long and circuitous—essentially beginning in 2000 with my retirement as associate director of the Institute of Government and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois. Along the way I had served on the Urbana school board for 10 years and worked with numerous other commissions and nonprofit boards. After my husband's death in 2005, I emptied the house we had lived in since 1967, moved into a condo, and helped a friend

start OLLI at Illinois, now a thriving educational hub for seniors in our area. The decision to move to ClarkLindsey Village (CLV) was difficult, but it has given me the freedom and energy to undertake new adventures and make new friends, while still keeping the [Urbana-Champaign] community as my hometown. I've served on both the Urbana library and CLV library boards; I'm now completing my final year as chair of the resident council and continue to tutor ESL to local residents; and, while having dinner prepared for me every day still seems like an unimaginable luxury, an invitation to a glass of wine with an old friend can't be topped!"

JO-ANN YACKER MALKIN and I had a lovely conversation recently. She moved to Seattle nine years ago and is settled in a well-located condo with lovely people who supported one another through the pandemic. She says life is quieter in Seattle than in New York and she's happy there, with a son and four grandchildren nearby. She returns to New York periodically to visit her daughter. We talked about our time at Smith and I discovered two things I didn't know. Jo-Ann was a plane spotter on the bridge between Smith and Amherst. Did anyone else in our class volunteer to do that? She was also a Grass Cop. I remember taking dinner trays out in the snow and sledding down the hill by Wilder. After college, Jo-Ann was a director of development for the Jewish Guild for the Blind. More recently, she's been a reading partner, helping children learn to read.

It is with sadness that I inform you of **SUSAN COOPER ANDERSON's** passing on Dec. 19, '19, in Pittsburgh. After graduation, she worked at the University of Pittsburgh Research Center on cholesterol research, where she met her husband, Herbert. They married in 1958 and had three boys. After years of moving around the country for Herbert's work, they made their home in Sewickley, PA, in 1972. In 1982, Susan attended La Roche College to refresh her science/research skills, focusing on microbiology. In 1983, she became a researcher at the Eye and Ear Institute at the University of Pittsburgh. She retired in 1999. Subsequently, she kept busy with charitable work, including delivering Meals on Wheels and helping with costumes at Sewickley theatrical events.

The daughter of **MARILYN TARGANSKY STATLAND** notified Smith that Marilyn died on Dec. 13, '22, in Florham Park, NJ, of pancreatic cancer. She is survived by her longtime companion, Paul; her daughters, Sherryl and Diana; and two grandchildren, Jenna and Gabriel.

Please send your news in time for me to include it.

Sec., Judith (Judie) Crosse Fouchaux, jfouchaux@comcast.net

1957

ANN ANDERSON STRANAHAN was married in October.

New books at the Amherst, OH, public library include one by **ANN CRILE ESSELSTYN** and her daughter, Jane Esselstyn, about plant-based cooking. The authors describe themselves as "plant-based" warriors!



In Montana for their granddaughter's wedding are Pamela Bisbee Simonds '59 and her husband, Bruce.

From **NAN LANE RUDOLPH**: "My year has been quite tumultuous! I moved my husband (age 95) to memory care on Jan. 7, '22, and by Feb. 4, '22, he was dead of the virus. The memorial service was in April. In May, I decided to sell my house and downsized a lot (eight rooms to two). Last October I moved to a condo right on the St. Johns River [in Florida]. Sang the Whiffenpoof song with the president of the board (a Yale graduate) in the lobby shortly thereafter. I love it here and hope to return to Maine for the summer."

ANNE MARPLE JAMES reports, "I am in very good health, thank goodness. I will retire at the end of the school year mainly to be more available to my husband, who is 91 and has various health issues and some memory loss. I've taught piano since 1959 and since 1980 at St. Catherine's School, an Episcopal girls school in Richmond, VA, with a brother school down the street."

Since the release of **ROSEMARY POLLACK MILD**'s memoir, *In My Next Life I'll Get It Right*, she has published a new essay, "The Real Voyage of Discovery," in *MidWeek*, a Hawaii newspaper. She and husband Larry published two books in 2022—a novel and their fourth book of short stories—plus two stories in an anthology. They also have two stories in *Island Fever*, a 2022 anthology by 11 Hawaii authors. Their stories are *Death Undisclosed* (a hit-and-run accident threatens to destroy the driver in a web of guilt and passion) and *The Legend of Ha'ilama and the Fevered Diva* (a Menehune who is a glorious singer meets up with discordant human ambition).

SANDY ROSS HERMAN writes: "Despite the turmoil in the world, losses of close friends, and aging, I am finding joy in the month of December—the music, the decorations, the social gatherings big and little, wearing lots of red though it isn't my best color. Stopping to help others even when I might be short on time—there seems to be more need to do so during these holidays."

JUDY SNOW DENISON collects furniture donations, etc., for the International Rescue Committee for refugees being resettled in the Denver area. "The estate people have discovered us! So now when the sale is over, we just identify what we need, and they pack it up and deliver it to the IRC. My car is back in my garage!"

Sec., *Judy Snow Denison*, judenison0328@gmail.com

1958

JUDITH (JUDY) FEINBERG PINCUS writes, "After my husband died 10 years ago, I continued to live in Boca Raton, FL, where I had a thriving tutoring business and traveled extensively, including a three-month cruise around the world. When my daughter and her husband moved to Atlanta, I followed and continued to live a full life, playing duplicate bridge, walking 2 miles a day, and teaching courses for OLLI, Emory's educational extension course for seniors. I also took a three-week

trip to Ireland. At 86, I thought I was invincible. Then, I fell and fractured three bones in my pelvis. The experience has been not only painful but also humbling and humanizing. So much for hubris! At the insistence of my children, I moved to Stonewater, a senior living community in Wellesley, MA, near my daughter and [her] husband. My next adventure!"

ANNIS VILAS PRATT sends us her news: "As always, I did everything I could for my Democratic Party during the election and was thrilled with the results. My primary volunteer work is with Citizens' Climate Lobby, which teaches me how to earn the trust of my members of Congress from both parties—go, bipartisanship! Lots of columns, too, for *Impakter.com*. The big family news is that last summer I had a steady stream of visitors to my northern Michigan river cottage, including three great-nephews from Germany, who fished and swam and mucked about in the river all day long. As a result, I am relearning my [conversational German] using the iPhone app Duolingo!"

VIRGINIA (GINGIE) STEIN GREENE shares, "Spent a very interesting civil rights journey visiting museums and historic sites, and learning the horrific details of life during Jim Crow and before. Went with my sister, **BARBARA STEIN SCOTT** '55. We met a number of folks who had lived the experience. They were very brave. Am in touch with **ANN STEBBINS SIDLES**, **PEGGY YOELSON GARSON**, **NANCY MCCASKIE LAVELLE**, **DEE WALKER DAVIS**, and **SUE BARTLESON HEWITT**—all classmates from our years in Franklin King. I am fine. Still able to play tennis, bicycle, and swim. I know I am one of the lucky ones and appreciate it every day."

ELIZABETH (LIBBY) RHEA VAN DUSEN moved to the Dunwoody Village retirement community in Newtown Square, PA.

At the time of writing, **RAVELLE SILBERMAN BRICKMAN** had plans to be in Copen-

hagen, Denmark, celebrating her older son's 60th birthday instead of attending Reunion, and sends her apologies for missing it. She adds, "My Danish granddaughter, Miriam, 19, is reading history at the University of Sheffield in the UK. My US granddaughter, Eva, 23, is in finance; Abby, 20, is at Emory, majoring in philosophy; and Hannah, 15, is at Georgetown Day School. I'm still writing about the Washington, DC, stage and enjoy connecting with **BARBARA ELLSON LACY**, a dear friend from Smith and New York's High School of Music & Art. My longtime friend and companion, Irving Kaminsky, died a few months ago, adding another name to the list of the lost as I am stunned to read that so many of our classmates are gone. I feel very lucky to be alive and busy."

Sec., *Nancy Reynolds Bartlit*, nbartlit@aol.com

Sec., *Helen Herron Heinrich*, helenh2@earthlink.net

1959

As I write this, it is still winter in the Northeast, and we haven't had any snow. What is winter coming to in this era of climate change?

PAM BISBEE SIMONDS is enjoying life and plans to travel again soon. She enjoys children, grandchildren, and great-grands who live near and far, from Connecticut and New York to Bozeman, MT. She recommends Storyworth, a website that compiles memories, personal stories, and photos into a bound book for families.

CHADEAYNE APPLETON ROUSH has been wintering in the Sierra Foothills in California but still loves Montana, where she spends every spring, summer, and fall with partner Chuck. They still enjoy good health and walk a few miles each day.

LYNN BOERNER NAKKIM has been living on Hawaii's Hamakua coast since 1987. In the 1990s, her American paint and quarter horse herd grew to 104. The herd is now down to five, so Lynn had time for a 51-day cruise from Seattle to Sydney and started a memoir, "Travels in the 20th Century."

RONNY SCHULMAN SCHWIMMER writes that her son Lawrence has married. She also sent news of her grandchildren. Jacob graduated from Franklin & Marshall and went into the Peace Corps, Aaron graduated from Princeton, Samantha graduated from Bowdoin, and Melanie is entering her last semester at Amherst. After Ronny's husband passed away, she sold her house and moved to a life-care community in San Diego.

MARGARET (PEGGY) CARR DANIEL is still living in New York City, but she has been attending choral concerts in East Hampton, NY.

NANCY COHEN stays busy at her home in Florida.

CYNTHIA GREBE LANG visited Jamaica, where her son-in-law is building a house. She has had a busy year since John died, winding up his estate and decluttering. She is grateful to be living in Tucson, AZ, where she has good friends and things to do.

Sadly, as you know, we also report losses to our class. **ANNE BULLARD MILLHAM** died



The Smith College Club of the Peninsula book club is finally meeting in person again after the pandemic. From left, front row: Laura Sternberg '63, Ann Freeman '63 (host), and Sally Smith '64; back row: Cathleen Plough Gale '75, Elizabeth Jensen Young '07, Karen Compton Sullivan '91, Janet Hahn Collins '69, Diana Kopp McDonough '66, Nisha Thatte-Potter '88, Renate Albrecht '77, and Arian White '92.

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“Daily schedule: Walk the dog, buy whatever to sustain myself, eat, read, sleep.”

in Oct. '22 in Avon, CT. **ANNE HOLLIS REESE** died in Dec. '22. A psychiatric social worker, she worked for the US Department of State in Morocco, Pakistan, and other countries. **SARAH (PENNY) PAULL THORSON** died in Dec. '22. She and husband Petr raised three daughters. Always athletic, she rode horses, swam, cycled, and rock climbed. She worked in development for the Women's Sports Foundation and Outward Bound.

My son, Colson, has a new novel due this summer, *Crook Manifesto*.

Please send me any news while I am still here.

Sec., Mary Ann Woody Whitehead, PO Box 1424, Sag Harbor, NY 11963, 631-258-1091 or 631-725-4217, mav81238@aol.com

1960

We are now of that age when some of us are becoming great-grandmothers. **JULIA BROWN GORDON** has a great-granddaughter, Clara. Julia writes, “My daughter, **LAURA PERRY BARTON** '82, is a first-time grandmother, and she spends a lot of time with Clara. I visited them in Denver in December—delightful.”

LYN GILLESPIE BRAKEMAN answered our plea for news: “Exuberant with gratitude at 84! Husband of 35 years survived open-heart surgery with flying colors. All of our shared seven children and 12 grandchildren are thriving. Live in Connecticut now, to be nearer to most of all of them. Discovered they all have busy active lives. Surprise! I'm writing and blogging regularly, still advocating for inclusive theological language. I celebrate all life, all creation, and all divinity. To my mates: Carry on with grit and grace.” Lyn's blog can be found at spirituallemons.blogspot.com.

JOAN RODGERS DINSMORE has joined the ranks of those of us who have moved in our 80s. She writes, “I moved to Lincoln Home in Newcastle, ME, in May '22 to be near my daughter. I still volunteer on a domestic violence help line based in Portland, and now am on a startup warming center committee in my new church.”

BONNIE JOSEPHS is “still pursuing private practice of law, still playing tennis, still gardening in New York City's Riverside Park. Daughter Melodie is a preeminent neurologist/scientist at [New York-Presbyterian], married with three great kids, all

now teenagers. Son Paul is an eminent musician performing his own compositions for an adoring public. We are all still in New York City. Persistence is the name of our game.”

MARGUERITE MEYER MOUNIER salutes us: “Here's hoping y'all are in best of health (or approximately) and spirits. A widow, as so many of us are, I continue my lifelong cohabitation with dogs—one or at the most two at a time. Daily schedule: Walk the dog (together with my best friend, also widowed and a dog owner), buy whatever to sustain myself, eat, read, sleep.

About once a month, I travel to Geneva, where several of my offspring have founded their own families (i.e., six grandchildren, now preparing for college!). Luckily and thankfully, no major worries to keep me awake. I no longer have the dance class I taught for over 20 years, and sadly, no more dancing whatsoever. C'est la vie, or at best, *la fin de vie!* I also spend a lot of time writing “poetry.”

ELIZABETH (BETSY) PARKER POWELL lost her beloved David on Feb. 14, '23, after routine surgery that suddenly morphed into a severe infection. David was an inventor, entrepreneur, woodworker, and family man. Happily, Betsy and David celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary last October with a boat cruise on the Snake and Columbia rivers. Betsy writes, “We floated down the two rivers out to Astoria, where Lewis and Clark spotted the Pacific Ocean with the help of Sacagawea. We took many half-day trips to see Mount St. Helens, Multnomah Falls, and Mary Hill Winery, as well as many museums. We departed our paddlewheel boat at an island near Portland, OR, and toured the city and its remarkable Powell's Bookstore, five stories high, a full city block, and the largest independent bookstore in the USA and probably the world.” We send our love to Betsy.

LLEWELLYN (LELLY) PARSONS SMITH writes, “I treasure my Smith friends and hope no pandemics prevent our Reunion next time. I am reveling in my family, which includes newborn to graduate school grandchildren. George and I are well, as are our children. I am leading occasional worship in First Parish Church, Manchester, MA, and am active in the Brooksby Village climate change group.”

I am sorry to report that we have lost six more classmates. **CONSTANCE VEREEN DIMLING** died on Nov. 25, '22. She lived in the Park Annex. She was a painter and potter and much loved by her second husband and four children. **JOHANNA COLLINS DUCLOS**, who lived in Gillett House, died at home on Dec. 23, '22, with her husband, Thomas, and family with her. **ELIZABETH (BETSY) LIBBY PARKER** died on Jan. 2, '22, “after a valiant battle with Parkinson's disease.” She lived in Lamont House and spent many years teaching English in Switzerland, Massachusetts, and Washington, DC. **BARBARA H. BARTLETT**, who lived in Morrow House, died Jan. 14, '23.

She had a lifelong interest in the sea. **SALLY WILLIAMS CASEY** passed away Jan. 16, '23, after a long journey with dementia. She lived in Talbot and majored in history. **JOAN STOUFFER STOGIS**, architect and award-winning quilter, died in February.

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Sec., Lee Baldwin Dalzell, 28 Sand Point Lane, Cumberland, ME 04110, ldalzell@williams.edu

1961

FRANCIS HARLEY URTASUN was inducted into the Alberta Order of Excellence in 2021 and received a Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal in Jan. '23. Francis, a member of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, says she was named primarily for introducing pediatric nephrology to Alberta, but she was also cited for helping underserved, vulnerable groups in the community. She credits her Smith experience for her career in advocating both for herself and, more importantly, for others. At Smith, she says, “I was totally tied up in labs, barely hanging on, but I could see what other students were doing and writing. Thank you, Smith and other students, indirectly, for these honours (Canadian spelling).”

Arriving at about the same time five years ago at Essex Meadows, a retirement community in Essex, CT, **TINA SCHAFFER LONG** and **TODD WARNER JACKSON** were amazed to discover they had been college classmates. Tina continues to divide her time between Connecticut and her home state, Vermont. While Todd has left Manhattan, she continues at Bank Street College, where she was on the faculty but now reviews for its children's book committee. Both are busy with activities at Essex Meadows and in the surrounding area—including music, theater, and art. They are really enjoying life in the community and would be happy to show it to any Smith '61ers!

MARTHA TITUS WICKENDEN and Jim have moved into a retirement community in Stonebridge, NJ. To celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary in 2022, they took their family on a Tauck Tour to France, including time in Paris and a cruise down the Rhone.

BARBARA RUSSELL KORNFIELD and Mike have decided to move into a continuing care facility in Sleepy Hollow, NY. They are now into the “herculean task of downsizing,” preparing to sell their house of 34 years. “We are both healthy and look forward to ‘going back to college,’ viz. no responsibilities! We also see this as a gift to our children, who won't have to sell the house or take care of us.”

CATHY CRANE completed her second term as president of The City Gardens Club of New York City last August but somehow still manages to be on busy committees there and elsewhere. She spends weekends in East Hampton, Long Island, where she has a 91-year-old male friend who is entertaining company. She also amuses herself by playing Scrabble online, and bridge online and in person. She is tak-



Attending a holiday lunch in December in New York City are class of 1965 classmates, from left, front row: Sheila Johnson Wise (who died March 9, '23), Katherine (Kaki) Swenson Kahan, Barbara Taylor, and Merble Harrington Reagon; back row: Barbara Mahony Kent, Vera (Tinny) Jones Weintraub, Joan Rosasco, Lisbeth (Liz) Matthews Rath, H. Joanne (Chichi) Fox Brumberg, Sue Aronstein Beiles, and Alice Baker Duff.

ing Spanish lessons as well, but says, "My memory isn't what it used to be." Cathy and other '61 alums in Morris House have an almost monthly Zoom meeting to catch up and share book recommendations.

JUDITH SILVERMAN AMES reports that several Clark/Dewey classmates also get together monthly on Zoom. "It's great to see old friends and chat about books, world issues, and our lives." In addition to Judy, participants include **MARIANNE (MACKIE) TINSLEY FINNERTY**, **MARTHA PLINER GRACE**, **JANE MACLEOD WALSH**, **JOYCE SKAGGS BREWSTER**, **JUDY HELWIG INGLIS**, and **SUSAN KARWOSKI FISH**.

ALICE SCHAFFER SMITH continues to work for federal voting rights through the National Voter Corps.

DIANE SCHARFELD ISAACS says **WALLYS WEISS CONHAIM's** husband, Roger, makes sure they keep in touch every few months. Diane helped a friend, Ann Jaffe, finish a memoir of her childhood during the Holocaust, *The Burden and Blessing of Memory*. She and her husband miss traveling but entertained family at Thanksgiving and surprised their daughter in New York when she celebrated her 50th birthday. Diane still serves on the board of the Delaware Council on Gambling Problems, walks with a group every afternoon, and enjoys two book groups. At the time of writing, her only granddaughter, Maya, was going to be 16 in May and Diane was hoping to celebrate with her in California. Diane concludes, "I hope for a better world for my grandchildren."

PHYLLIS (PATTI) LEVINE KLEIN says **SALLY ROSS SCHROEDER's** visit to New York in Oct. '22 with husband Steve was especially meaningful because Steve had introduced Patti to her husband, Harvey, who died two years ago after 57 years of marriage. Patti says with the help of children and grandchildren she is slowly adjusting to her new life in New York and the Berkshires.

RUTHIE PUTNAM HUSS is traveling again, "back to several continents, revisiting some favorites and finding new places, luckily COVID-free, thanks to shots and boosters, though careful by wearing a mask." She adds, "Always fun to read the *Quarterly* to find what everyone is doing."

Sec., Edith (Edie) Smith,
smith1961notes@gmail.com

1962

After six years on the wait-list, **JUDY BOWMAN** was finally offered an apartment at the Carolina Meadows continuing care retirement community in Chapel Hill, NC. The unit is a total "gut-renovation" and is not expected to be ready until the summer. Judy's brother, who lives in Los Angeles, will be joining her there. She is keeping her New York City apartment and intends to divide her time between the two places.

The past year was a difficult time for **JUDITH PRYOR TAUSSIG**. Her husband of 59 years died in Feb. '22, after a long struggle with Alzheimer's. It has taken

her a long time to adjust to the new chapter in her life. A number of friends are entering their last stages, and her brother died right before Christmas. She says she is fortunate that her health is pretty good. She is still in her house in Salem, OR, living with her daughter. Her major focus is playing therapeutic harp music at the local hospital. While she didn't travel to Northampton for our 60th Reunion, she has fond memories of her Smith years and tries to keep in touch with classmates by phone.

SUSAN TOWER HOLLIS can't seem to give up working with adult students, as it commonly involves some new learning on her part and is lots of fun—current subjects include Greek women and loom weaving in antiquity (Penelope and Athena, for example). She and her daughter recently had a fine "stategation" in southern New Mexico.

THELMA SACK MYERSON is healthy, resilient, and active in an independent living community, Vi at Lakeside Village in Lantana, FL. Manny, her husband of 58 years, passed away peacefully on Oct. 31, '22, from advanced Alzheimer's. Her photography hobby, feature and memoir writing, and daily exercise keep her busy and happy.

The elephant research project started by **CYNTHIA MOSS** marked its 50th anniversary last year. She is still the director of the Amboseli Trust for Elephants, and she doesn't have any plans to retire. She loves her work—and, of course, she loves the elephants.

CAROLINE (BETSY) BACON NEWELL is continuing as head of Park Children's Day School in Manhattan. "There are so many challenges running a school that it is hard to consider retiring." When not working (summers, etc.), she and her husband spend time at their new house in Oxford, England, which has an exquisite garden. A gardener came with the house, which is why the garden continues to thrive, Betsy says; she and her husband have nothing to do with keeping it so beautiful. By the way, she loved our Reunion, and thanks all who organized it. "We have so many interesting classmates!"

MARJIE REYNOLDS ROBSON's first great-grandson was born recently, and she

says it's "a thrill to see and hold that little bundle of life." The baby has European, Maori, and Tongan lineage. "This is the new world." Marjie sends cheers to all and adds, "Come and see me Down Under!"

REGENIA (GINNIE) KALLMAN MAES's life at 82 continues to be happy, healthy, and fulfilling. She lives most of the year in Surprise, AZ, but goes to Colorado for the Bravo! Vail Music Festival and to see family in Denver. She also spends three-plus months in Santa Fe, NM, enjoying the Santa Fe Opera, the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, and the Santa Fe Desert Chorale. Her son, Kip, and her oldest grandson, Davis, and his girlfriend, Kati, are moving to Phoenix, so she is thrilled to finally have family there.

Don't forget to watch for the email that the college sends to alums four times a year asking you to submit class notes for the *Quarterly*. If you prefer to send me notes directly by email or in writing, my mailing information is below. At this point in our lives, our classmates simply enjoy hearing from you! If you send me an email, please put "Smith 62" in the subject line. And if you haven't heard, the alumnae directory, where you can find names of all Smith alums, is now called The Network. You can access it online (go to smith.edu/alum and scroll down to Find Your Friends) or via the Smith College Network app.

Sec., Susan Teommey Rydell, 4422 Gaywood Drive, Minnetonka, MN 55345, susan.rydell@metrostate.edu

1963

We've heard from **WENDY CAESAR**, who says, "Finally, I stopped fighting it, the siren call of grandchildren. I divested myself of another hill of stuff, packed the rest, and headed back to Berkeley, CA, for as long as the money holds out. Given the high cost of living and the impossibility of senior housing here, I'll then return to New York and settle in for the last phase of retirement. Meanwhile, I'm enjoying the grands to the hilt! And my old garden group ensures that I spend time outside in a community garden, a welcome reprieve from apartment living. I saw my son, Chris, and his wife, Shadia, when they came for two weeks in March to help me celebrate my 80th birthday; a glorious time, though a little bittersweet for my son, as we took care of the official end-of-life paperwork. I have no problem talking about my death; for him it was not a happy topic. This was also the visit when I told them to take home anything else they wanted—the time of the final downsizing, as I was moving into a studio apartment. I haven't gotten used to the bed in the living room yet, or to being without a car! I walk and carry a whole lot, which is good for the body, but sometimes it's truly a drag."

ANNE SCHERCK MORRISON reports that her daughter, Nina Morrison, is now a US district judge for the Eastern District of New York (Brooklyn, Queens, Long Island, and Staten Island). She spent 20 years at the Innocence Project, where she served as senior litigation counsel, helping to free more than 30 innocent people from prison. Sen. Chuck Schumer introduced Nina



Class of 1968 friends enjoy a restorative getaway at Rancho La Puerta in Tecate, Mexico. From left: Susan Dunn LaPine, Marjorie (Marj) Jones Ho, Caren Byrd Borland, Rosalind (Roz) Lum Fisher, Deborah Allen, Sarah Wiley Henriksen, and Ada (Missy) McIver.

at her Senate Judiciary Committee hearing, which was very contentious, as Sen. Ted Cruz blamed Nina for “basically all the crime in America,” Anne says. Nina was sworn in last August to a lifetime appointment. Anne and her husband, Alan, are incredibly proud of their awesome daughter. To top off all the celebrations, Nina’s daughter Anya celebrated her bat mitzvah in May ’22, and Anne and her husband were thrilled.

CAROL HODGDON GOODFRIEND writes, “At Susan Hill’s request, I decided to focus on my gratitude for our Smith education. The excellent music department, from 1959 to 1963, changed my life and forced me to major in the subject. Oh, I tried lots of other departments, except math and physics, but the music courses offered were enticing and the professors enlightening. However, **SOLACE WALKER TOBEY** (Cutter House) altered my plans, leading to [the business my husband and I] founded in 1968. Late in our junior year, Solace told me that unless I took Art 11, she would never speak to me again! I was shocked and told her she was ridiculous. I would have to forfeit two exciting courses taught by my favorite music professors. Plus, I would have to memorize all those slides. No. Period. So Solace said OK, I just won’t speak to you again. What?! We were close friends (I was her maid of honor following graduation). Well, darned if I didn’t take Art 11, loved it, was so over-swamped with studying, piano playing, and memorizing slides that I wondered if I’d ever graduate. We all know the answer: I did and in 1968, my musician/critic husband (long story) and I opened an art office, specializing in old master prints, drawings, and watercolors from 1550 to 1950. What an adventure it’s been. I met **SUSAN LAMPMAN HILL** at a Reunion, and she has become a dear friend and appreciator of wonderful drawings. What an eye she has! Except for annoying aging, Jim (90 years old) and I continue along the same paths. I stopped teaching classroom music and singing to focus on our art business, C & J Goodfriend Drawings and Prints. Music is still an important focus of our lives, but I decided that any soprano over 80 should stop singing, including me. While I am blessed with perfect tonal and blending pitch, vibratos often develop, frequently unnoticed by the singer! I decided to not be one of those warblers. Thus, I am spoiled

(by my husband’s cooking and fabulous old wines). What a marvelous life!”

Sec., Susan Lampman Hill, susanartlover@gmail.com

Sec., Mary Trexler Funsch, funschs42@gmail.com

1964

Neither snow nor force majeure stays the spunk, resilience, and resolve of ’64ers.

BARBARA (BOBBIE) WATSON BILLINGS writes, “And how about the vicious blizzard of ’22 in Buffalo! We had just installed an up-to-date fireplace insert, so when the power went

off, we poured a glass of wine and hunkered down. At 12:30 a.m., awakened by lights and cold from the fireplace’s need for firewood, we sprang into action, plugging in the fridge and furnace—decoupled to avoid turn-on surge. Furnace did not go on. So engineer husband Pete spent two hours outside with wind at 50 mph and 15-degree temperature to unblock the air intake vent. Driving ban for five days, frozen water pipes in Beaufort, SC, condo with renters present. Enough.”

MOLLY BRUCE DOWNING updates her Hurricane Ian situation: “I write overlooking my barren yard on Sanibel Island, FL, but at least I can look out from inside my house, fortunately built on stilts, too high for Ian to reach the interior. The spirit of Sanibel resiliency is all over the message on T-shirts: ‘Sanibel Strong,’ written over a silhouette of a looming Sanibel lighthouse. And chartreuse buds are beginning to appear on native plants, well accustomed to generations of storms.”

SUSAN (SUSIE) GOODALE STRINGER adds her Ian survivor story: “I became a permanent resident of Florida and vacated my Waltham, MA, apartment a short while before Ian destroyed my Boca Grande condo in late Sept. ’22. So, homeless at 80, I swung into action. Needless to say, I did not expect to spend my golden years dealing with mold, loss of home and furnishings, evil insurance companies, and 12 months of projected rebuilding. I’m lucky to have not been there during the storm. Still have my dog, my Massachusetts possessions, and I’m directing the condo rehab from a small cottage in Venice, FL, with a 12-month lease.”

ELIZABETH (BETSY) HELLER FOWLE has also relocated: “We moved to RiverMead, a retirement community in Peterborough, NH, five months before COVID changed our lives. Last year, I happily served as leader of an interim ministry team at the church where we’ve been in retirement.”

While she recovered from a heart ablation in December, **HARRIET STULMAN** continued Zooming art classes and painting.

LUCIE GALLISTEL SEWARD writes, “Still very much appreciating the rigorous Smith education. Chairing the International Business Intelligence economic development firm, which had a great year. Playing golf in Virginia and Florida, skiing a couple of weeks a year. A Portugal trip

with the International Seniors Amateur Golf Society was our first post-COVID outing. Grateful for the health that makes this possible.” Clearly, ’64ers’ physical, spiritual, and mental energies have not diminished.

From **NANCY LOCKE MEYER**: “After six years of research, I completed my poetry manuscript, ‘The Stoop and the Steeple,’ a 70-page hybrid work that weaves reflections on my long-ago marriage to a mixed-race Jamaican man and the recent discovery that my colonial Hadley [MA] ancestors were enslavers. My study rekindled links to the Pioneer Valley. So far, 21 of the poems have been picked by journals, which helps with my search for a publisher.”

ANNE WADSWORTH MOODY writes, “I lost my husband in 2019 but still live in rural Down East Maine in an 1833 farmhouse in a town of 700 people. I have been producing theater in my community for over 20 years and produced for the Bangor Ballet for six years. The rest is keeping up with the demands of my old house, occasional visits with Talbot friends, and trips to New York City to visit my siblings.”

Checking in from her life abroad, **MARIA (ALIX) GARCIA SUNDQUIST** tells us, “We moved to France in 2018 and have not been back to the States in four years. There is much to see and do within driving distance of our home in Bergerac, and until pandemic restrictions curtailed travels, we took advantage of historical, artistic, and gastronomic treasures around us. Last summer we were in Germany to attend a Wagner festival in Leipzig, at which all of the composer’s 13 operas were performed in 27 days. Next, we’re looking for a scenic spot with great opera and food, which will give me a chance to show off my new Italian skills.”

What would I do without your stout-hearted, bold, brave, adventurous, and yes, nail-biting stories? I’d be missing out on lives well-lived. Keep making my job a delight.

Sec., Jean Howell, 7100 East Lincoln Drive, Scottsdale, AZ 85253, jhowell@cox.net

1965

In November, Mainers **LUCY BYGRAVE STINSON, PAM PELTON PLUMB, MARY PENNELL NELSON, MARINA VELENTGAS SCHNELLER, and ANNE WILLIAMS** enjoyed a pre-holiday lunch.

JONA BURGESS HAMMER was on campus in October for the meeting of our class officers. She enjoyed getting together face-to-face with women whom she had only known as names on emails. They were given a tour of the new library, which is very impressive. If you are on campus, be sure to check it out. You can even borrow books.

PAULA FERRIS EINAUDI moved into a retirement community in Silver Spring, MD, at the end of 2021. She was thrilled when **PAT KEREN MANNING** moved into the same community this past December. In October, Paula joined eight others on a Smithsonian hiking trip on the Camino de Santiago in northern Spain, where they



Mary Ann Welch Ericson '69, left, and Marcia Schenk Steckler '69 meet up at the Portland Head Light in Cape Elizabeth, ME.

trekked about 10 miles a day for eight days. "It was both exhausting and inspiring."

FILOMINA JONES STEADY's memoir *Woman in Action: Autobiography of a Global African Feminist* was published in late January. "Unlike Prince Harry's book, *Spare*, it celebrates family!" Filomina came to Smith from Sierra Leone. Since retiring as a professor of Africana studies at Wellesley College, she has been able to spend time both in Sierra Leone and Massachusetts. She and her husband, Henry, spent last Christmas in Freetown with many family members. Filomina travels frequently and has contributed to four international plans of action for gender equality and the advancement of women.

In June '22, **VERA (TINNY) JONES WEINTRAUB** attended her 40th reunion at the Yale School of Management, where she saw **ELIZABETH (BETSY) BATES '70** and **CONSTANCE (STANCY) DUHAMEL '77**. **GERALDINE (JERRY) DAY ZURN**, who was also in their class, was unable to be at the reunion. Tinny enjoyed seeing **ALICE BAKER DUFF**, **SUE ARONSTEIN BEILES**, **H. JOANNE (CHICHI) FOX BRUMBERG**, **SHEILA JOHNSON WISE**, **BARBARA MAHONY KENT**, **LIZ MATTHEWS RATH**, **MERBLE HARRINGTON REAGON**, **JOAN ROSASCO**, **KATHERINE (KAKI) SWENSON KAHAN**, and **BARBARA ALDEN TAYLOR** at the annual New York City holiday luncheon.

PAT KEREN MANNING and **PAULA FERRIS EIN-AUDI** went to President Kathleen McCartney's farewell in Washington, DC, which kicked off at the Planet Word museum. They were pleased to see a photo of our class officers taken at our 50th Reunion in May '15 in the slideshow.

MARY PENNELL NELSON reports that the Portland, ME, Symphony Orchestra hosted a monthlong program called *Violins of Hope* commemorating the 80th anniversary of the resistance of the Terezin prisoners. In this Nazi death camp in 1942-43, prisoners learned the Verdi Requiem and then performed it over 16 times. The chorus learned the music from a single smuggled score, and musicians played on instruments that had been brought with them to the camp. Many years after World War II ended, survivors began taking violins to an Israeli violin-maker and his son, Amon and Avshi Weinstein, ask-

ing if they could restore the instruments. Each violin carried with it its own unique story of injustice, suffering, resilience, and survival. The Weinsteins have made this project a labor of love, a remembrance of the horrors of the Holocaust and the power of music. They have restored 60 instruments and now travel with a group of them, telling their stories. The Portland Symphony Orchestra with the Masterworks Chorus performed the Verdi Requiem twice in October. Musicians performed on 29 violins, one viola, and one cello from the collection. There were three Smith altos in the chorus: **Mary, JESS DOUGHTY '02**, and **LIZ SUNTKEN MURLEY '85**.

In December, **TRUDY RUBIN's** Worldview webinar featured Oksana Markarova, Ukraine's ambassador to Washington, speaking on why Ukraine cannot stop fighting and how Kyiv can withstand Russia's vicious air assault and liberate the rest of its occupied land. As winter approached, Vladimir Putin hoped the West's support for Ukraine would falter over energy shortages and high prices, and pressure would mount for peace talks on Russia's terms. In January, Trudy's webinar was with Yevgenia Albats, a prominent independent Russian journalist, author, and radio host who was compelled to leave Moscow for New York. They discussed what motivates Vladimir Putin's crimes in Ukraine and what to expect from Russia this year.

Congratulations to **PEGGY WHITE LEPPIK** on receiving the Smith College Club of Minnesota's Medal of Distinction and to her husband, Ilo, on receiving the Founders Award from the Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota. Peggy fills her time gardening and knitting, and is also busy with her Rotary Club, the League of Women Voters, and the Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board.

Sec., Marcia Schofield, PO Box 686, Solana Beach, CA 92075. marciam@alumnae.smith.edu

1966

A theme of this set of notes is how full our lives were in 2022: Many of us are making the most of being post-COVID and not yet 80!

PAT FULKERSON LARRABEE spent the first part of 2022 co-coordinating her high school class's 60th reunion. "I was the only techie on the committee of 20." She continues as her church's clerk, historian, webmaster, and Women's Fellowship treasurer while also giving tours of the church cemetery and creating a self-conducted audio tour app for the cemetery. At home, she and her husband are writing their memoirs "so the younger generations will be able to get to know us better. I am grateful to have been able to enjoy my own grandchildren, something I did not have with my own grandparents, and we want to pass it on."

From **ALISON TEAL**: "My husband and I are celebrating approaching our 80s by acting like we are in our 40s. We have bought a new house in Key West, FL (which we know will be under water at some point, so it makes no sense), and we are also building a house in northern Minnesota that will be mostly off the grid. It will be a family complex and climate refuge. Perhaps we have already 'lost it' mentally!"

CAROLYN KORSMEYER has shifted from writing philosophy to writing fiction. "I now have two published novels: *Charlotte's Story* (2021) and *Little Follies: A Mystery at the Millennium* (2023). Another is finished and one more is in the works. Much fun!"

Another writer among us is **FANNY STAUNTON OGILVIE**. At the time of writing, her new book of poetry, *Dust Is the Only Secret*, was due to be published this spring. Poems fall under the subheadings of Emergence, Mutation From Pain, Destruction, Evolution From Beauty, Fantastic, Novelty, and The Gone, and are accompanied by paintings by the author.

ELSA POTTALA PAULEY shares, "Good news that as of Oct. '22 I am in full remission from stage 3 lung cancer, diagnosed one year before (though I had had no symptoms). As I was getting better, we took our grandsons to Italy and also visited family in Copenhagen. Quite a year, but one full of blessings; I feel very lucky!"

LESLIE SELDEN FRANKEL writes, "I keep busy as the president of the Connecticut Recorder Society, which began playing on Zoom during COVID and has continued on Zoom because it's so convenient. We access coaches (and members) from all over the US, Canada, and England, and meet on the first Saturday of each month from September through June. If anyone's interested in learning more, contact me via The Network online alumnae directory. All abilities are welcome!"

LARAINÉ LEBERFELD FERGENSON moved back to New Jersey (after sequestering in Florida during the worst of COVID) in time to welcome a new granddaughter in April '22. The next month, she says, "we traveled to Iceland, where I gave a paper at a Thoreau Society conference, and then enjoyed the awe-inspiring scenery, including waterfalls, hot springs, and a glacier. From there to Wisconsin for the birthday of a great-grandson. These two cousins-once-removed are only four months apart!"

DIANA KOPP MCDONOUGH writes that she and **NANCY CHISWICK** got together in Jan. '23. "Nancy was visiting from Pennsylvania, and we met for a walk along the San Francisco Bay. We updated each other on the recent elections and on the progress of two organizations seeking more political representation for women, Register Her and Fund Her."

KATHERINE HASHMALL GAVZY writes, "I remains addicted to volunteer work and being overcommitted, though I am trying to scale back so I can enjoy time with grandchildren, my golden retriever, and more gardening. Anyone with tips on this, please pass them along!" Katherine also

"We have bought a new house in Key West, FL (which we know will be under water at some point)."



Class of 1971 friends gather at the University of Geneva in Switzerland to see Susan Goldin-Meadow, second from left, receive an honorary degree. From left: Marti Lannert, Martha (Mardy) McKinley Kissick, and Patricia (Patty) Merritt.

shares that she has been loving the online Salon 66 series: “Interesting topics, stimulating conversations, and heartwarming mini-reunions with friends from 50 years ago. It has been a joy to participate in these sessions, especially learning about all the impressive accomplishments of our fellow Smithies since graduation. Kudos to **LOIS HOFFMAN THOMPSON, CAROLINE SOLELIAC CARBAUGH,** and their team.” Hear, Hear!

Sec., Leslie Judd Graitcer,
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1967

MOLLY MCKAUGHAN reports, “I went to the United Kingdom three times in 2022, while my daughter, Sam, was living in London. One trip included 10 days in Scotland’s Highlands and Lewis and Harris island with Natural Habitat Adventures and some time on my own in Edinburgh. Over Thanksgiving week, we went to the coast of Dorset, also called the Jurassic Coast. Sam has now moved with her husband to Santiago, Chile, farther away in distance but closer in time to mine. I hope to visit in June or July.”

BARBARA LIVESEY RICKER writes, “If this isn’t too depressing, here is my news. It is the only thing that has been going on in my life for the last 13 months. My husband, Orlando Nieves, died the day after Thanksgiving 2022, after a yearlong illness during which he was in the hospital with me at his side 12 hours a day every day for six months, and at home in my care for six months, during which time I was unable to leave the house. Twelve years after his lung transplant, his lungs finally failed, and we had the last year to say everything we needed to say. Now I am drowning in grief and struggling to get through each day—and night. If someone can tell me it gets better, please do.”

As we enter our late 70s, classmates can be a source of support as well as friendship. Even after the pandemic, groups from several houses continue meeting regularly on Zoom. We’ve heard reports of a film club, and many of us assembled in January to watch an online presentation given by **ELLEN KIPNIS KANNER** and **ANNIE ALESKOVSKY ZEYBEKOGLU** about their book, *I, Teresa de Lucena: Reflections on the Trial of a Conversa*, the true story of a woman who faced the Spanish Inquisition twice. Ellen’s translations and reflections and Annie’s book design and illustrations give

voice to a brave woman who lived in tumultuous times.

Some friends, since spending Junior Year Abroad in Paris, are choosing French films to discuss and contemplating traveling together to a French-speaking country.

We’d love to know other means by which ’67 alums are getting together.

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1968

Your co-secretaries are writing this column three months before our 55th Reunion, so look for Reunion highlights in your Fall 2023 *Quarterly*!

Class treasurer **NELLE WILLIAMS BROWN** transmitted our 50th Reunion gift of \$20,000 to special collections at the Neilson Library. The class asked that it be directed to the Sophia Smith Collection of Women’s History, and our gift went toward publicizing the collection and supporting student research that involved the collection. Nelle recently received a report on the collection and the work that our gift helped to support, as well as a thank you to the class from Elizabeth Myers, director of special collections, who hopes to meet us at our 55th Reunion.

KRISTEN (KRISTI) MONROE writes that she still loves teaching, especially the summer mentoring program in the UC Irvine Ethics Center. As part of that effort, she’s working on a book with several students about the Republicans who stood up to Trump, tentatively titled “Rat Finks or Morally Courageous?” This is a follow-up to her forthcoming book from the University of Chicago Press, *When Conscience Calls: Moral Courage in Times of Confusion and Despair* (June ’23), which documents how Kristi and her students have dealt with the ugliness of the contemporary political world. Her other recent book, *The Unspoken Morality of Childhood: Family, Friendship, Self-Esteem and the Wisdom of the Everyday* (2022), is a collection of essays on ethical lessons learned from her children.

ONEITA TAYLOR recently completed a biography of her late husband, Eugene Baker, who overcame challenges through perseverance, optimism, and quick wit. Unfortunately, he was unable to complete his autobiography due to ill health. In completing his book, *Navigating the Path to Adulthood in Mississippi*, Oneita was able to share his adventures, achievements, and accomplishments as he told them to her.

From **ERICA SPURDLE HAMLIN**: “During a stint at a Seattle school, I returned to playing the viola, having many opportunities to pursue this in our musical city, and got fully engaged in playing chamber music. We have now retired to San Juan Island, WA, where I am very involved with developing permanently affordable housing. But we also stay absolutely connected with music. I now play in a string quartet every

week, recently traveled to Budapest to play Brahms in a quartet workshop, and spend a week every summer with 39 other string players in Seattle in a ‘boot camp’ with the Manhattan String Quartet. I am totally an amateur, but the intensity of learning with great teaching is reminiscent of my time at Smith, although I was too immature to be appreciative of that then. The challenge of always teetering on the edge of competence is terrifying and joyful.”

GERRI HERTZBERG HORN reports, “Michael and I are loving every minute up here in Maine, after years of going back and forth between Mendham, NJ, and Rockport. Our sons are still down there, so we make pilgrimages to see them monthly. We are able to see Penobscot Bay and Owls Head Light from our windows. This morning: bright sun glistening on the water, blue skies. Last fall, I was lucky to join the Smith Alumnae of Maine group for tours of the Farnsworth Museum and the Maine Center for Contemporary Art, both near our home.”

The pursuit of visual language continues to be a focus for **DIANE KATSIAFICAS**, who is primarily based in Greece. Her work ranges from making small drawings to creating components for larger-scale installations to collaborating with the Lembesis family potters on the Greek island of Sifnos. Examples of her work are at dianekatsiaficas.com.

Following up on our earlier report of **NATALIE WEST**’s election to the city council of South Portland, ME, Natalie says that as one of seven councilors she is working to address issues that challenge many cities across the country. “Priorities include encouraging housing construction that is affordable to young families, transitioning our energy use away from reliance on hydrocarbons, and upgrading city infrastructure to withstand rising sea levels. Suggestions and personal visits from classmates are always welcome.”

MARCIA LAY writes, “Still chugging along happily on Cape Cod, MA, with my husband, and a brother close by. We’re busy with travel, exercise, reading, friends, volunteer work, adult education, kayaking/biking/hiking, etc. We keep in touch with **ELEANOR (LEO) OLDACH FRANCIS**.”

Milestones: We congratulate **MARSHA COHEN** and Bob Feyer on their 50th wedding anniversary and **CAREN BYRD BORLAND** on her 50th anniversary with Morgan Stanley.

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1969

MICHELE GILLIGAN writes, “I am starting another voyage of discovery—adjusting to being a widow. Travel always makes me feel more alive, so I drove up and down the East Coast in January. February was an architectural tour of Guatemala and visiting friends in Ecuador.” In March, Michele was in Mexico doing yoga with sister **HANNAH GILLIGAN** ’81. The month of May found her “observing tigers in India with sister Susan. Still, there is emptiness



Visiting the M.C. Escher exhibit at the Naples (FL) Art Institute are, from left, Jackie Anthony Millan, Beatrice Lohner Esser, Lou Turner Zellner, and Nancy Ammon Jianakoplos, all class of 1972.

when the person you touched every night is gone."

PEAK MASON POWER has moved back to Washington, DC, after living for several years in Florida, and she loves it. "I've retired from writing for magazines, but a friend and I are starting work on an article on continuing care places. Moving to one is quite a project!"

Congratulations to **PEGGY ELMAN GILLESPIE** on the publication of her new book, *Authentic Selves: Celebrating Trans and Nonbinary People and Their Families* (Skinner House, May '23.) A traveling photo/text exhibit version of the book premiered at Penn State in February and is available to schools, libraries, and houses of worship on the website familydiversityprojects.org. Peggy writes, "In our intense culture wars, trans and gender queer people, especially youth and their families, are being targeted by horribly cruel legislation. I believe this book will be a resource to educate and open hearts and minds to these remarkable people." She lives in Northampton, MA, a mile from the Smith College campus, with her partner, Jill.

The winter of 2022–23 in Maine was the coldest and snowiest in memory, according to **MARGARET (MARGI) WITTIGSCHLAGER NAREFF**, who has lived in the state for many years and recently moved to new quarters there. Her warning: "We learned in our new place that heat pumps don't work when the wind chill is minus 44!"

MARCIA SCHENK STECKLER reports that she and **MARY ANN WELCH ERICSON** have been trading visits in the Maine/New Hampshire seacoast region during the past year.

SUSAN BANGS MUNRO spent a couple of weeks in her favorite Mexican city, Oaxaca, in Jan. '23, savoring the art, music, and friendly vibe. At the time of writing, she was looking forward to traveling to England and Portugal in May with her daughter, Hilary, and bicycling from Munich to Vienna in September. The best thing she did during the past three years was to adopt a dog, an 18-pound Havanese. "Andy's needs, desires, and unconditional love now determine the rhythm of my days," she writes. Luckily, her son and family live nearby to take over during her absences. She sees **JILL DAUBENSPECK ZIFKIN** frequently for walks, and happily reports that **JOAN GOTTSCHALL** now lives

just a few blocks away from her in Evanston, IL.

CHRISTINE VON PRÜMMER was recently delighted to find herself named a "pioneer" in the field of distance education in an international encyclopedia. Her work was also mentioned in an international handbook on open distance and digital education. "I'm quite thrilled to round off my academic career with these two publications, which reflect my feminist commitment," she writes. She lives in Darmstadt, Germany, in the beautiful Frankfurt region, and urges anyone traveling near there to get in touch.

Speaking of connecting, with our 55th Reunion right around the corner in 2024, **SUE HERRICK FOLEY** is asking for news of any recent gatherings or meet-ups—casual or formal, planned or spontaneous. If you've been staying in touch with one or two of your Smith classmates, let her know. Even better, send a photo of a lunch, a hike, a birthday celebration, whatever. She'll include it on the class website. Contact Sue at suzannejac@aol.com.

Finally, our 55th Reunion team reminds you that it's not too early to start planning your travel arrangements for May 23–26, '24. After all the fun of sharing "Our Odysseys" at our last Reunion, the new theme is "Embracing Our Futures." Plans are underway for on-campus programs related to well-being. A special class of '69 Reunion edition of the literary magazine *Grécourt Review* is also in the works. Editors are soliciting poetry, fiction, essays, and art. This is not the New York City publishing world. You can get your stuff published here! Further, classmates who were not included in the 50th Reunion print edition of the class book can be added to it digitally. To find out more about all this, visit the class website: alumnae.smith.edu/smithcms/1969/.

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1970

In a traditional blanket-wrapping ceremony, the Suquamish Tribe (Kitsap County, WA) expressed gratitude to **J. ROBIN HUNT** for her dedication as the tribal council's emissary to the city of Poulsbo, WA. Robin's role was to find a way forward from an estrangement precipitated by a city police officer's fatal shooting of a Native man in a crowd that had gathered to watch fireworks in July '19. She spent two years communicating back and forth between the Suquamish Tribe and the city of Poulsbo, helping them, in her words, "to courageously confront their respective pains, anger, and perceptions, until they were ready to reengage face to face. Healing will take time, but it has begun. This undertaking has been an honor, a calling, and one of the most transformative periods of my life."

LORRAINE GUDAS writes that she loves

her position as chair of the pharmacology department at Weill Cornell Medical College of Cornell University in New York City. She continues to do research developing treatments for kidney cancer and head and neck cancer. In addition, she teaches medical students and doctoral students. Lorraine's long-term partner, John Wagner, is a faculty member in the neuroscience program.

GAY CUMING WARD reports that the Gardiner House group continues to meet virtually a few times a year to catch up. The group likes to launch each of its meetings by discussing a book. In Nov. '22, that book was *Reading With Matthew* by **SALLY DAMON TURNER**, one of the group's members. Three members of the group, Sally, **DENISE SMARTT FRISBEE**, and **JANE ALDER DINSMOOR**, joined the meeting from the United States, while **KARIN JUDKINS**, **LANGHOAN PHAM**, and Gay joined from Europe.

KATHRYN (KATHY) RODGERS was recently appointed to the leadership council of the Friends of the Botanic Garden of Smith College. Kathy is neither a landscape architect nor a botanist, but she has long been a friend of the garden. As many of you know, the campus as a whole was designed in the early 1890s by Frederick Law Olmsted's firm as a botanic garden and arboretum to support education and research, as well as aesthetic appreciation. Generations of students (including Kathy), researchers, and members of the public have been, and continue to be, enlightened and delighted by our campus gardens and by the flowers and curiosities in the plant house. Today, the botanic garden's staff and students are contributing to scientific research and conservation with colleagues across the country and around the globe. Kathy believes the garden and its programs are truly a national treasure. She is thrilled to support it and encourages all of you to go to the botanic garden website (garden.smith.edu), follow the garden on Facebook, and become a Friend of the Botanic Garden.

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Sec., *Sharon Grubin*,
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1971

HELEN (ELLIE) SCHELLHAMMER GOLDBERG writes, "Just turned 73 and I feel renewed gratitude and appreciation. So far, the 70s have been very kind to me. Happy to have my two sons and three grandchildren nearby; happy that my husband and I are still vertical enough to be able to trek and travel often and with gusto; happy to continue to enjoy frequent tennis, piano playing, and advocating for foster kids as a guardian ad litem. Here's to more birthdays because they mean more years!"

ELIZABETH (BETSEY) WHITBECK reports that the Minnesota Smith club is currently working on its third book of biographical "stories" of Minnesota alums. Together, two of the 30 or so oral history project members interview 16 alums for each book; then one of them writes stories from notes and recordings of the interview. In Jan. '23, they finished all 16 in-



With Smith President Kathleen McCartney at Beetlebung Farm on Martha's Vineyard are class of 1975 alums, from left, front row: Lela Houpis Barnes and Kathy Logue; back row: Alison Smith Driscoll, Margaret Curtin, Josephine (Jody) Angevin, and Alison Shaw.

interviews and, at the time of writing, were editing stories and completing the layout. Betsey says, "It's so fun. Members get to know each other and become friends, if they weren't already friends. Families of interviewed alums (as well as the Smithie herself) are so pleased to have the write-ups, with photographs, and the club gives these books to prospective students and parents to give them an idea of the lives Smith alums can lead."

ALEXIS KRASILOVSKY continues working on her screenplays. She's co-writing "Tuki the Tiger" (with Shameem Akhtar in Dhaka), about a Bengal tiger in Bangladesh. Alexis' most recent film, *The Parking Lot of Dreams*, won the Best Original Concept Award (Experimental Film) at the Jane Austen International Film Festival (UK) and Best Quarantine Film at the Sofia Art Film Awards (Bulgaria). The film also won awards in India: an Outstanding Achievement Award (Mobile Film) and monthly Award Winner (Experimental Film) at the Black Swan International Film Festival, a Best Mobile Film Award at the Luis Buñuel Memorial Awards Competition, and an Outstanding Achievement Award (Experimental Film) at the Tagore International Film Festival. *The Parking Lot of Dreams* was an official selection of additional festivals in the United States, the Netherlands, and Greece. Alexis' body of work is available through Canyon Cinema, with some of her films viewable free of charge with a public library card at kanopy.com.

CAROLINE RIDER is still a full-time associate professor of management at Marist College, teaching Global Business & Society, International Trade Management, and Legal Foundations of Business, plus Global Environment of Business in the MBA program. Her four grandchildren range from a 6-foot-2 and growing 14-year-old to a just-now-up-and-running 1-year-old. Last August, she and her significant other of 21 years, Eric Snowden, attended the Rinearson family reunion, hosted by **JUDIE RINEARSON** '75. **KATHY RINEARSON WINSLOW** was there with her husband, Jim Winslow, as well as lots of other relatives. Caroline also attended a Sibling Seminar Weekend in Branford, CT, aka a Smith Sisters meet-up with **ABBI RIDER** '74 and **BETSY RIDER** '82. She reports that they had a lovely time just hanging out.

Following the Lifetime Achievement

Award reported in the Spring 2023 *Quarterly*, **RANDI GRONINGSATER STROH** was one of 101 women featured in the 2022 Marquis *Who's Who of Professional Women* hardcover edition. She was also featured in the Executive Spotlight at the front of the book this year, and was selected for the Marquis section in the Dec. '22-Jan. '23 issue of *Fortune* magazine. This continuing recognition is helping create a strong foundation for The Circle of Time, Randi's new business focusing on arts performance and education.

LORAIN (LORIE) SIEVERS writes, "My Cold War novel set at the UN—*An UNwilling Spy*—is finally out! After writing nonfiction, it's been fun to try my hand at fiction and to meet new people through book events. Life is good for me in Connecticut and for my far-flung family, whom I'm now visiting in person post-COVID."

We hope you're having an active and rewarding summer. Keep your news coming!

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Sec., *Ana-Maria (Mimi) Zaugg*, azaugg@comcast.net

1972

Find complete '72 class notes and more at smithcollege72.org. Access to our '72 Facebook page may be requested via email to bsobiloff@comcast.net. CU@Reunion 55, May 2027!

JULIE ARNOLD writes, "What an exciting and busy few months! My daughter, Sarah Ricciardi, married Alex Russell in Oct. '22. My son, Benjamin, finished his master's degree in counseling in Dec. '22. My standard poodle, Chelsea, earned her Rally Championship in Jan. '23! And my puppy, Daisy, is finally house trained (I think)."

JOANNE SAWHILL MILLER GRIFFIN is busy these days. After the restriction of personal interaction caused by COVID, Joanne felt she needed more social and intellectual stimulation. She joined The Wednesday Club, a private nonprofit women's club that was founded in 1890. Its goals are to encourage continuing intellectual growth; contribute to the community; and work together to advance culture, education, and civic improvement in St. Louis. It's turned out to be a wonderful choice—every Wednesday is now a morning lecture, a luncheon, and an afternoon lecture. It definitely gives her more topics to talk about at cocktail parties!

DIANE ST. CYR FRANCIS and her husband went to Arizona in February for the Tucson gem and mineral show. Diane helped out at the *Rocks and Minerals* magazine booth. "From wet New England to dry Arizona, here we are!"

NANCY AMMON JIANAKOPLIS had a nice trip to Florida over the year-end holidays: "I spent three weeks in Florida. While there, I had lunch in Naples with **JACKIE ANTHONY MILLAN**, **BEATRICE LOHNER ESSER**,

and **LOU TURNER ZELLNER**. Our conversation included reflections on the special place held by our individual experiences with Smith Junior Year Abroad programs: Jackie in Paris, Beatrice and Lou in Hamburg, and myself in Geneva. After lunch, we viewed the Escher exhibit at the Naples Art Institute."

During Nov. and Dec. '22, **STEPHANIE SHAFRAN** had the opportunity to read poems from her chapbook *Awakening* at two senior centers and on *Twilite's Poetry Pub*—a radio program hosted by Tommy Twilite. At the time of writing, Stephanie and her partner, Peter, were in Puerto Rico for a monthlong adventure. When not exploring Old San Juan, enjoying the beach at Luquillo, and discovering the island of Vieques, she was hoping to complete the first draft of her memoir in progress. At home, Stephanie is thankful for so much—Peter, her family, her writing community, and last but certainly not least, her good health.

JAN ENGLISH LEARY has good news—her third book (and second novel), *Town and Gown*, is due out from Fomite Press. "The publishing world is tough, but I loved working with this small press from Vermont. I've been writing fiction for over 30 years and retired from teaching in 2006 to write full time."

LUCY BODINE NATTRASS has this interesting role in the United Kingdom: "I'm spokesperson for a working party that is exploring ways to significantly reduce the carbon footprint of our church's four buildings at minimal cost. We also write articles every month in the church newsletter concerning aspects of reducing, recycling, and reusing as much as possible. By reading labels to check on climate-friendly procedures and products, boycotting rogue corporations, and educating friends and anyone you come across, there is so much that individuals can contribute to slowing climate change. There is no Planet B."

Sec., *Stefanie Solnick Cargill, 1224 East La Jolla Drive, Tempe, AZ 85282, rhpt70@cox.net*

1973

As I write this, I am already anticipating the afterglow from our 50th Reunion, where we will be reunited with old friends, make new ones, and reconnect with Smith. Our digital book is taking shape and I can hardly wait to see how the kaleidoscope of our changing lives is represented on the pages. Speaking for all of us, life does not remain static but is constantly rearranging with ups and downs and new things to learn.

I am sorry to report the death of **ELIZABETH (BETH) BOWEN** in Dec. '22 following a series of strokes. At Smith, Beth fully embraced the Baha'i faith and studied at Southampton University in England. She traveled extensively, spreading the message of unity and peace. After receiving both a master's degree and a doctorate in education from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and working for three years at the Gesell Institute of Human Behavior in New Haven, CT, Beth went



Attending the Busy Being Bold reception for Smith President Kathleen McCartney, center, at the Planet Word museum in Washington, DC, are Elizabeth (Beth) Ambos '77, left, and Gwen Mattleman '77, right.

to medical school and became a family practice physician. She continued to teach and travel throughout her life.

MARY BARBARA CIARDELLI ALEXANDER writes to say she is reviving her acting career after a 20-year hiatus. She has new headshots, updated media, an agent, and a new website. Mary Barbara's husband, Michael, was scheduled to retire as president of Lasell University in Newton, MA, in June, and he will at last join her and their daughter, Maggie, at their family horse farm in Wellington, FL. She loves living where it is summer every day, surrounded by a menagerie of horses, dogs, and cats amid lizards and tropical plants. Travel to Europe is on their horizon.

VIRGINIA (GIGI) BENJAMIN retired from the practice of law at the end of 2022 after 46 years with the same law firm in Cleveland, OH. She enjoys traveling, reading books about the Watergate cataclysm on its 50th anniversary, and spending more time with her granddaughters. GiGi is looking forward to golf in better weather.

DIANE OKRENT is thrilled to announce the birth of her granddaughter, Shiri, to Diane and Aaron's son Victor and his wife, Emily, in December. Diane and Aaron joined me to celebrate at my grandson Finley's bar mitzvah last November in Acton, MA.

SANDI FERGUSON MCPHEE has traded Chicago's wintry weather for New England's chill with her long-anticipated retirement to Maine. She continues to practice law remotely and to travel on behalf of the national Episcopal Church.

At the time of writing, the audio version of **CAROLYN ARNOLD's** book *Fifty First Dates After Fifty* was scheduled to be released shortly. Carolyn is now writing the story of the 18 years she spent identifying as a lesbian feminist. Still a feminist, she has been with Jim for 12 years now. They spend their winters in Oakland, CA, and their summers at a clothing-optional resort in California's Central Valley.

KATE KELLY is sorry she couldn't join us for the festivities in May, but she wants us to know that her associations with Smith women and the Neilson Library in particular have brought her joy. She

runs an American history website (americacomesalive.com), telling a broad range of little-known stories of America's past. Kate and her husband live a bicoastal life, staying in close touch with their grandchildren in Los Angeles as well as those in New York City.

In 2022, **JEANETTE STOKES** published her fourth memoir, *Making the Road as We Go*. This book includes some memories of Smith and her senior year at Amherst College. Jeanette and her husband live in Durham, NC, where she is still the executive director of the Resource Center for Women and Ministry in the South (rcwms.org), an organization she founded in 1977. She is delighted to have an intern this year, **CALLIE SWAIM-FOX**

'21. Jeanette has served on the board of the Pauli Murray Center for History and Social Justice for the last decade.

LORRIE GREENHOUSE GARDELLA writes, "In a recent visit to Neilson Library, I learned that the library's special collections would be grateful for a gym suit from our class as an archival item. Also welcome would be photos of students of our era wearing their gym suits on campus. Help preserve our history with a gym suit (and/or gym suit photo) donation! Thanks so much for considering."

Please keep your email address current with the college via smith.edu/about-smith/alum/update-your-address. Check our Facebook page (the one with the Grécourt Gates on the banner), and drop me a note!

Sec., *Laura (Lolly) Olena Mixer*, lollymix@gmail.com

1974

Reunion co-chairs **CHRISTINE ALBRIGHT**, **ANNE (WING) HAMILTON**, and **CYNTHIA BRIT-TEN MARTIN** urge us to save the date for our 50th Reunion on May 16–19, '24. Our Reunion theme is "Women of Change," reflecting the times we lived through at Smith and the different paths we have all traveled since graduating. We hope everyone will feel comfortable coming to Reunion despite our aging bodies and whatever challenges we are facing. Let's celebrate this milestone together with enthusiasm, wisdom, and understanding—after all, we are the great class of '74! We are, indeed, women of change, a theme reflected in your news.

SHARON VOROS undertook a major career shift and move. After 25 years working in advertising, she completed the University of Pennsylvania's nurse practitioner program, becoming a home-based teleconsultant. An early adopter of Zoom, Sharon worked with clients online for a decade before COVID hit. Then, in 2022, she and husband Andy uprooted to Denver to follow their daughter Meredith's family, including two preschool grandsons. Sharon says, "I miss East Coast friends and culture, but love Colorado's outdoor

lifestyle and winter sports."

LETITIA (TISH) ASHBY LEADBETTER enjoys retirement and staying active and says, "2022 was a fun year!" She trained for and biked the 200 km Le P'tit Train du Nord trail through the Laurentian Mountains of Quebec. (Before the ride, Tish confesses, she indulged in Montreal's great cuisine.) She also traveled by car, completing a 2,000-mile road trip to Memphis, TN, Nashville, and Asheville, NC. She visited family in Santa Fe, NM, and Phoenix, and participated in two weddings. When at home, Tish plays tennis, pickleball, and bridge, and enjoys knitting, reading, and gardening.

After 42 years as a professor of English, **DEBORAH KNUTH-KLENCK** retired from Colgate University just as the COVID pandemic hit. Since then, she's faced a number of challenges and changes, all with a sense of humor. She welcomed grandson Theo in Jan. '21, traveling to Winchester, MA, many times to visit him—her only COVID travel. Just when life was returning to normal in 2022, Deborah was diagnosed with breast cancer. With radiation and surgery treatments, she believes she is one of the lucky ones. "The bald spots are now sprouting hair, as much as 5 inches long. I'm looking forward to a happy and healthy 50th Reunion in the now alarmingly near future. (The alarm arises from the effects of my beloved hobby, perfecting my banana bread recipe—and sampling the specimens. It will be a squeeze to get into my white dress.)"

Please be sure to update your contact information with the college so you get all the Reunion news. Updating is easy—just email your current information to smithierecords@smith.edu or fill out the form at smith.edu/about-smith/alum/update-your-address. To help prepare for our "alarmingly near" Reunion, go to our special class website, smithcollege74.org/reunion-2024/. To help us, please send in your news—reflections on our time at Smith or changes in your life during the long time since.

Sec., *Barbara Bockhaus Klaas*, baklaas@gmail.com

Sec., *Nancy Mason Bradbury*, nbradbur@smith.edu

1975

JENNIFER (JENNIE) SLINGERLAND SKEELE writes, "Undoubtedly, my most important news is my decision to retire from the Winsor School this past spring. After 47 years of teaching English there, and 60 years of being associated with the school—given that I started there as a 9-year-old in 1963—I am looking forward to seeing what else I might have to offer the world and what else I might enjoy. I know I will miss the classroom and my students, but I look forward to having the chance to see friends more often, to travel more, and to continue to spend time with family and precious grandchildren. If it's a no-go, perhaps in a year I'll be looking for a reentry plan!"

TRUDY BOWER shares, "Enjoyed a mini-reunion with **MARJORIE (GREGG) DEANE SWAIN** in New York City. A UN colleague



Erika Koppel Arevuo '81, left; her sister, Victoria (Vicki) Koppel '83, center; and Chandra Rosenbaum Hajian '80 attend the wedding of Erika's son, Max, in East Grand Rapids, MI.

and I published our first book, a fictional crime thriller called *The Hunger Crime*, inspired by true humanitarian events. It's available on Amazon."

ROXANNE KINNEY WILEY writes, "Dave and I were blessed with our third grandchild, Nara, in June '22. I had just returned from the hike of a lifetime (for me!). With two intrepid friends, I walked from the Irish Sea to the North Sea on the Wainwright Coast to Coast footpath in 18 days." Sounds impressive!

AMY HILL SHEVITZ writes, "My husband, Norbert Samuelson, died of Parkinson's disease at age 86 in May '22. I remain in Chicago, where we moved after his retirement in 2016, but have retired from university teaching. My next scholarly project is to edit and complete the last manuscript Norbert left, in philosophy of religion."

LIZZ COOPER-MARTIN is keeping busy: "As of 2023, I've been retired for 4½-plus years. Traveling and time with family and friends is the main benefit of retirement. On a day-to-day basis, I'm busy with the sacred and the profane. The sacred is leadership roles at my church, including [being] president during the pandemic. I've shifted to focus on membership and finance. The profane is buying and reselling charms and beads on Poshmark; it's fun to photograph, list, and make a little money."

MEG HARRIS STANTON shares, "I just celebrated the grand opening of Summa Health System's seven-story Juve Family Behavioral Health Pavilion in Akron, OH. I have been privileged to serve as the art curator for the hospital and was responsible for sourcing the art for this project, all of it original and from Ohio artists. You can view the entire Healing Arts collection at summahealth.org/art. This, [and] a new puppy and a new granddaughter, are

keeping me busy and staving off retirement!"

JILL NEXON BERMAN writes that she retired from the practice of law in 2020 and is mediating part time, dividing her time between Miami and Hendersonville, NC, and learning mahjong, pickleball, and Spanish. She "remains as liberal as ever!" Jill shares that "the Washington, DC, event for our class was terrific. What an amazing group of women."

LLOYD LEWIS EAGAN reports that she and Pat have been playing yo-yo this year between Wisconsin and Tucson, AZ, but will return to Madison for Pat's gallbladder removal. He will be banned from using that big camera lens (a great addition to the Washington, DC, event) during the healing process. They'll then return to Tucson for some healing in the sun. Lloyd hopes to participate in '75 Live throughout and says it was great to connect with the '75ers in DC.

Centennial class of '75 members and friends met up at the Boston Public Library's Map Room Tea Lounge before attending President Kathleen McCartney's Busy Being Bold event in February. Also at the event were **ISA MCILWRAITH REX '74**, **JEANNE LOUGHLIN DOCKERY**, **KAREN KOUMJIAN**, **MARJORIE BLOOM**, **PATRICIA MARY CONNOR**, **ELLEN WATTS**, **MARY HARVEY**, **JODY ANGEVIN**, **MARY GLASER**, **BONNIE MCGHEE STRITTMATTER**, and **CYNTHIA SOMMER**. Attendees reported that President McCartney was incredible.

SUSAN HUMMER SCHAMBACH and husband Gary enjoyed their first year of joint retirement. All three grandchildren are within a two-hour drive, as is **CINDY BAINTON-BARRETT**. Susan and Cindy enjoyed celebrating their 70th birthdays last fall. Susan retired from a dream job at a dream school: teaching science to students with dyslexia in North Carolina. Susan wanted her second graders to understand the effect that the Gulf Stream has on Carolina beaches, so she had students release messages in bottles into the Gulf Stream and had success—eight bottles were found in Europe. In retirement, Susan looks forward to lots of art and science enrichment with the next generation of Schambachs.

Secs., Katie Stephenson and Leigh Stevenson Cobb, smith1975notes@gmail.com

1976

Hello friends, and greetings from Philly! **MARY ANN BRUCE DENTON** writes that she is emerging from her chrysalis after illness and family drama, and is looking forward to reconnecting with Smith friends and the world in general, not to mention the beautiful faces of the class's book club.

MAUREEN CARLSON REINERTSEN HOLLAND and husband Peter established their diving and eco-tourism business in 2022 despite all the issues surrounding CO-

VID. Their private motor yacht *Basilisk* is based in the Seychelles. They design customized tours tailored to groups of up to six people, with a Seychellois crew and local marine and ecological experts creating a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Highlights of **MILA FLORO**'s year included traveling to the Berkshire Hathaway annual meeting in Omaha, NE; selling her Arkansas home; and volunteering as a scholarship application scorer for the Arlington (VA) Community Foundation Annual Scholarship Program. Mila won ribbons at local events for herbs, plants, and rose photos.

PRISCILLA GILLETT PARR relocated to Annapolis, MD, from Seattle with her husband, and finds that their many moves have allowed them to provide advice to their kids, who are looking at homes in Moscow, ID, and McLean, VA. The PARRs are catching up on travel and recently did a coastal drive of Maine (where they met **ANN STEBBINS SIDLES '58**). Now they are planning a trip to Iceland and Wales.

MARY HUGHES BICKERTON spent Christmas in Forest Hills, Queens, NY, with daughter Lucy (now a geriatric psychiatrist resident at Zucker Hillside Hospital) and grandchildren Calvin and Ruby. Lucy's twin, Annie, recently started working at the James Irvine Foundation in Los Angeles as a senior impact assessment and learning officer. Mary continues her study of German and Italian, and plays piano. At the time of writing, she was planning a visit to Florida to visit her mother, who is 89, and a Road Scholar hiking trip to Switzerland, Italy, and France.

NANCY ISRAEL HANNICK and Steven, recently retired from Abbvie, have sold their historic home in Highland Park, IL, after 30 years and are building the home of their dreams—a mid-century modern ranch in Lake Forest, IL. Nancy looks forward to creating a new garden for the house and continues to work on some professional landscape architecture projects. Their son and family live nearby, and their daughter is in Cleveland. Nancy enjoys traveling and biking, volunteering for the Northern Illinois Food Bank, and watercolor painting.

LOUISE JONES MCPHILLIPS writes that the highlight of 2022 for her and Frank was the December wedding of their middle son, Alexander, to Marianna Carrillo in the bride's home city of Sao Paulo. Youngest son Dixon officiated and eldest son James was best man. Louise and Frank combined the trip to Brazil with a small-ship tour of the Galapagos Islands. Earlier in the year they traveled through Italy, including a weeklong stay in an Umbrian villa with Frank's five Harvard roommates and their spouses to celebrate their 50 years of friendship.

JANE MURPHY BARTON finally retired from the IT world at Comcast Corporation, where she spent 25 years as a consultant and employee. She doesn't know what her new life will bring but is sure that it will include tennis and golf in her home base of Pinehurst, NC.

PAT PETERSON BENTLEY has also finally retired, after being "part time" at MIT



At a family gathering on Cape Cod are, from left, Lynda Mailet Norton '85; her daughter, Alida Norton '22; and cousins Alessandra Del Brocco '14 and Marie-Elissa Boisvert '90 (Alessandra's mother).

for almost 20 years, and is delighting in the hours she now has available. She is involved with a local theater group, The Concord Players, where she is part of a group of women who design and make costumes. The current production is *Little Women*, involving yards of fabrics over hoop skirts.

PATRICIA WYCKOFF shares that on Sept. 18, '22, Thomas S. Derr Jr., Smith professor emeritus of religion, officiated at her wedding at the Fairmont hotel in Boston, with **JOANNE WILKINSON** and **JANE O'ROURKE** MSW '91 in attendance. Patricia and her husband, Timothy Riordan, met at a New England Historic Genealogical Society lecture and are both Boston natives. Patricia is still a pediatric neuropsychologist and is thrilled to have found the love of her life 47 years postgraduation.

I am sad to report the deaths of two classmates. Visit the obituaries section of the Spring 2023 *Quarterly* to find a remembrance of **VICTORIA KINGSLEY**, who died in Dec. '22, and the obituaries in this issue for a remembrance of **CLAIRE MANSUR**, who died in Sept. '22. We send our condolences to Victoria's husband, Keith Kelly, and Claire's husband, Jack Ryan, as well as their other family and friends.

Sec., Sally Scott Moser, 301 Caversham Road, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010, 610-525-3651, sallymoser@gmail.com

1977

Our class president, **ADELE PIKE**, reports exciting news: **VANESSA CLARK BROOKS** was appointed chief of staff for newly elected Maryland state delegate N. Scott Phillips. Besides her new role as chief of staff, Vanessa is co-president of our class, helping to guide us toward our 50th Reunion!

BETH DRUMMOND CASEY retired in July '22 from a 45-year career as a teacher and school administrator in Baltimore. She is enjoying unscheduled life, and especially loves spending time with a new granddaughter who lives nearby.

MARY LOU WIENSKI ELSON writes from Brookfield, WI, that she and husband Mark celebrated their 45th anniversary in 2022 with the "trip of a lifetime" to Portugal and Spain. They loved the cities of Porto and Lisbon, were introduced to port wines, azulejo tiles, and friendly

people. Amazing cities explored included Gibraltar, Marbella, Sevilla, Ronda, and Madrid. They fill their retirement days visiting their two adult children, caring for five grandkids, and ballroom dancing in nationwide competitions. Mary Lou declares: "I only wish I had taken more dance classes at Smith and started then!"

AMY ELLIS NUTT recently returned to Smith for the second time since 1977, when President McCartney invited her to teach a writing workshop. She retired from *The Washington Post* in 2020, but COVID "rudely interrupted" her plans. "I'm especially grateful for this do-over," she says. Amy's previous jobs included 16 years at *The Newark Star-Ledger* and nine at *Sports Illustrated*. She is writing her fourth book, "American Madness," a narrative history of mental illness and mental health treatment.

A very busy **SANDRA (SANDY) MACGREGOR O'BRIEN** spent much of 2021-22 in Sarasota, FL, working remotely, while she and husband John built a new home in Danvers, MA. In April '22, Sandy retired after 41 years of practicing law, the last 10 with a boutique firm in Salem, MA. She hosted her daughter Ashley's bridal shower before Ashley married last September at the Smith Barn of the Peabody [MA] Historical Society. At the time of writing, Sandy's new house was under agreement and she and John were planning to move to Florida permanently. John is the register of deeds for Essex County and will finish his term by working remotely and traveling back and forth to Massachusetts. Sandy can't wait to trade the cold and snow for long walks on Siesta Key Beach!

LYNN OSBORNE writes from Santa Fe, NM: "I've been a retired public school music teacher since 2018, yet been back to work twice because of teacher shortages. Both my parents passed away during the past three years; since then, travel has been a joy, rather than a worry—Oaxaca, Mexico, with family in Dec. '22." Lynn and her husband celebrated their 30th anniversary last summer and report happily that their son is engaged to be married. She claims, "Despite recent alarming national trends, we still think Santa Fe is the right place to live in the US."

GISELLE WAGNER and her husband moved to Florida six years ago. Now retired, she enjoys volunteering. Giselle started with a course called Greater Naples Leadership; it introduces people new to southwest Florida to volunteer opportunities, ranging from environmental causes to human services and education. She also sits on the board of the Collier Community Foundation in Naples. Through its Women's Foundation, she mentors young women around education and careers, and advocates for affordable housing for older women. Some days, she rolls up her sleeves, clicks on her playlist, and packs boxes with food for the warehouse. Giselle would love to hear

how others are volunteering.

LOUISE LIECHTY THOMPSON shares, "I got to do research and then teaching in my career. Two very satisfying ways for me to have a career in science." She is retired and babysitting her 9-month-old grandson, who is "an absolute joy!" Louise says she misses the San Francisco Bay Area, but the move to San Diego was good for her. Her daughter and son-in-law live six minutes away, so it's very convenient. Her son is living with her and exploring information technology as a career. Louise adds, "Anyone who wants to splash and play in my pool is welcome to come visit!"

Before we sign off, we want to acknowledge, with great sadness, these classmates who are no longer with us: **SARAH (SALLY) KLASING SCHROER**, **MELANIE FOSTER ROBERT**, and **PATRICIA (PATTI) KLIMCZAK ANDERSEN**. They will be deeply missed as we move on to celebrate future Reunions together. We extend our sympathy to family and friends.

Sec., Marjorie Meiman Robinowitz, mmeiman@icloud.com

Sec., Harriet Madoff Parker, h.parker9@icloud.com

1978

Hello, classmates! It's wonderful that so many of you made it to campus for our 45th Reunion.

CAROLE WYSOCKI recently retired after 40-plus years in the field of orchestra management, having worked in education at the Baltimore Symphony (for five years) and the National Symphony at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC (for 36 years). Carole is loving having control over her own time! She still conducts her beloved church choir and has joined The Washington Chorus, which partners with the BSO and NSO on large orchestra works, like the Verdi Requiem and Beethoven's Ninth.

CLAIRE PENTECOST just retired from 25 years of teaching at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Claire is excited about the open horizon, which will include more time for art projects and running an experimental cultural space called Watershed Art and Ecology.

Please keep your news and notes coming. Whether you respond to the college's blast email requests or email me directly, I look forward to sharing your updates with the class. Cheers!

Sec., Roxann Anderson Whitaker, rmsteinberg@yahoo.com

1979

Reunion co-chairs **BETSY ARMOUR** and **MARIA BENET** send the following Reunion roundup: Heads up, friends! Our 45th Reunion is scheduled for May 23-26, '24. Please update your calendar and plan to join us. The more people, the more fun! Registration materials won't be available until February or March '24, but in the meantime, please visit our website, smith79.org, to see what's in store. Perhaps you'd like to help in a small way at headquarters when you're on campus. Perhaps you have a great idea for a panel presentation or a guest speaker.



"I've been a retired public school music teacher since 2018, yet been back to work twice because of teacher shortages."



At a Smith in Europe gathering in Milan are class of 1986 alums, from left, Catheryn (Cathy) Yum, Paola Prins, and Martha Vail Barker.

Or perhaps you'd like to reach out to your classmates by serving as a house rep. If so, please fill out the volunteer form on our class website and let us know what you're thinking. There will be plenty of opportunities for everyone to get involved.

BERNICE YU shares that she delayed motherhood by 20 years and now has a daughter who is a rising senior at Smith. She says she recently reached out to brainstorm with the smartest women she knows to pool their resources and know-how to create an incubator for startup endeavors. Bernice writes, "Smith modeled a way of life full of hard work paired with a love of learning. Hopefulness for the future can increase with more learning opportunities. Two Smithies are computer science professors at Hunter College and had vision to gain support from Google to host MIT's Duckietown for women, a five-day workshop that utilizes sensors to drive and race around a track. With such workshops, we foster collaborative endeavors that win COVID ventilator competitions. Let's help to win a startup competition next, which can be a transition from academic life to business. The resources are at Smith and the time is now."

After traveling by train around the United States in 2022, **ABIGAIL MARSTERS** is in year two of living and working in Pasadena, CA, getting to know a whole new part of the country and learning to live between mountains and deserts. She is meeting new people every day, including members of the Pasadena Smith Book Club—a great group!

RISA BERNSTEIN SODI is in her 33rd year at Yale and continues to serve as assistant dean and director of advising and special programs for Yale College. In 2022, the president and secretary of the university presented Risa with the Veterans Day Tribute Award for her service to campus veterans and ROTC. Earlier this year, she traveled to the Berkshires for a get-together with Gardiner friends **GISELE LIT-ALIEN**, **MARIA BENET**, **ANNA CRAWFORD**, **DANI GIANNONE HUNTLEY**, and **SHARON QUAYLE**.

As Betsy and Maria said, our 45th Reunion is on the horizon. Be on the lookout for emails and updates to the class webpage. I look forward to seeing classmates

skills, find purpose, and become meaningful members of our communities and workforce. Other than that, I'm working on staying healthy and in shape and improving my golf and pickleball games."

ELISABETH (LIS) EVENSEN has moved to Naples, FL, with partner John Markham after being in Ohio for over 30 years. She retired from being head of human resources in health care and financial services five years ago, and now consults part time in the areas of human resources, executive and career coaching, and interview preparation. If you or someone you know needs help, please visit evensenassociates.com. Lis is loving Naples, and enjoys having **CAROLYN BRODSKY** and **AMY LORD WILKINSON** close by, plus lots of Ohio snowbird friends. She adds, "We're building a pool and are looking forward to seeing friends and family. Come on down and visit! The weather is phenomenal."

ABBY SLATER welcomed her first granddaughter last August. She shares, "Let the grandparenting begin! **AMY VAN SCHELT MURPHY** started me knitting again. She is a knitting savant and helps me get unstuck over FaceTime. I was hosted by **DEBBIE SOSLAND-EDELMAN** in Kansas City, MO, in January as I drove from Canada to California. I'm trying to continue Zoom connections with Cushing mates, including **ELLEN GREENSPAN**, who is a regular."

DIANE WAINGROW-GASSTER and husband Sam are finally empty nesters, but are quite happy that both their son, David, and their daughter, Emily, are living nearby in Los Angeles. David graduated with his doctorate in physical therapy from Rutgers University and is now a physical therapist working at a clinic with a fitness specialty. Emily works in corporate sustainability for a company that greens production sets. Sam works in the space and satellite division of Boeing, while Diane's architectural practice is very busy, with her first all-electric house now under construction. She hopes to visit campus soon to see the newly renovated Neilson Library.

In early February, 28-plus classmates enjoyed a Zoom panel discussion (the second in our Sophia Speaks series) on the creative process. It was adeptly moderated

on campus in the spring of 2024!
*Sec., Elaine Eatroff
 McConnell,
 lainebeth2@juno.com*

1980

Hello, friends! I hope that all is well in your world. Here's the latest:

Never one to mince words, **CAROLYN BRODSKY** remarks, "Retirement is weird. If it weren't for two major home renovation projects—one in Maine and one in Florida—made more complicated due to COVID, I think I would have gone out of my mind. I'm keeping busy on three boards, chairing two of them. One is helping kids who are at risk, immigrant, or challenged in other ways learn

by **LIZ DILLON SHARP** and included authors **MARY WAGLEY COPP** and **MARY COOPER FELIZ** and producer **WENDY SAX** reflecting on their careers, inspirations, and insights.

I attended a spirited reception in Washington, DC, titled *Busy Being Bold*, honoring Smith President Kathleen McCartney—known as K-Mac to current students—and her decade of visionary leadership. In addition to President McCartney's remarks, our own **ALISON OVERTSETH**, chair of Smith's board of trustees, spoke in glowing terms about the president's tenure and their lasting friendship. It was a thrill to be with such a large and enthusiastic group of Smithies of all ages at this celebratory event!

Many thanks to those who sent news this time, but we can definitely do better. Please take a moment to send an update when you receive the reminder from Smith, and check out our class Facebook page, Smith College Class of 1980, for updates.

*Sec., Eda Martin Joyce,
 eda.joyce@att.net*

1981

President McCartney's 2023 *Busy Being Bold* farewell tour brought Smithies together around the country. In Boston, **ALICIA PRIMER** ran into **SUSAN FOSTER**, "whom I had not seen since senior year at Chase House! It turns out that we live in nearby towns," says Alicia. "It was wonderful to see so many friends" in February at Planet Word in Washington, DC, says **DONNA ATTANASIO**, who "was thrilled to hear how well-positioned Smith is, academically and financially." Kudos to **SUSIE GOODMAN NOVICK** for the shoutout from President McCartney in DC for her exceptional recruiting efforts in El Paso, TX. **AUDREY KREMER**, **CONNIE PIERCE**, and **SUSAN SYLLIGARDOS** also attended in DC. Donna "celebrated reopening of the Canadian border" with a seven-week motorcycle trip to Alaska with friend Jeff Wilson, "enjoying stunning scenery while traveling over the connected highways in Alaska as far north as the Arctic Circle." Donna is assistant dean for energy law at George Washington University Law School.

ABBY KEENE INGRAHAM enjoys retirement in midcoast Maine, spending time with her two sons in New York City, traveling to visit friends in Europe, and creating content for her local public access TV station. Abby met **MARIAM SERANG LARSON** in Northampton last fall "to reminisce and remember **SALLY WARING** on the 40th anniversary of her death." In 1981, following graduation, Abby and Sally went on a cross-country road trip, visiting Mariam in Vancouver, BC. Abby says, "a beautiful new friendship has been born" out of the connection with Mariam in Northampton all these years later and says the two of them had fun visiting their old houses on campus and talking with current students.

TORREY STANLEY CARLETON spent "a wonderful day in El Paso with **SUSIE GOODMAN NOVICK** last October," having lunch and touring the city. Torrey was in town attending the Texas Society of Architects convention.



Durreen Shahnaz '89, founder of Impact Investment Exchange (IIX) and IIX Foundation, attends the Clinton Global Initiative. She is pictured with former president Bill Clinton as he makes a pledge to the Women's Livelihood Bond Series.

MARY DICKINSON continues to play golf and tennis, and occasionally ping-pong, in Scottsdale, AZ, while still working at US CyberDome, the nonprofit she co-founded in 2019 to help the political campaign community with cybersecurity. She is also working with an early-stage nonprofit, Climate Content Alliance, which is developing movies and limited series that have climate change or conservation as part of the story.

POLLY CLARK MICHEL and husband Peter are back in the East, "at long last landing in Springfield, MA, leaving behind 27 years of life in Las Vegas." Polly says, "The kindest words we hear when meeting people here are 'welcome home,' and we have already been puttering around the area, enjoying hiking on the Holyoke Range and at the Quabbin Reservoir, as well as a couple of trips up to Smith."

SHELLY D'ARCAMBAL recently met **ALISON MAZZOLA** and **LESLEY DE ROOS** for dinner at Grand Central Oyster Bar in New York City. "We three were fast friends when we met freshman year," says Shelly.

LAURIE POOLE CHESTER retired in May '22 as creative director of Wild Apple, a small art publishing and licensing company in Woodstock, VT, founded 32 years ago with husband John. Post-retirement has included traveling to see friends and family, including a long trip to Greece and Italy. Son Tommy and daughter-in-law Kryssa, and grandchildren Theo and Hattie, live in Saratoga, NY, and son David lives in Atlanta, where he is a Bayesian statistician. Laurie says, "How I ended up with two mathematician/coder kids is a mystery of genetics." Laurie and John spend summers in Oconomowoc, WI.

GEORGIA (GIGI) POOLEY HELLIWELL has a new home in Kenmore, NY, and is teaching "at yet another Buffalo public school." Daughter Abby Lulu married Mark Rudovic in April '22, and granddaughter Sevi Elizabeth was born to daughter Tess and son-in-law Nate Santiago in July '22. Gigi saw **JEAN CUMMINGS** and **PATTI HICK** in the Boston area last fall.

MARGOT RILEY, chief operating officer of

the Holderness School in New Hampshire, acts as the project manager for major construction projects at the school. Her favorite recent project was the transformation of the trail system into a top Nordic ski-racing venue capable of hosting NCAA championships, as the school's sister Alpine venue at the Mittersill Race Venue at Cannon Mountain had done. "Not bad for a little high school of 300 students. Over time, Holderness has graduated about 20 Olympians," says Margot. She enjoys watching basketball with classmate **PAM MULCAHY**, a math teacher at Holderness.

Be well and stay safe. Until next time.

Sec., *Mary Louise Wagner*,
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Sec., *Margot Riley*,
diesellatticus@gmail.com

1982

LISA EVANS writes, "It was wonderful seeing everyone at Reunion! Our class spirit is truly inspiring, and I can't wait for 2027. I was so inspired that I finally took the plunge and did the necessary estate planning to set up a scholarship in medieval studies for a future Smith student. To paraphrase Hamilton, *I planted a tree in a garden I'll never see, and it feels surprisingly good*. Beyond that, nothing much to report. The cats are good, the house is standing, and I'm working on my next conference paper. So it goes."

JOAN BIGWOOD OSBORN reports, "I have published a memoir titled *Net Net: Stories From a Lifelong Pursuit*, ostensibly about racquet sports, but reviewers say it is about so much more, and they are right. One fan described it as 'hilarious: a dessert you don't want to end.'"

GWEN WILLIAMS MASON writes, "Why not start a new career in your early 60s? I am enjoying roaming the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, serving as the public information officer. I can't say that I'm not confounded by technology most days in this new gig, but what a joy to be in the woods. Please come visit, classmates. We can go for a hike in the forest."

LAUREN LAZIN tells us, "It's been a busy time turning 'sixty' years old (and beyond). Sweet son Julian is having a blast at Bennington College. I produced a four-part documentary on Bobby Brown for A&E and directed a three-part series I know my classmates will enjoy: It's called *Sometimes When We Touch: The Reign, Ruin and Resurrection of Soft Rock* and is streaming on Paramount Plus. We lived it!"

RACHEL DOBSON writes, "When I'm not writing promotions for The University of Alabama's Department of Art and Art History, I am researching and writing about the history of my family. My most recent project has been on several of my slaveholding ancestors and the people they enslaved in the lower Chattahoochee

River region of Alabama and Georgia." In the fall of 2022, Rachel published an essay in a local history journal, the *Muscogiana*, about her research. It traces the journey of a 4-year-old enslaved boy named on an 1840 promissory note (as collateral on a loan) to freedom and the lives of some of his descendants.

Sec., *Nancy Davis O'Hara*,
ndoesq@aol.com

1983

Hi, friends! Last month we had our 40th Reunion, which this year coincided with graduation. A big thank you to our class officers, led by the amazing "Mitchell twins," **ANNE MITCHELL** and **JAMIE MITCHELL-BOWEN**; our tremendous Reunion chairs, **MARIE DE CRESCENZO WEHRUNG** and **KATE WEST WALLES**; and all of our devoted programming and event chairs and volunteers for planning such an exciting weekend. We were all primed to reconnect, celebrate, reminisce, enjoy the campus, make new friends, and laugh, dance, learn, and illuminate! Do join our Facebook group, Smith College Class of 1983, to share pictures of our time together. And now, our news:

KIM VANGE BOESTAM sends greetings from Palm Desert, CA: "I started an unofficial Smith club here in the desert and have formed a great group of about 15—some permanent, some snowbirds like me. We've existed only two months but were lucky to be able to snag some time from Smith's senior philanthropic officer Tina Barsby—who gave us a wonderful update on the college—as she traveled through California to speak to other 'real' clubs. It's amazing what Smith has accomplished since my last update." At the time of writing, Kim was looking forward to going to Reunion on her way back to Sweden for the summer.

FRANCES HAUGE FABIAN writes, "Still publishing and not perishing! My sons are graduated, one is married, and I'm now able to look at international management specific to Africa at this year's Africa Academy of Management conference."

NICOLE ARBUSTO loved reading all your news and was inspired to write in: "I am still in Los Angeles and working as a casting director in film, television, and theater. [For me,] like for everyone else, the pandemic proved challenging both personally and professionally. I've been really lucky as someone who works freelance project to project; I've been mostly employed for the duration of COVID. I've adapted through the various protocols and lockdowns, and though doing auditions online via Zoom from my kitchen table has really had its challenges, I've made it work. I was hired to come on to a show that had already completed a pilot, *Somebody Somewhere*. The show stars Bridget Everett and airs on HBO Max. I've cast two seasons remotely from Los Angeles on Zoom while the show films in Illinois. I've learned a lot, and I love the show and its message of inclusion and honest portrayal of grief and friendship. Before the pandemic, I got involved with a nonprofit addressing the homelessness crisis in Los Angeles.



Elizabeth Crabill '91 relives Junior Year Abroad memories in the Mezquita Cathedral in Córdoba, Spain.

SELAH Neighborhood Homeless Coalition started as an all-volunteer group helping their unhoused neighbors. We work on the neighborhood, encampment, and personal level to connect people to services and to foster greater understanding in our communities of those left outside. I joined the board, and during the pandemic became board co-chair. Keeping this kind of grassroots organization open and delivering services during the last two years has been an unbelievable challenge that I'm proud to have contributed to." At the time of writing, Nicole was looking forward to Reunion. "I'm always so inspired by my classmates and what I learn about their lives."

From our dedicated fundraising team: Please do consider a class gift of any size—even a pledge of \$19.83 counts to the all-important alumnae participation percentage that affects Smith's competitive ranking. (Of course, feel free to generously move that decimal point to the right as much as you wish or to make your contribution recur monthly!) Please visit smith.edu/about-smith/giving/smith-fund or call 1-800-241-2056 to contribute.

On behalf of me and my co-secretary, **LISA BILBREY HYDER**, it's been a pleasure hearing about and reporting your news over the last five years. At the time of writing, we were planning to invite a new team of class officers to take the reins during Reunion. If anyone reading this is interested in becoming a secretary, please let us know. We are happy to share what our respective roles involve; I can't recommend it enough. Hopefully, you'll see an announcement about the new team in an

upcoming *Quarterly*. Thank you for sharing your lives with us!

Sec., *Lori Lober, llober@id-pr.com*

1984

Greetings from Oak Island! Thank you all for putting up with my technology issues this cycle. Please note the new email address to submit all your news, and thanks to those of you who patiently resubmitted your news after my pleas!

NITA WILLIAMS WALKER is enjoying retirement after 30 years as a physician, educator, and administrator at the University of Cincinnati. She loves "waking up later, walking leisurely at lunch, and 'free' weekends." Nita is also looking forward to Reunion 2024!

ANNE-CHRISTINE STRUGNELL started a master of fine arts program in creative writing at San Francisco State University and is enjoying that "as a creative counterweight to my continuing education and activism on climate change." She's having fun building community with activists and other creative people, playing with her little nieces, and tandem cycling with her husband of 20 years.

MARY JO NEWBORN WIGGINS continues her work as a professor of law at the University of San Diego School of Law. She has contributed a chapter to a recently published book titled *The Jurisprudential Legacy of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg*. She was also awarded the 2022 Bernard E. Witkin Award for Excellence in Legal Education by the San Diego Law Library Foundation.

CINDY KRUEH CLEMENT writes that she and **ANN HOOVER** spent a weekend at her family's condo on Monterey Bay, CA, along with **CINDY'S** husband, Tom. They Zoomed with **ROBBYN SWAN** on a Sunday morning, which was Sunday afternoon for Robbyn in Ireland. This trip also included Cindy's first-ever trip to a Trader Joe's.

LORNA MCALLISTER lives in Brooklyn, NY, with her husband, Jesse; two children (Carla is a junior at Skidmore College, and Jesse IV is a sophomore at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro); and a 10-year-old dachshund named Paxton. Lorna was just elected to the Kings County (NY) Supreme Court, where she presides in the matrimonial division.

In the continuing-to-celebrate-our-60th birthdays department, **EVE MILROD HALWANI**, **CARA RUBINSTEIN HOXIE**, **SHARON HAHN BACKER '82**, and **MJ KAHN '81** celebrated Eve's and Cara's 60th birthdays on the Big Island of Hawaii in Nov. '22. Cara writes that it was wonderful to spend time together and reconnect.

BONNIE MARK MONAHAN left the corporate world five years ago and now does some strategy consulting and board work for startup companies. She was appointed chair of the board of directors for Good To-Go meals. In her free time, Bonnie and her husband hope to run a half marathon in every state—they've got 22 states done, and are asking for fingers crossed that their knees hold up.

And in response to my note that we don't judge what constitutes "news" for the SAQ, **MOLLY MCNULTY** writes that "the only thing new with me is that I've had

long COVID for six months. As a disability accommodation, the university has let me teach remotely. Wear your masks, people!"

Stay (or get) well and send news, all!

Sec., *Terry Kitay,*

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1985

Greetings, classmates! I hope that many of you are reconnecting with each other as we continue to come out of isolation, travel, and see family and friends. It all feels so good. We've had a couple of small Smith club gatherings here in Ann Arbor, MI, including one where we put together care packages for current Smith students from the area. It was wonderful to catch up with **JEANNETTE JACKSON**, **CECILY GARRITY '89**, and **PAT DILL RINVELT**, along with other area alums at the event.

I hope to hear from many more of you over the coming months. Any and all updates are welcome!

Sec., *Lynda Maillet Norton,*

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1986

Hello, '86ers! We recently hit the three-year mark for COVID—hard to have anticipated how much our worlds would be shaken and rearranged. One constant for so many of us has been our lifelong Smith friendships. Long may we roll! A couple of interesting notes for this issue:

CATHY YUM writes, "I had the pleasure of representing Asia and the class of 1986 at the Smith in Europe event in Milan in Oct. '22. It's been rewarding to discover the international Smith community. I'm still based in Singapore and joined the 'big resignation' and left Facebook to join Zoom in 2021 as the head of marketing for Asia-Pacific and Japan. Excited about the second Smith in Asia coming up—in Oct. '23 in Seoul, South Korea!"

And **KERRY GAFFNEY NAPPI** shares her news: "I can't believe I've been in [Northern California] for three years now. During COVID, I decided to finally get my TESOL certification and started volunteering with the International Rescue Committee in New Jersey, teaching remotely. Then in May '22, I took a job as the [Vocational English as a Second Language] instructor with the International Rescue Committee in San Jose, CA. I love teaching English to adults and helping them get the skills they need to get their first jobs in the US. I've been lucky to have visits from **VERONICA MOORE BARTLETT '87** and **JENNIFER TAI CHIN '87**."

JERISE (JERI) FOGEL sends these updates: "Met up in New York City with **LIZ CROWELL** and had a blast! I apologize for not keeping up with folks better. I recently directed the play *Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead* by Bert V. Royal at Villagers Theatre in Somerset, NJ, with a fantastic cast and a two-weekend run in January, with talkbacks after each of six performances. So much fun and an important LGBTQ and anti-bullying message; sadly, still relevant, [even though it was] written in 2004. For a peek, look for me on Instagram. Currently teaching Renaissance to Now humanities course



At an Emerson House mini-reunion in New Orleans are, from left, Elizabeth Sippel Opsahl '91, Krista Paprocki Coleton '91, Heather Fennell '92, Lori Kilday '91, and Sarah Jemielity Mangold '91.

at Montclair State University. Still doing artwork too. Would love to hear from anyone interested in Hallie Flanagan and her story for a project I'm embarking on." Please continue to send in your notes and tidbits to me, I would love to hear about your plans to celebrate 60th birthdays. Until next time!

*Sec., Carla Tishler,
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1987

Greetings, class of 1987! I am honored to be your new class secretary and will be reaching out to you in the coming months. I am excited to welcome my fellow class officers for the next five years: co-presidents **SUZANNE DOUD GALLI** and **SHEILA DONOVAN** and Reunion chairs **SUSAN FINE**, **NANCY LA VIGNE**, and **COLLEEN WILSON**, woo-hoo!

LUANN REED-SIEGEL writes in to say hello after 36 years. She has been married to Jay—who was a frequent Lamont visitor—for 36 years. Luann's daughter, Rachael, is an attorney in New York City, and her son, Adam, is in the plant nursery business. She has lived in central New Jersey since graduation. After earning a graduate degree in English literature, teaching, and working nearly 30 years as an editor, she did a 180 and went back to school to become a licensed veterinary technician. She was inspired by her volunteer work at a sanctuary for special-needs goats and is loving her new profession. Zooms with former Lamont residents **KIRSTEN CONNOLLY LOPEZ**, **PENELOPE (PENNY) DAULTON '88**, **AMY FITCH '90**, **ELLEN LEVIN CARLSON '86**, and **JANICE JACOBSON '86** helped keep her sane during COVID.

ANN BOSIAK RANDALL reports that after enjoying a fabulous Reunion weekend, she decided she did not see her Smith friends enough and it had been too long between visits. She was able to arrange

a small gathering of Smith friends to see Andrea Bocelli in Boston. Joining her were **PAMELA VASQUEZ KIM** and **COLLEEN MAHONY**, as well as Emerson House friends **ERICA WANG '88**, **AMY HARRIS LIND '88**, and **ANNE PEVERADA DANEHY '88**. It was a fabulous weekend of food, music, and friends. They are hoping for more adventures with other Emerson friends who could not join them for this visit.

KIM SAVOIA SHOUSE's husband, Jeff, retired in 2019, and they moved to Florida's Space Coast. After working one more year, Kim decided it was time to explore some fun artistic endeavors and has been learning photography and having tons of fun. Their son, John, returned from a job in Germany just as COVID was shutting down flights and settled in Louisville, KY, where the family has started a new Thanksgiving tradition: dinner at Churchill Downs. Kim reports loving life in Florida, with so many parks and places to explore, and has had great visits from many old friends, including **KIM GOMBIESKI BRANDEAU**.

SUZANNE DOUD GALLI writes that she is so grateful to her classmates for giving her the opportunity to serve as co-president—they make a great team! Suzanne is a facial plastic and reconstructive surgeon in Washington, DC, when not playing farmer on her farm on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Her first daughter graduated from Smith and teaches at a boarding school in Switzerland, and her last one is currently at Bryn Mawr. She encourages everyone to write in and let us know what you're up to.

SHEILA DONOVAN says she is looking forward to serving as co-president with the other class officers. She is approaching the one-year anniversary of starting her own parenting coordination business, after many years of practicing family law in central Kentucky. She would love to see people who have not submitted class notes in a while—or ever—send in some news.

KIM GOMBIESKI BRANDEAU recently met up with her Hubbard House freshman roommate, Ann Shipley, in New York City for lunch with fellow Hubbardite **CONSTANCE (CONNIE) BAYERSDORFER LISE**, who was visiting from San Francisco. It did not feel like decades had passed since they last talked, and it was energizing to connect with Smith friends again. Connie recently traveled to Portugal with **MARTHA CRAIG '89**; they declared themselves the "Smithie navigators" as they explored the streets of Lisbon and Porto and beyond, taking in the sights, food, and overall vibe of the country, experiencing many magical moments.

It would be great to hear from you; please reach out and share some news, big or small. We're at a great point in our lives to reconnect with Smith friends and perhaps make some new friends from the

580-plus graduates of our class. So many of us have gone through the same experiences lately—taking care of aging parents, sending our kids off to college and then having them come back home, exploring new careers, getting ready for retirement—our Smith classmates are a great source of inspiration, camaraderie, and community that we may have lost touch with over the decades. Let's catch up!

*Sec., Kim Gombieski Brandeau,
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1988

YUKO LIDA FROST AC '88 writes, "Since I retired from teaching in 2021, I have completed a memoir manuscript and published a couple of stories in some literary magazines, such as *34th Parallel* and *Apple Valley Review*. *Apple Valley Review* awarded me the 2022 Editor's Prize and nominated my story for the Pushcart Prize. I also paint in various mediums and have exhibited at several juried shows in northern Virginia. I recently visited my dear Smith classmate **SHYAMA VENKATESWAR** in New York City and plan to get together with other Smith friends, including **INCA GHOSH '90** and **CAROL TAMER FIANI '90**. I am staying in touch with **SUZANNE MARSHALL** and **RENEE STOCKDALE-HOMICK '87**, both from Washburn House, and **NORIKO SATO WARD** and **MITSURU (CLAIRE) CHINO** via Facebook. Please look me up via Instagram, where I post all my paintings."

SARAH SMITH writes, "Hello from San Francisco! I'm getting ready for the new dahlia season, digging up and dividing tuber clumps." She is still a bassoonist in Symphony Parnassus, going on 25 years now. She hosted a holiday mini-reunion that included "my mom, **ALICE SCHAFFER SMITH 1961**; her sister, **SUSAN SCHAFFER PATRICELLI 1961**; and my cousin's wife, **AMY GARDNER '92**, whose Scrabble skills send shivers up my spine."

KIMIE MATSUDO KESTER recently started a walking group for Smithies on the North Shore of Boston. **CAITLIN FEATHERSTONE '96**, **SUE KENNEDY '86**, **EMILY EVANS LYONS '94**, and **SARAH (SPED) PEDICINI '11** are regular attendees of the walks that take place at a different beautiful location each month. Kimie writes, "We are hoping the group continues to grow and more Smithies come out to walk and talk and enjoy the great outdoors together."

*Secs., Samantha Goldstein, Rajeswari (Raji) Pillai, and Leisa Jenkins,
88news@alumnae.smith.edu*

1989

At my urging, **MORGANA RASCH RAE** emailed breaking news just hours before I began typing: Her new edition of *Financial Alchemy: Twelve Months of Magic & Manifestation*, a book and a self-coaching system, achieved bestseller status in seven countries, and she was awarded Best Coach of 2022 by Life Coach Code. At the invitation of **ANNE SEIFERT, MA '65**, and **ROBIN PHILLIPS '91**, Morgana led a virtual winter workshop for Smithies on the topic of women's relationship with money. For fun, Morgana is killing her menopausal knees with swing dancing,



Spending a fun weekend in Rhode Island celebrating 30-plus years of friendship are class of 1996 alums, from left, Carolyn (Carrie) Meyer Quigley, Charity Mack Dacey, Kara Mather Maciel, Maggie Behnke Dietrich, and Meredith Seidel.

and she's 26 weddings deep into marrying her partner 100 times in 100 countries. Send postcards!

KATHERINE BRITT WILKERSON writes in from her home in Raleigh, NC. "I took a trip over New Year's to Nashville, TN, with my family to visit the area and enjoy a New Year's Eve show at the [Ryman Auditorium]. I was able to catch up with **ANNE MARTIN** for dinner. She is doing great, and it was wonderful to see her. We talked about our upcoming 35th [Reunion] and how great it will be to see everyone." At the time of writing, Katherine and her husband had one son who was going to graduate from college in May, while their other one is continuing his studies. Katherine is still practicing law; she joined a new firm in Durham in late 2019 to work in the areas of affordable housing and community economic development and writes, "I love it."

SUSAN MOAG PARKER shares about a fun gathering in Hanover, NH. She had a great time in February catching up with **BRUCH DAVIDSON LEHMANN '88**, **KELLY CRAMER**, and **MARILA (NILA) STRINGER AUSTIN**.

DURREEN SHAHNAZ submits exciting news about her company, Impact Investment Exchange, which has issued its fifth bond in the Women's Livelihood Bond Series that is connecting the Back Streets of underserved communities to the Wall Streets of the world. The company has nearly \$130 million of bond in the market, creating livelihood for over a million women in Asia and Africa. Durreen discusses the creation of these bonds, along with her journey in developing the inclusive space of impact investing (with her Smith experience being a big part of it), in her upcoming book, *The Defiant Optimist: Daring to Fight Global Inequality, Reinvent Finance, and Invest in Women*, which will be published this summer.

In her submission, **DEIRDRE CORNELL** describes how she and her spouse were very engaged in helping immigrant families in their community during COVID. Deirdre then made a life change: After many years doing pastoral ministry and raising five kids, she is now managing editor (promoted from associate editor) for a Catholic foreign mission magazine and says, "I love it! I get to learn about projects, such as a women's holistic health cooperative in Brazil, work with Myanmar refugees in Thailand, and famine relief efforts in East

Africa. I am often reminded of my anthropology studies at Smith." Deirdre also published a book of haikus a few years ago, which she wrote entirely while walking across a pedestrian bridge near her home. Seeing the spans of the majestic Hudson River, Deirdre composed the poems, dictating them into her cellphone. To her surprise, she found she had a full book. *Walk on Air* was published by Finishing Line Press. The project also helped her process aging, now that her children are almost grown. At the time of writing, her young-

est, 17-year-old twin girls, were applying to colleges, and many fingers were crossed for a thick envelope from Smith!

One email, sent directly, addressed me "Hello Geri, Mistress of the Smith *Quarterly*"—well at least for our class updates! I want to share that after this issue, I will be writing five more columns for our class before my term ends May 31, '24. Undoubtedly, the final one will be chock-full of all 35th Reunion happenings. With your help, I'm determined to make the next four columns take up the maximum space allowed in each SAQ. I'd especially love to hear from '89 unicorns who haven't sent me anything since I began in Aug. '14. And no submission is too short! Updates can be about changes for the good and/or those that are troubling, happy or sad events, travel adventures, group gatherings, successes, health concerns—anything, *warts and all*. Emails are most welcome to my inbox; '89ers are supportive and always ready to encourage and cheer one another. Keep staying well until next time!

*Sec., Geri Mariano,
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1990

AMY ALLEN, looking for a career change, began working toward a master of social work at Boston University last fall.

BECCA BALINT became Vermont's first congresswoman, and we look forward to hearing an update in her own words!

A few years ago, **LEIGH NEVILLE BRIDGES** left the corporate scene and the Washington, DC, metro area with her husband. They traveled the West in their motor home, eventually landing in spectacular Sedona, AZ. Leigh has been managing her "portfolio" career as a real estate agent, spiritual life coach, and guide on meditation hikes. She remarked that if anyone had told her five years ago this would now be her life, she would not have believed it!

Professional pastry chef **MIA COSTANZA WIGGERS** was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, in Oct. '21. Despite the increasing physical limitations brought on by the disease, Mia continues to shine her light and share the joys of her Smith friendships. Mia—with great support from her husband, Ed Wiggers—offered a biscotti baking class in spring '22 to help raise funds for a church service project.

Later in 2022, she hosted a joyous get-together of Smith friends. Mia and her family express their gratitude for all the notes of love and support that she receives from us.

CAROLINE FOSTER joined the board of directors for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont last spring. She reports enjoying life in Vermont while expanding her community connections. One such event included rallying for **BECCA BALINT** last fall.

LAURA FORDE and **ERICA GIBSON** enjoyed an exciting 24 hours of fun together in January. They took the Lower East Side of New York City by storm, and even danced until 4 o'clock in the morning. Erica says, "We've still got it!"

BIRGIT KNUITSEN visited Chile while en route to Antarctica.

EMMA GUEST-CONSALES reports that she and her husband have filled their empty nest with a puppy named Rosina. She is smart and energetic, just like a Smithie.

As for me, **STEPHANIE PRICE FOSTER**, I enjoy staying in touch with my Smith friends through Zoom, social media, old-fashioned phone calls, and even snail mail. I miss connecting in person but am already starting to get excited for our 35th Reunion! Start making plans, as May '25 will be here before you know it. For our next update, I would love to hear from alumnae who have not written to us lately—or ever—to hear how you are living these middle years. Many of us have cared for our children, our pets, and our parents. How are we caring for ourselves while still trying to be everything to everyone? What are you enjoying the most about this phase of life? Do you have a book, podcast, website, or product to recommend to other Smithies? The topic can be serious or playful, just something to share. Until then, I wish you a splendid summer.

*Sec., Stephanie Price Foster,
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1991

The COVID pandemic was a catalyst for some big changes for our classmates:

NANCY EARNSHAW KALLUSCH writes that "2022 brought more changes with a second tech layoff for me. Laid off from Lyft in the early days of the pandemic, I joined Facebook (now Meta) soon thereafter and relocated to Austin, TX, with my family (wife Pat, son Max, and twins Chloe and Mei Mei, along with two pugs). After losing one of the pugs, we adopted another rescue, so our family is once again complete. I was then laid off from Meta and am looking for my next opportunity. In the meantime, we started a major remodeling project in early 2023 that I'm calling 'kitchen plus' and chronicling on Facebook. My wife is happily working for AMD [Advanced Micro Devices] in Austin after launching the PS5 with Sony in San Francisco. We spent our twins' 10th birthdays at Disney World during its 50th anniversary celebration and were there for Halloween, which I highly recommend! We had taken their big brother to Disneyland for his 10th just before the pandemic, so were happy to be able to do the same



Laurie Schoeman '98 has her first day on the job as senior climate adviser to the Biden administration.

for them. After losing my mom in 2021, my mother-in-law was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 2022, and we're moving her into memory care in Austin to be closer. I hope everyone is weathering the storms and would love to hear from y'all if your travels bring you to Texas!"

ELIZABETH CRABILL reports, "Travel is back, a joy professionally and personally after two years of COVID freeze. Seven years now as CEO of CIE Tours. [and I find it] gratifying to be back at work designing, testing, and selling leisure trips. Running a travel company during a global pandemic was a professional experience I never saw coming; with a team of amazing co-workers, we made it through. It has taken an emotional and health toll on so many, and supporting my teams and my own mental health has been a priority. The moment European borders opened in summer of 2021, I hit the road on my own 'grand tour,' visiting friends and family anywhere that would let me in—including a visit to friends in southern Spain, where I studied during Smith junior year. In 2022, I needed to tap into work-life flexibility, working remotely and pausing travel for a while so I could move in with my mother in North Carolina as she was dealing with cancer; we eventually lost her in May '22. The months I spent by her side were a gift. As I slowly resumed life after Mom's passing, I stacked 2022 with trips to Prince Edward Island, Texas, Ireland, Iceland, Italy, London, and others. Here in the US, I continue living in New York City and commuting out to my New Jersey office a few days a week. I invest a lot of time working with professional travel associations to lobby Congress and the White House for national industry support. The travel industry has been one of the hardest hit and slowest to recover, so I am thankful for people returning to travel, and the chance to swipe my passport as often as possible!"

LIZA KESSLER shares, "2022 was a year of big changes for me! Quite unexpectedly, I

fell in love during the pandemic lockdown. I sold my house, and the kids and I moved in to the lower flat of my girlfriend's duplex (still in the same ZIP code!). In the same month, my office also moved—an almost equally happy change. Unrelated to the move, my son transferred high schools and is now in an urban agriculture specialty program, learning to take care of all kinds of animals. My daughter also made the switch from middle school to high school. She chose to remain in her partial-immersion German program and can't wait to study abroad. I had the pleasure of running into Madison (WI) mayor **SATYA RHODES-CONWAY '94** at an event for Wisconsin Women in Government. She was hard at work and seeking reelection, so it was great to catch up."

Through **NANCY EARNSHAW KALLUSCH** we learned that classmate **KARL (KJ) SURKAN** passed away unexpectedly in his sleep days before his 54th birthday. Nancy and others will gather memories of Karl for an obituary post in the *Quarterly*. Let's stay in touch.

*Sec., Lisa Gallipoli,
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1992

Greetings, siblings! As I type this, my spouse and kids are busily boiling maple sap to make syrup, which we've been doing for many years. Every year, the sap run seems to shift earlier on the calendar, another climate change anecdote, I suppose. I am energized to read about any engagements, degrees earned, new career endeavors, and celebratory mini-reunions with dear friends.

ANNE-MARIE TURNIER shares her very first SAQ update: "First-time writer, longtime reader. [I am on] year 18 of being a child, adolescent, and adult psychiatrist in the Raleigh, NC, area; year 26 of being married to my veterinarian husband; year 22 of parenting three boys (two now in college); and year one of wondering how I got here! Saw many Smithies this year, and it brought me so much joy. Hung out with **JENNIFER SWETT TAYLOR** and her daughter in Beaufort, NC, and went to [the wedding of] **RACHEL HONIG**, MSW '91. Smith really is a special place. I miss you all!"

RACHEL NYBACK writes, "Got engaged [last] fall. Had fun with **AMY BLAKELEY DONOVAN** and **LORI WESTPHAL**, who flew out to California to go dress shopping with me. Sadly, **NORIKO SATO WARD '88** got COVID, or she would have completed my Smithie crew!"

At the time of writing, **JENNIFER DEAVER BERNHART**'s daughter, Julia, was planning to graduate from Smith in May with a double major in economics and American studies. Jennifer is looking forward to celebrating all the Smith alum traditions together even though their Reunion years will not be on the same cycle.

LEONORA PASCARELLA MEYERHOFF shares that she is back in her art studio after a bit of a hiatus and is excited about making new work. She adds that she is looking forward to being an empty nester when her youngest daughter leaves for college in September.

JENNIFER TEGAN is working as managing director of New York Ventures, Empire State Development's direct investment program. In Dec. '22, she was awarded Dealmaker of the Year by Upstate Capital. She would love to connect with other Smithies who are working in the venture capital field.

In December, **COLIN DENBY SWANSON** was appointed executive director of Main-spring Schools—an 82-year-old nonprofit early childhood center in Austin, TX. She writes, "Got in a brief visit with **KARA MORIN** on a trip to Boston in November, when I was in the area for a reading of my play *The Norwegians* at the Silverthorne Theater Company in Greenfield [MA]. Also got invaluable time with my Smith playwriting professor, Andrea Hairston, who recently retired."

JENNIFER NARDINE completed a master's degree in clinical mental health counseling at Virginia Tech in May '22 and passed her licensure exam in Oct. '22.

JENNIFER SWETT TAYLOR recently embarked on a big career shift. She writes, "After 30-plus years of teaching high school math, I've now become a full-time professor at the community college. I'm so much happier; I've already seen my blood pressure drop! I've been working with a life coach, which is helping me make better choices about my life."

SIMRAN PREETI SETHI founded the Asian Psychedelic Collective, a space of culturally responsive support, education, and empowerment for Asians working in and with psychedelics to promote healing.

Like many Americans, **GRETEL SCHUELLER**'s job is now fully remote. She is still overseeing "all things health" at *US News & World Report*. Taking advantage of this new opportunity, she relocated to Austin, TX. She writes that she is "enjoying a much milder climate after many years in the Northeast. Hard to believe, but my son is now a sophomore in high school. Would love to connect with fellow alums in the area."

HEATHER FENNEL enjoyed an Emerson House mini-reunion in New Orleans with **ELIZABETH SIPPEL OPSAHL '91**, **SARAH JEMIELITY MANGOLD '91**, **KRISTA PAPROCKI COLETON '91**, and **LORI KILDAY '91**. Heather writes, "I am lucky enough to be friends with many '92ers and '91ers. I usually attend both Reunions, but in 2021 the '91 Reunion was virtual, so we decided to create a mini-reunion of our own in New Orleans. The five of us live in five different states, so it was great to catch up, eat beignets, drink hurricanes at Pat O'Brien's, and walk all over the city. It was great to catch up on everyone's jobs, husbands, kids (13 between the five of us), and have long conversations about pop culture and life. I'm looking forward to more trips with everyone."

Keep sharing updates large and small. I hope everyone has a wonderful summer!
*Sec., Christine El Eris,
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1993

By the time you're reading this, our 30th Reunion will be in the rearview mirror.



"My spouse and kids are busily boiling maple sap to make syrup, which we've been doing for many years."



Laura Taylor-Kale '00 graduates from Stanford University with a doctoral degree in management science and engineering.

I hope everyone is in the midst of a fantastic summer and is feeling nourished by reconstructions, happy memories, and big dreams for the future. On to the news:

PHOEBE JACOB MOORE—a first-time submitter—writes, “Hi, all, from the Great Lakes State. I continue to practice law at Phoebe J. Moore in Michigan’s Thumb region, and still love going to work every day to help my community. I’m in my 26th year. There is no greater preparation for a lifetime of practice than a Smith College degree.” At the time of writing, Phoebe’s daughter, **MEREDITH MOORE ’23**, was planning to graduate in May and Phoebe was going to represent our class at Ivy Day during Commencement Weekend. Meredith was also on the dean’s list and was completing her last year of softball. Phoebe adds, “I couldn’t be prouder of her and shining through these horrendous years. It is a life joy to enjoy Smith with your daughter.” Phoebe’s other daughter excels in basketball—like mother, like daughter—and has committed to playing at the University of Chicago next year. “I would have loved to see her shatter my records at Smith, but she is on her own amazing life journey and we can’t wait to tear up ‘Chi-Town’ with her. Come to a game if you can!” Phoebe’s youngest, Jacob, just finished sophomore year and is a cross-country star. Phoebe concludes, “If I am not practicing law or catching a game, I’m up north with my wife hiking or having a glass of wine near our new lake house on Old Mission Peninsula, the most beautiful place on earth. Can’t wait to catch up with some of you this year at mini-reunions, and many blessings to all.”

KAREN (BRUNDY) BRUNDAGE continues to pursue her acting career, appearing in several TV shows and starring in local theater productions while being a loving fur mommy to her rescue dog. She is living a great California life full of fun, friends, movies, game nights, camping, and more.

SUSAN ENTMAN WHITMAN is in Houston working as a librarian at Temple Beth Israel and, at the time of writing, was

planning to graduate with a master’s degree in museum studies from Johns Hopkins University in May. Her son graduated from high school and her daughter finished ninth grade. Congratulations on your master’s, Susan!

SIRI CALTVEDT reports that she had a bilateral mastectomy last August and has a strong prognosis. “The pathology came back very good and even justified my decision! No chemo or radiation necessary.” Just seven weeks after major surgery, she ran the Twin Cities In Motion 10-mile race in October. Bravo! That month, she also moved her father into assisted living. “**KERRY MORGAN ’92** has been a rock star in assisting me through all this. I would have been completely lost without the help of so many friends.”

“Smith-Powered Friendships” was the theme of our Reunion, a theme that plays out over and over again in these pages, in year-round mini-reunions, and via phone calls, texts, and emails since we first set foot on campus back in 1989. Share your news, thoughts, and musings with your classmates. Looking forward to 2028!

*Sec., Cory Russell Leahy,
smith93news@gmail.com*

1994

After a long career working in reality television on shows like *The Bachelor*, *Hell’s Kitchen*, and *Undercover Boss*, **SANDI JOHNSON** is back in school, completing her second year of an MFA program in cinematic arts at the University of Southern California. She’s hoping that the program will help her cross over to working as a writer/director in scripted television. No guarantee of that, but in the meantime, she’s enjoying getting to know the 59 other members of her cohort, most of whom are in their mid-20s. Her daughter is in first grade and performed in her first play, a production of *Newsies*. Sandi still misses the Smith theater—one of the nicest theaters she’s ever worked in—and all of her fellow theater rats. Just before the pandemic, she traveled to New York to see a reading of *Spare Rib*, a play about abortion rights by **WINTER MILLER ’95**.

*Sec., Alexa Kontes,
smith1994notes@gmail.com*

1995

Y’all, I turn 50 this summer. How did that happen? It’s probably all that healthy living I did at Smith—the balanced post-rugby-game meals of Geraldine’s pizza and “barley soda.” Before I share other updates, I am thrilled to report a major achievement of my own this morning: I finally put away the three weeks’ worth of clothes I had gently draped on the guest bed, I’m an adult! What are the other middle-aged folks of the class of 1995 up to?

An update from **HUNTLEY EIKENBURG PLATT** has me wondering if she does the

Rocky Balboa thing on her way to work every day. She has been working at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Huntley claims her “real job” is chauffeur (chauffeuse?) to her three teenage boys.

Congratulations to **ELIZABETH BENNION**, who was named director of community engagement at Indiana University South Bend, where she also serves as Chancellor’s Professor of Political Science. Elizabeth is one of only two Chancellor’s Professors on campus, a distinction reserved for full professors who have demonstrated excellence in teaching, research, and service. She also recently celebrated her 10th anniversary as host of WNIT Public Television’s weekly public affairs television program *Politically Speaking*, a program she has hosted since January.

DIANA WEISMANTEL LAMBERT shares her first (but hopefully not last) update: “I have been in the Washington, DC, area for nearly 20 years now (having moved across the country for grad school), which is the longest I’ve lived in one place. I appreciate the four seasons here, living with my family in Vienna, VA, but enjoy going back to my home state of Hawaii when I can.” For some time, Diana has been doing the good work at the United States Agency for International Development and she currently serves as a risk management adviser for its humanitarian programs. She enjoys hanging out with **ERIN (TORRE) MOHEBBI** from time to time and would love to meet more Smithies around our nation’s capital.

I also want to acknowledge all of the small victories and achievements our classmates have every day: remembering to eat lunch at a reasonable time and not working through it, returning that phone call or email that has been sitting in the inbox for weeks, opening themselves up and being vulnerable in therapy, giving the dog an extra-long walk, and just generally keeping it together in a hectic and challenging world. Y’all are doing great!

Finally, we are all mourning together the loss of our classmate **MICHELLE ELZAY**. I met her in the notorious Art 100 course our first semester at Smith, but we bonded on the rugby pitch, where she embodied the slogan from our team T-shirts: *Elegant Violence*. She was a beautiful and talented woman who could rock the red lipstick as well as she rocked a red and black jersey. After Smith, I followed her photography career as well as her more recent restoration of a historic home on Nantucket, MA. Please consider including a remembrance of Michelle in a class update for an upcoming *Quarterly* so more can get to know how this woman lit up your corner of the Smith ’95 world.

*Sec., Francesca Tronchin,
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1996

We asked how you nurture your Smith friendships and discovered that in spite of a lack of an in-person Reunion, we are all staying connected via text, travel, and funny phone calls.

Before the days of caller ID, **ZOEY ABBOTT WAGNER** once called **LAURA SCHUTZEL-**



Abby Beauregard-Lewis '02, left, attends a 100th birthday party for her grandmother Euphemia (Patty) Hare Steffey '44 in Brookline, MA.

and pretended she was fundraising for an obscure animal rescue. Zoey was so convincing (and weird) that Laura hung up. Zoey adds, "Twenty-five years later, I can still count on getting creative, bizarre, and hilarious voicemails from fundraisers, aka Laura. I highly recommend embracing the absurd as a way to stay in touch with your fellow Smithies!"

AMY HEDGES SHAW says, "I have pivoted from the practice of law to managing an equestrian center. Some may joke that I am still shoveling poop (ha!), but I love it. Our facility is in my neighborhood, so the commute is easy. We have 117 horses, including two of my daughter's, and the job is challenging with the weather, personalities (human and horse), and learning the agricultural economy. I [take] some days off and ski with **NORA ATASSI** when they come out from Chicago. **JENNIFER PUSEY MCCARROLL**'s family and mine get together a couple times a year for adventures. The rest of the time, we keep in touch via texts. I appreciate the fact that our friendship bonds run so deep that we pick up right where we left off."

REBECCA ROUSELLE says, "I'm still in Atlanta leading the Emory University Institutional Review Board office and living with my three kids, my mom, and my ex-mother-in-law. My oldest son just started playing Bluegrass jams around our small town, which fills my mountain-music-loving heart and also makes me glad we moved to the South from Boston after he was born. I attended my first Smith alum event in Atlanta recently, and it was great to meet several people who were there when I was. I found a Smithie colleague at work and another who just sent her daughter there this year. There have been some Haven/Wesley group chats, but mostly I follow old friends on Facebook."

KEYA DOUL let us know that she, **CAROL DESHANO DA SILVA**, **LEVINA KIM**, and occasionally **VERONICA GAPUD** have been having

somewhat regular Zoom sessions throughout the pandemic and beyond. Carol, Levina, and Keya have done a few trips together, most recently to Puerto Rico. Levina and Keya met up in London over the holidays and took a train to Belgium and the Netherlands.

After 14 years living in England, **MARY ANN VILLAR** returned to the Seattle area with her husband and three Brit kids. Last summer, she had a wonderful mini-reunion with **CAMILLE TOUBASSI**, who was visiting from London, where she now lives. "We met up at a local beach for a walk and a chat, and it felt so good to reconnect!"

MAGGIE BEHNKE DIETRICH writes that she, **CHARITY MACK DACEY**, **KARA MATHER MACIEL**, **MEREDITH SEIDEL**, and **CARRIE MEYER QUIGLEY** (with **ZARA RUDMAN** greatly missed in absentia) spent a fun weekend together in Rhode Island, catching up and

celebrating 30-plus years of friendship. "We see each other a few times each year and have an active group text. We've done get-togethers at each other's houses and destination trips, including to Charleston, SC. We are gearing up to plan another, bigger trip to celebrate the big 5-0! Smithie friendships are like nothing else, and I feel so fortunate to have these amazing women in my life. Professionally, I was [recently] promoted to lead Voya Financial's Workplace Solutions marketing team. It is a big new challenge, but we have a great team and so many exciting new launches and programs in the works."

LYNNE FORS THOMAS writes in with some "major ups and downs." She reports, "I have now been the head of the Rare Book and Manuscript Library at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign for five years. I won a historic 10th Hugo Award for my work on *Uncanny* magazine last August (I am now tied for second most Hugo Award wins among women and in the top 20 for all). My husband and I watched the awards ceremony from a room in Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, where my 20-year-old daughter, Caitlin, spent July through October." At the time of writing, Caitlin had recently entered palliative care. Lynne concludes, "My husband, Michael, and I are attempting to give her as many adventures as possible in the undetermined time she has left with us." All our best to you and your family, Lynne.

Sec., Kate Gunnison Reymann,

kgreymann@gmail.com

Sec., Jenna Caggiano,

jennacaggiano@aol.com

1997

HEATHER GORDON SEEN writes, "I got married! So now I live in Canberra, Australia, with my Australian husband and I am loving my life. I had a beautiful perfect wedding and was thrilled to be joined by **AMY JOHNSON '95**, **SARAH ANDERSON '95**,

and **LAURA GRANATO '97**."

Quarterly Office, Northampton, MA 01063, classnotes@smith.edu

1998

Class secretary **BRYNA KEENAN SUBHERWAL** writing to you from Jersey City, NJ, where I've lived since 2017. As I type this, our 25th Reunion is truly right around the corner. I am so looking forward to seeing everyone, making new memories, and showing everyone that we supposedly cynical Gen Xers (and any older Adas) are actually full of class spirit—as shown by our collective generosity in establishing and donating to our class endowed scholarship fund!

At the time of writing, **KAREN KRAMER POPPY**'s first full-length poetry collection, *Diving at the Lip of the Water*, was scheduled to be published by Beltway Editions in May '23. She continues to work as a senior staff attorney for The Hartford.

LAURIE SCHOEMAN recently joined the Biden administration as senior adviser on climate change and resilience. She says, "It's the job of my dreams, and I'm working hard to make a difference for our nation." Laurie is still in New York City, raising her son—Ezra, 7—full time.

SARAH SZWAKOS, **REGAN GILL FALCON**, and **KATE BUSSARD** got lots of quality Zoom time together finalizing plans for our 25th Reunion, which, as of this writing, was just three months away! They send huge thanks to **MONIQUE (MO) DAVIAU** and **CHRISTINE KORONIDES** for their work on swag, to **BARB DYBAD** for website and IT support, to all of our classmates for helping plan and drum up excitement for this milestone, and to all of our class cabinet members and fund agents for their hard work and contributions these past five years.

Sec., Shannon Davis,

shannonbdavis@yahoo.com

Sec., Bryna Keenan Subherwal,

bryna.keenan@gmail.com

1999

In 2022, **GIOVANNA FESSENDEN** was nominated to the board of directors at the Berkshire Innovation Center, a startup incubator in Pittsfield, MA. Giovanna is the executive producer of TEDx Berkshires and practices intellectual property law at Hamilton, Brook, Smith & Reynolds in Boston. She specializes in protecting software innovations through patents and branding. Her expertise is in blockchain gaming and non-fungible tokens (NFTs). In Jan. '23, she spoke as a panelist in an NFT roundtable for the US Patent and Trademark Office.

📍 **P.41** **RUTH GYUSE** says hello from Brooklyn, NY, and gives a shout-out to all who weathered the COVID years while living in a big city. She adds that it's great to be getting back up and out. 2021 was a big year for Ruth with the launch of her own architecture firm—see the firm's work at gyusedesign.com. She is honored to be able to open a firm as a Black, female architect; only 0.4% of licensed architects in the United States are Black females! In other news, 2022 brought along a major life-changing surgery related to fibroids.



Regina Chien '08, left, and Carolyn Macartney '84 befriended each other during a non-fungible token (NFT) event in Marfa, TX.

Ruth is so grateful for her Smithie network, who cheered her along and were an invaluable emotional and professional resource during the surgery: **JACQUELINE NYAMWANDA**, **KHADY DIOUF**, and **ADWOA AGYEMAN '02**.

For this month's quarterly query, we asked you to share your go-to lazy dinner. Seems like most of us are in that stage of life (sandwich generation, anyone?) where lazy dinner ideas are needed more often than not.

LIA THOMAS' lazy (and comforting) dinner is grilled cheese and tomato soup. Surprisingly, she didn't appreciate its amazingness until college. She also suggests crockpot chicken salsa: one pound of chicken breast, a packet of taco seasoning, and a jar of salsa on low for 4 to 6 hours.

KRISTEN MASCENIK CLECKI has a similar lazy dinner idea: chicken tacos (or nachos). She says that the kids love it and it's super healthy. She uses three boneless chicken breasts, two tablespoons of homemade taco seasoning or one package from the store, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of chicken broth, one cup of salsa, one cup or can of diced tomatoes, and an optional half of a diced onion. You can cook this for 15 minutes in an InstaPot or for 3 hours on high (7 hours on low) in a slow cooker. Then shred and serve!

One of our classmates, who shall remain nameless, asked if eating Goldfish crackers out of the bag over the sink counts as a recipe. I'd counter and ask if eating chocolate chips out of a bag counts as a recipe. (Not asking for anyone in particular.)

Lastly, **TIFFANY RAUCH-DICKSON** suggests Huntress Stew in the winter. She throws pork, beef (which she smokes in the BBQ but is not required), kielbasa, carrots, turnips, onion, cabbage, and broth in a crockpot and it makes a perfect stew. In the summer, she mixes it up with InstaPot carnitas and InstaPot saag paneer.

Secs., Emily Futransky and Stacey Caulk, smithnotes99@gmail.com

2000

LAURA TAYLOR-KALE shares that she had an "incredible year" in 2022. After four years in California, she returned to Washington, DC, in Jan. '22 to become the Fellow for Innovation and Economic Competitiveness at the Council on Foreign

Relations (CFR). She was also elected to CFR life membership last spring. In May '22, President Biden nominated Laura for a historic role as the first-ever assistant secretary of defense for industrial policy in the US Department of Defense. And last June, she graduated from Stanford University with a doctorate in management science and engineering; her dissertation was titled "Organizing for Good: Latent Identities, Porous Boundaries, and Meta-Organizing—an Ethnography of a Global Blend of Finance Ecosystem." After graduation, she testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee for her confirmation hearings. She concludes, "After

that, I was *done*. I spent the remainder of the summer decompressing, enjoying the sunsets on the beach, catching up with old and new friends, listening to jazz, and reading good books." The Senate finally confirmed Laura's nomination in March '23. She looks forward to catching up with Smithies in the DC area.

LYNNE ZAGAMI writes that she is enjoying her last year of service on the Alumnae Association of Smith College board of directors, especially now that meetings are back on campus. She says she had an "amazing trip to Alaska," where she got to visit with **JULIA O'MALLEY**. Lynne has been the head of customer service since 2016 at Shooxb, which was recently acquired by Fidelity Investments.

JANE PALMER writes that she and **GRETCHEN PURSER**—who were "close friends, sociology majors, and badass activists while at Smith"—have both been selected as Interdisciplinary Research Leaders by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. They reunited in New Orleans for the Jan. '23 conference titled "Building Community to Eliminate Structural Racism."

I, **ANNE DUQUETTE**, visited my friend **ELAINE MCCLAIN AC '00** and her daughter, **ANGELICA MCCLAIN DONGELMANS AC '01**, in Washington state last August. We went camping on the beach with Angelica's daughters and horses, a great adventure. I am still a special education teacher in New York City. For fun, I play in an all-women soccer league during the summer and early fall. I ran the Detroit marathon in October and the New York City Marathon in November. In the winter, I enjoy ice-skating in Bryant Park in New York City. My question for you all for the next class notes column is, "What do you like to do for fun?"

Sec., Anne Duquette, duquette.anne@gmail.com

2001

Greetings, classmates!

HANNAH SLATER has been living in New York City for the past 15 years. She writes in to say that she has been thoroughly enjoying running her own personal boutique training business, Hannah Slater Fitness. She's delighted to have added **NANCY KEEBLER BISSELL '61** and **KATHARINE**

(KATIE) ALLEN '84 to her client base. Hannah seeks to provide customized strength training to her clients so they can enjoy a productive and healthy life, now and in the years ahead. She thoroughly enjoys helping people become a stronger version of themselves, both physically and mentally, while living out her passion doing so.

ODILIA RIVERA-SANTOS says, "Hello to all who graduated in 2001! I hope everyone is living a life full of love, kindness, and equanimity. After working with victims of trauma for over 15 years, I decided to go back to school. I am a certified personal coach with a master's degree in positive psychology from the University of Pennsylvania. I focus on helping individuals with career pivots, life-work integration, and personal transformations that prioritize well-being. I am also a published author—my poetry, fiction, and nonfiction have appeared in various online and print applications and I am a contributor to Latino Rebels (latinorebels.com/author/bezotes/)."

Another author among us is **KATRINA MCGHEE**, who writes in to say, "I'm in the process of becoming a first-time author! I received a book deal from Wiley to write *Taking a Career Break for Dummies*. I'm excited for this opportunity to help even more people take life-changing career breaks and meetabits."

CARLA JASZCZERSKI DILGARD shares, "Things are going back to normal, but I still get my groceries delivered to my home. For me, the convenience alone is worth a generous tip. I realized that I need [reading glasses]. I'm listening to a lot of podcasts at night when I can't sleep—mostly on self-improvement and a few about complex post-traumatic stress disorder. I finished a seven-month course in healing trauma. The course addressed a lot: racial, personal, generational, and gender-based trauma and how to connect with people and their communities through deep listening and mindfulness. I'm running my fourth half marathon in September in Southampton, NY. If you're around, join up; there are different types of races. Wishing you all well."

Sec., Michelle Medvin, michellemedvin@gmail.com

2002

A single mom by choice, **ALLISON OTTO** welcomed her first child, Hannah, in January. Allison says the support of other Smithies online through the in vitro fertilization process was invaluable, and she felt supported through the birth and her first weeks at home by her wonderful community at Saint George's Episcopal Church in Arlington, VA—which included **MISSIE HERRICK BURMAN '75**, who spent one of the hospital nights with Allison.

ALYSSA CHASE recently completed the two-year Mindfulness Meditation Teacher Certification Program affiliated with the University of California, Berkeley, and led by Tara Brach and Jack Kornfield. Alyssa is continually expanding her online offerings and would love to offer classes to any Smithies (or their organizations) that may be interested.



At the wedding of Sara Beth Joren '09 are, from left, front row: Rachel Miller '09, Jennifer Daley '08, Sara Beth, Andrea Buglione '09, and Allison Palmer '99; back row: Marissa Tinsley '09, Ellen Daoust '09, and Hannah Carson '08.

TOVAH SALCEDO shares that she is learning to overcome the complications her health poses. She was awarded Tech Trainer of 2022 at her job and promoted to senior trainer. The biotech industry is never where she thought she would end up, but it's an adventure she is enjoying. When she is not working, she gets to see **MORGAN PULLEYBLANK** in nearby Oakland, CA, and is still doing nature photography.

NIRUPA UMAPATHY is looking back with gratitude on the past five years. She exited corporate work in 2017 and began a roller-coaster journey of designing her self-invested life and work based on her values and deep desire to heal from life and work burnout. Nirupa says it has been a wild, joyous, and bumpy ride. She is now the proud co-founder of the creative learning startup Salons for Life, which she began in April '18. She is also in the middle of writing a first draft of a memoir and incubating a few other books. She adds, "God knows how many lifetimes it will take me to write these—I am slow!" She funds her tightly budgeted life with what she learned from finance: how to invest and create wealth beyond one's own legacy. She shares that her parents are aging (beautifully and gracefully, thankfully), and she has renewed her commitment to spend more time back in India. This leaves her with the biggest creative assignment: how might she live across two, possibly three, continents while still honoring the life that she started in the United States. She still lives in Jersey City, NJ, with James and their beloved Harley (a mackerel tabby of 14 years), and is delighted to be serving as our class president leading into our 25th Reunion cycle.

JEN WEEDON writes, "I'm now living with my husband, Garry, and my 5-year-old son in Duxbury, MA. We work from home and moved back up to Massachusetts during peak COVID (although we miss our Alexandria, VA, neighborhood). We've also visited the "mother ship" in Northampton a few times. I now work in trust and safety at Niantic Labs, which is an augmented reality and gaming company, after having spent many years at Facebook in online safety and security. I'm trying to stay ac-

tive in my local community and am also busy with various trust and safety professional associations. Would love to connect with local Smithies on the South Shore of Massachusetts with young kiddos."

FARHEEN KHAN lived in Dhaka, Bangladesh, for three years after returning from an assignment with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Khartoum, Sudan. Farheen says the pandemic years were creative, exploratory, introspective, difficult, and eye-opening. She delved into a lot of research on environmental responsibility and sustainability during that time, as well as eco-friendly product design, and is now an avid advocate of refuse, reduce, reuse, and recycle. She

also spent a year deep in health care design research and fundraising. Now, at the end of the three-plus pandemic years, she is working in higher education in international partnership and has added to her family—"two kitties and a doggo."

ALLISON KING (Lamont House, now Austin, TX) survived the winter holidays and the Central Texas "treepocalypse" with her wife, Caitlan King, and their two kids, ages 7 and 11.

KIM PORTER had the good fortune of seeing **REBECCA KASTL MILLSAP** at her home in Birmingham, AL, on New Year's Day. Kim writes, "Our two kiddos hit it off and spent the sunny afternoon playing so that we could catch up. Rebecca is as fun, smart, and dazzling as ever, and it was a great way to start 2023. Then it was back home to Seattle, where I work at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation after 11-plus years as an epidemiologist at the CDC."

Secs., Jessica Jones, Soohyun (Soo) Baek, and Jane Sung, smithaq02@gmail.com

2003

Hello, class of 2003! As I write this, planning for our 20th Reunion is in high gear and we're hoping everyone makes it!

ARIEL ABERG-RIGER writes in for the first time with an update and tries to summarize the past 20 years in a few sentences: After graduation, she moved to Barcelona, where she met her wife. After living in New York City for a decade, they moved up to sunny Buffalo, NY, where they are currently racing around raising two kids, ages 8 and 4. Ariel is a visual storyteller (think words plus images), and she writes about everything from environmental racism to the public library. At the time of writing, her debut book, *America Redux: Visual Stories From Our Dynamic History*, was scheduled to come out in May.

HANAH EHRENREICH is pleased to share that after spending three years at Co-operative Federal providing business technical assistance to minority- and women-owned businesses and startups, including administering \$1.4 million in COVID relief assistance, she left in Oct. '22 to become the development director for

Jowonio School. Jowonio is a nationally recognized inclusive education preschool located in Syracuse, NY, and a truly magical place where kids of all abilities learn together.

KATHARINE (KATE) BEUTNER sends in an update that after a tough few years, including a divorce, she's thrilled to report that her second novel—her queer crime debut—will be published this summer by Soho Press and by Corvus in the United Kingdom. The book, titled *Killingly*, is set at a women's college in 1897 and traces the aftermath of the disappearance of Bertha Mellish, "the most peculiar, quiet, reserved girl" at Mount Holyoke College. Kate writes that she'll be appearing at bookstores in New England and beyond and would be delighted to visit Smithie book clubs.

Sec., Alexandra (Ali) Kleyman, goodgossip03@gmail.com

2004

Happy summer, dear classmates! Wherever you are, I hope you're able to enjoy some relaxation and rejuvenation this summer. Life and job updates from classmates follow. Please be sure to send your news for inclusion in our class column.

SIRINYA TRITIPESKUL MATUTE writes, "The other day, my mom was telling me that she still gets asked why she—as an Asian immigrant woman—sent me to a women's college, and to one across the country (we're from Los Angeles). She told me she takes great pride in explaining that I sought out a women's college because I wanted to find my voice and I thought Smith was the best place to do it. My mom works with **SUSIE PARK '19**, so she is surrounded by the brilliance of Smith College graduates on a daily basis."

NICOLE BERCKES and her husband, David Benner, welcomed daughter Violet on July 17, '22. Violet is blessed to have so many loving Smith aunts, including **CLAIRE APPEGARTH**, **KATHERINE ARTHUR**, **LAUMA SKRUZMANE**, **LYNDSY BARRATT**, **LINDSAY UNDERHILL**, **MARY (MK) KELLY**, **SIRINYA TRITIPESKUL MATUTE**, **ANDREA WOZNY**, **NOVA COHEN-PROHOW '03**, and **AMELIA KEGAN '05**, who have showered baby and mom with love and support from afar and can't wait to visit in person soon, now that Violet is vaccinated against COVID and the flu.

Last fall, **RACHEL SPURRIER** accepted a marketing and communications role at the University of Hartford, where she oversees marketing efforts for the visual and performing arts schools. She says that being back in a higher education environment and immersed in creative projects makes her reflect on her days at Smith as an art major many moons ago.

SARAH KANABAY recently completed her master of social work at Boston University and is now a practicing clinician for the community behavioral health center in Franklin County, MA, specializing in working with youths and young adults.

ANNA CRARY is still living in Anchorage, AK, with her family. She regularly laughs and gossips with fellow Anchorage resident **COLLEEN HEANEY '08** about life, kids, and Alaska's many idiosyncrasies.



Attending the wedding of Jake Krain '12 and Elena Cohen in Ashfield, MA, are, from left, front row: Lydia Reback '12, Elena, Jake, and Jessica Reback '11; back row: Lindsay Cejka '10, Nivia Alvarado '12, and Mayra Jimenez '13.

In 2022, Anna traveled north of the Arctic Circle five times! After working as an associate at the law firm Landye Bennett Blumstein since 2015, Anna became a partner in January.

*Sec., JC Finley,
smith2004notes@gmail.com*

2005

WENDY HARDENBERG and **JESSIE MCCARTNEY** caught up in Portland, OR, aboard a river cruise in January.

Adorable news from **JESS PAGA** and **LLORIN EDWARDS HUNT** '02, MSW '14, who connected in Williamsburg, VA, via the Smithie Parents 2.0 Facebook group: Their toddlers are BFFs (best friends forever). Jess' daughter, Josephine, and Llorin's son, Sid, are inseparable at school, have to hold on to the rope on the same color, and keep each other up at nap time with their chats.

Last October, **NOELLE PERESE** joyfully married Ici Marie Perese in a civil wedding that took them both by surprise: They walked into the county office with the intent to pick up marriage license forms to fill out after an engagement planned for the summer of 2023. They were told by the county clerk that the judge was waiving the required 72-hour waiting period and two witnesses that day. The decision was a no-brainer for Noelle and Ici, and they got married within 30 minutes on their lunch break. They now happily live a beautifully ordinary life together in Texas.

Thanks to the wonders of babysitters and grandparents, **SARAH WINAWER-WETZEL** and her wife, Catherine, enjoyed a rare kid-free dinner with **FRANCES (ANNA) BRICKMAN** '03 and **OLIVA NELSON** '01 in West Philadelphia. They endeavor to repeat as often as life will allow, although it will probably never be often enough.

*Sec., Sarah Winawer-Wetzel,
sarah@alumnae.smith.edu*

2006

Greetings, fellow members of the class of 2006. I was recently on Tik Tok, and I ran into the current Chapin president. They're planning a 120th birthday party for the best house on campus. Seems like just yesterday we were planning Chapin's 100th

birthday party. But I digress—onto the notes! Send yours to heathertappen@gmail.com or classnotes@smith.edu.

KATE MITCHELL and her partner, Zack, welcomed their gentle, curious, and feisty son, Robin, into the world a few weeks early in fall '22. Kate has been working as an attorney for the District of Columbia legislature for the past decade and is now the chief of staff for a DC councilmember.

In Nov. '22, **MAGGIE GOBLE** and **SARAH NORELL** visited fellow Northrop House resident **KIRSTEN (KIT) TAYLOR** in Portland, OR, and met Kit's adorable infant son, **KATE RIEPPEL**, also from Northrop, joined remotely from London and introduced everyone to her beautiful twin daughters, who arrived in Oct. '22. It was a joy to reconnect and meet each other's little ones.

JUSTINA ROBERTS married Jacob Heller in Paradise Valley, AZ, in front of a small group of friends and family. Justina was grateful to have **MARGARITA (DAISY) BANDERA-DUPLANTIER MCCLELLAN**, **LYDIA MANN**, and **HAYDEN HOWLAND** in attendance to celebrate the big day with her.

HEATHER GALLAGHER paid off her student loans in full—\$140,000 and 17 years later—while working mostly freelance in the arts. She's forever grateful to that one loan officer in 2006 who advised her against consolidation and switching to a fixed interest rate, but she's sad to know that Smith's new loan reforms still wouldn't help students like her.

In Dec. '22, **JESSIE CHESNUTT** and wife **NATALIE SAURO** enjoyed a trip back to Brooklyn, NY, where they reconnected with **JUDY ONG**. And in Jan. '23, they were thrilled to buy their first home in Oakland, CA. They are loving exploring their new neighborhood with Poppy the pug.

*Sec., Heather Ford,
heathertappen@gmail.com*

2007

Our Smithie family is growing through births and adoptions!

Last October, **AMANDA DOWNING** and family welcomed their second child, Cameron Don, named after a favorite songwriter Amanda first discovered while at Smith and her recently passed father-in-law. In 2020, Amanda moved her family back to San Diego to be closer to extended family. She'd love to connect with local Smithies, especially a book club. She sends a special shout-out to the San Francisco BookSmiths!

KELLY KRIZ and Jimmy Ng welcomed their baby girl, Emily, in Dec. '22. Kelly is excited for Emily to meet other Gardiner and swim team alums. She reunited in July '22 with Gardiner roommates **KRISTEN HOKENSON** and **EMILY STACKPOLE** in Maine, complete with steamers and lobster.

CLAUDIA LEE STILLIARD and her husband, Ed, are overjoyed that—after many years

of waiting—they have adopted a little girl. India-Mae is only 3 years old and mom is already dreaming about her move-in day at Smith. Claudia is grateful for the love and support of her fellow Parsonites throughout her parenthood journey.

TONI SULMERS and her husband, Nick, welcomed their first child, Sunny, into the world on Nov. 29, '22. She is perfect and so loved!

KATE YOHAY and her partner, Alex, welcomed their daughter, Allison, in July '21. Allison met her "Smithie aunt" **SILVIA NEWELL** '04 within her first 24 hours and has been surrounded by Smithie love ever since. Kate is grateful for visits from **TRICIA PERRY** '03, **COURTNEY ALLEN** '09, and **AMANDA DOWNING**, and support from **BARRETT PHILLIPS** '08 from afar. She enjoyed celebrating the wedding of **VICTORIA FRASER** '10 in Aug. '22 with **ABBY TRASK** '10, her wife (and college friend of my partner) Emily Manes, and **ARIANNE ABELA** '08. Last fall, Kate started a new job as a high school learning specialist at Dana Hall School in Wellesley, MA. After 14 years of teaching elementary and middle school, she's loving working with high schoolers.

For the next round of updates, let's share recent travel stories. What places have you recently visited? If you haven't traveled, perhaps share a fun story about a local adventure.

*Sec., Alexandra (Ali) Woodruff,
seclassof2007@gmail.com*

2008

In addition to doing a lot of swimming during COVID, **REGINA CHIEN** has dived into the world of non-fungible tokens (NFTs). In Nov. '22, she journeyed to Marfa, TX, for a generative art NFT event and met **CAROLYN MACARTNEY** '84, whose offhand comment about Smith's great art museum led Regina to go, "OMG, I went to Smith too!" Lessons learned: Smithies are everywhere, Smithies remain curious, and Smithies always compliment someone's outfit (how they started chatting).

NATASHA MCGLYNN was recently appointed to the Victims' Services Advisory Committee (VSAC) by the governor of Pennsylvania. As executive director of the Anti-Violence Partnership of Philadelphia—a victim service agency in Philadelphia—Natasha represents victim service agencies on VSAC. She is committed to ensuring that the voices, needs, and perspectives of all victims and survivors are considered in the development of victim support services, policies, funding priorities, legislation, and outcomes in Pennsylvania.

SARA GOLDSTEIN and husband Jordan Solomon welcomed baby Lucy to the world in Dec. '22. Lucy has enjoyed meeting Smithie friends in person and virtually, including **ZOE MINDELL ABRAMS**, **SABLE CADY**, **AVERY AVRAKOTOS**, **EVA RABIN NICHOLS**, **MARIA MURACA**, **JEN LINDBLAD**, **STEPHANIE AZOULAY**, and **FELICITAS BURGI**.

SARAH LEVINE writes, "After nearly 14 years of working in private schools, I made a shift over to an administrative role at Alliance College-Ready Public Schools, a network of small, high-performing sec-



Two and a half years after they were originally married, Jaclyn Walkins '13, third from left, celebrates her marriage to James in Scituate, MA. Smithies in attendance included, from left, Emily Coda '12, Anne Nadler '12, Jaclyn, MacKenzie Hamilton '13, Nadia Belkin '14, and Kathryn Hood Earle '77 (mother of the groom).

ondary charter schools in low-income communities in Los Angeles with historically underperforming schools." At the time of writing, Sara was looking forward to attending Reunion in May and "snuggling [her] friends' babies!"

ALLISON (ALI) MARANUK is a senior manager at Accenture Federal Services, where she works with **KATIE HITCHCOCK-SMITH** '17 and **JENNA KELKRES EMERY** '02. She is living happily ever after on Capitol Hill with her partner, Justin, and dog Woodruff.

After over a decade of teaching, **SAMMY LYON** is now a real estate agent in the Los Angeles area. Sammy says it's been super fun helping folks (and some Smithies!) become homeowners and real estate investors and has plans to retire early with real estate income. Sammy is also a "papatat" to a sweet little baby born in 2022 and adds, "It's been a year of fun and challenges with a kiddo—mostly fun!"

KRISTA MATATT and **CATHERINE (KATIE) SHAFER** welcomed their second child, Alva, on Jan. 24, '23. She is strong and snuggly and the perfect addition to their growing family. Big brother Emery adores his little sister.

Sec., Kerri Hart-Morris Muse, kerri.muse@gmail.com

2009

LESLEY JOPLIN was promoted to regional gift officer at Washington University in St. Louis and will be traveling to Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. She's excited to visit any Smithie friends in these areas and welcomes regional recommendations as well. Lesley also joined the board of the Friends of the Smith College Libraries and looks forward to serving on this committee and being back on campus a couple of times a year.

SARA BETH JOREN married fellow New York Public Library co-worker Eric Shows on Sept. 3, '22. In attendance was a bevy of Smithies, including **RACHEL MILLER**, **ELLEN DAoust**, **ANDREA BUGLIONE**, **MIKA MAEKAWA**, **MARISSA TINSLEY**, **HANNAH CARSON** '08, **JENNIFER DALEY** '08, and **ALLISON PALMER** '99. Greatly missed were **ANNA FREJ** and **MARISSA MAPLES** '07.

After 10 years of collaboration and friendship, **ALIZA LEVENTHAL** and **MARY STEVENS** '49 have recently brought a few notable projects to fruition. Meeting at the MIT Museum, where Leventhal worked on

a great deal of international collaboration, they have guided the 2022 republication of two of five books from the iPress series on the human environment. Related to that series, they published *Letters to Helen* in 2018, a book of letters between Stevens and **HELEN KIDDoo FROEB** '49, Mary's Hopkins B roommate of four years and lifelong friend and correspondent. Aliza and Mary shared more about their collaboration and the power of archives at an event at the MIT Museum in April '23. They are also working on getting the remaining three titles from the iPress series on the human environment published and sharing their research in the Smith College Archives on the unique founding principles of Smith, with a particular emphasis on the friendships the college fosters.

In January, **DIOR VARGAS** was honored by El Museo del Barrio and served as an honorary king at their 46th Annual Three Kings Day Celebration. She was recognized for her outstanding work and steadfast advocacy as a leader and trailblazer in the mental health field. This year's theme was "Entre Familia: Mental Health and Wellness of Our Communities," which gave space and focus to the importance of mental health and wellness, in light of national, political, and health occurrences the past few years.

Sec., Melanie Jaskolka, melaniejaskolka@gmail.com

2010

KAREN MARTIN recently accepted a job as senior planner at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, where she works on affordable housing initiatives in the valley. She's excited to have moved back to Northampton and would love to connect with Smithies in western Massachusetts.

KELLY DREW is working as marketing director for the Shea Theater Arts Center in Turners Falls, MA, and is helping to write a new chapter of the Shea's storied history. The duties of her job marry her love of bringing together community, art, writing, throwing parties, and the western Massachusetts theater scene.

RACHEL CASSIA TRIGÈRE BESSERMAN, MAT '10, created a botanical-themed Hebrew alphabet coloring book in memory of her beloved parents. She invites interested Smithies to connect with her for a copy.

Congratulations to **BETSY CORNWELL** on the Jan. '23 publication of her Mod-

ern Love essay "I'll Get By With a Little Help From My Herd" in *The New York Times*, and to **CAROLINE FRAMKE**, chief TV critic at *Variety*, on the publication of her essay "My Seltzer, My Self" on Autostraddle in March. Congratulations as well to **CORNELIA TREPTOW** and **SARAH (SAL) BERNs**, who both learned to drive and recently received their driver's licenses. I'm inspired by your courage, yet remain too scared to follow in your brave footsteps. Finally, I felt very lucky to spend time in the company of dear Smithies and their little ones this past winter. I particularly enjoyed two Chapin mini-reunions—first in December, with **RACHEL SIETZ** and baby JD, **CLAIRE STEIN-ROSS**, and **ELIZABETH (BETH) KOTCHMAR** and daughter Maddie in New York City; and then in February, with **KATY FRANK** and daughter Shayna, Claire, and **JILLIAN WILSON AMBROSE** '07 and daughters Vivian and Margaret at Frying Pan Farm Park in Herndon, VA. I also loved spending quality time with **ELIZABETH LERNER** '05 and twins Eliyah and Shira in Boston.

Sec., Yael Langer, yael.d.langer@gmail.com

2011

ELYSE MARTIN sold the North American rights to her middle grade graphic novel, *Copy Cat*, at auction to Stephanie Stein at HarperAlley Books. Sean Rubin—who got his start illustrating the Redwall series—will be illustrating the novel, which follows a 12-year-old orphan who avoids being caught stealing a box of jewels by hiding in a monastery and pretending to be a monk in training. There, she falls in love with medieval bookmaking and learns that art and community may be worth more than gold. The book was inspired by a Twitter thread, and the illustrations are informed in part by Elyse's work at the Folger Shakespeare Library. *Copy Cat* is scheduled to come out in the fall of 2024.

CLAIRE HARPER shares, "I took the leap in 2020 to start my own leather accessories brand, Harper the Label, and have been slowly nurturing it. This spring, my designs were shot for an issue of *GQ* magazine! My husband and I bought a 100-year-old house (and labor of love) in Oakland, CA, that we've been fixing up and putting our own touches on. I love connecting and sharing my corner of the world with other Smithies, so please reach out if you're in the area or passing through!"

COLLEEN O'TOOLE works as a teacher assistant in the 3-year-old classroom at a Head Start program in Buffalo, NY. She spends her days with 17 preschoolers, playing, making art, and helping them learn how to be good friends.

In Aug. '22, **NINA CAUFIELD** welcomed her second baby, Jack. Nina writes that her daughter, Marlowe, has enjoyed her promotion to big sister so far and has not asked Nina to return Jack to the hospital yet. At eight months pregnant, Nina passed three new regulatory exams connected to her financial advising work at RBC Wealth Management in Stamford,



At a performance of *The Final Veil* in New York City are, from left, front row: Susan Brodie '72 and Lois Homma '72; back row: JL Marlor '16, Kira Simring '97, and Katie Lipow '14 (Lois' daughter). JL wrote the music and libretto, Kira was the opera's artistic director, and Katie was a featured soloist.



In her free time, she makes art and nerds out on astrology and anything that could be described as "cultural studies."

CT, a position she took earlier in 2022—which was a busy year for her!

HANNAH HICKOK and her wife, Beth, happily welcomed their daughter, Nora (class of 2043?), to the world on Oct. 27, '22.

JEANNIE STRANZL writes that she is living the (modest) dream in Milwaukee, cozying up in her small, funky, 100-year-old basement apartment in a neighborhood she loves, walking to work, volunteering at a co-op (a shout-out to Hopkins House for sowing the seeds of co-op love), and applying to master's programs in public health. **In her free time, she makes art and nerds out on astrology and anything that could be described as "cultural studies."** Drop Jeannie a line if you're in Milwaukee and want to meet up.

ALEXANDRA DEAHL started her Women Business Enterprise and Emerging Small Business certified architectural lighting practice in 2020 and was recently named to Light Collective's international list of "40 Under 40" lighting designers. In her spare time, Alexandra spins records with Freeform Portland—a nonprofit community-driven radio station; skis with her partner, Mike, in the beautiful Mount Hood wilderness; and is training for some upcoming outdoor swims, a practice she picked up during graduate school in London. She lives and works between Portland, OR, and San Francisco, CA.

Sec., Elizabeth McDonald-Zwoyer, elizabeth.mcdonald.zwoyer@gmail.com

2012

It was a busy fall and winter for class of 2012 alums. We love seeing all these updates from classmates and encourage you to keep them coming!

EMILY ALESANDRINI continues her third year of doctoral studies in art history at fellow Sister College Bryn Mawr. Based in Philadelphia and New York, Emily works with contemporary representations of race and gender, with a particular focus on issues of opacity, ornament, and the diasporic body. Her recent curatorial project, *Self Power | Self Play: 50 Years of Erotic Portraiture* by Linda Troeller, highlights the expansive photography

practice of Troeller, who, now in her 70s, continues to produce dynamic, provocative portraits that embolden female intimacy, pleasure, masturbation, and orgasm, employing the camera as a tool for sensual empowerment. The project is co-curated by fellow Bryn Mawr doctoral student Emily Shoyer. The show was displayed at the Museum of Sex in New York through Jan. 9, '23.

Last August, on a beautiful day in Ashfield, MA, **JAKE KRAIN** married Mount Holyoke alum Elena Cohen. It was a wonderful celebration, with **JESSICA REBACK '11**, **LINDSAY CEJKA '11**, **JULIE WANG '10**, **LYDIA REBACK**, **NIVIA ALVARADO**, and **MAYRA JIMENEZ '13** in attendance.

On May 26, '22, **YANAN ZHAO** and Randall Telfer were married in a small ceremony attended by family and friends. **DAN WU '09** and **MONICA SWEI** attended in person, while Yanan's family in China tuned in via livestream and other Smithie friends sent in prerecorded videos from around the world to congratulate the newlyweds.

LUCY MCAULIFFE gave birth to potential future Smithie Alicia on Nov. 22, '22. She is Lucy's first child, and Lucy and her husband, Antonio, are excited to be raising her in Spain as a dual Spanish-US citizen. At the time of writing, they were looking forward to Alicia's first trip to the United States sometime this year.

KRISTEN PECK '12, **MAT '13**, met up with **HANNAH HITCHNER** in Tokyo and Kyoto, Japan. She says it was wonderful to finally reunite and catch up after many years separated due to the pandemic.

VIRGINIA LUNT spent the holidays in London with her fiancé's family, her first time back since before the pandemic. Otherwise, she's been settling into their new home in Brooklyn, NY.

MARY (MERE) ZHU says, "Music brings everyone together! To celebrate **ELIM CHAN '09's** debut conducting [the] San Francisco Symphony, Smithies from 1999 to 2012 got together to cheer Elim on."

EMMA YOURD was married on Nov. 11, '22, to Alexander de Vleeschauwer-Mir in Pittsburgh, PA. **KATHERINE (KAT) MAINES** and **BETHANY MCGANN** served as bridesmaids. Also in attendance were fellow Cushingites **LAUREN YOUNG**, **JESSICA DAUBNER**, and **VICTORIA HENRY CERVANTES**.

Sec., Emma Yourd, smithclassof2012@gmail.com

2013

A performer of opera and musical theater, **KATIE WEISER** decided to become a registered nurse during the pandemic. She was accepted into the University of Connecticut's one-year accelerated bachelor of science in nursing program, during which she had the honor of being inducted into Sigma Theta Tau—the International Honor Society of Nursing. Upon graduation in December, she was awarded the Sigma Theta Tau Mu Chapter Leadership Award. In February, Katie began her new

journey as an intensive care unit nurse.

Sec., Megan Nanney, nanney.megan@gmail.com

2014

After temping for six months, **ELIZABETH TYRA** recently accepted a full-time administrative assistant role with the hematology and oncology team at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston.

Also in Boston, **SAMANTHA (SAMMY) DRISCOLL** is working as an archivist for the WGBH Educational Foundation to preserve its historic programming, such as *Arthur*, *Antiques Roadshow*, *American Experience*, *FRONTLINE*, *NOVA*, and more. She's happy to meet up with any Smithies in 2023!

At the time of writing, **KATHERINE SCOTT-KIRSCHNER** was planning to celebrate her fifth ordination anniversary on June 3, '23. Katherine is an ordained clergywoman in the Presbyterian Church.

ALEXA DEJESUS and Grace Maliska married on Sept. 9, '22, in South Kingstown, RI, officiated by Smith College field hockey coach Jaime Ginsberg.

JEAN HOFFHEIMER WARREN married Jacob Warren on Nov. 19, '22, at the Mississippi Museum of Art. In attendance were **ERIN HAWKINS '16**, **ROSEANNE HUI**, **VICTORIA DUNCH**, **LAURA CHESNEY SNYDER**, **HANNAH ROUSSELOT**, **ANNE CLARK**, and **GRACE BOOTH '13**. Jean and Jacob are both educators and currently reside in Fayetteville, AR, with their dog and cat.

Sec., Jona Elson, jona.elwell@gmail.com

2015

Greetings, fellow '15ers, and other Smithies who want to learn what our class has been up to recently.

APRIL BIRNIE writes, "I got married in October to Daniel Potter at Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton, NJ. We had a lovely celebration with many Smithies, including Daniel's mom, **ABIGAIL QUANDT '77**. Also in attendance were **RACHEL JACKSON '12**, **SHEILA BROWN ARBURY '66**, **JULIA LEITERMANN**, **LOUISA HALL**, Gary Niswonger (professor emeritus of art and Abigail's studio art teacher from her time at Smith), **RAISA RUBIN '14**, and **ISABEL COCHRAN**." At the time of writing, April and Daniel were starting the search for a house in the Princeton, NJ, area and were planning their honeymoon to New Zealand to visit Louisa.

HANNAH CARLSON shares, "After five years of living in Edinburgh, Scotland, my partner and I moved to Bristol in the southwest of England [last] September. We are loving Bristol, but it was bittersweet to leave Edinburgh, where we met and then married in 2020. Before we moved, **ISABELLE (IZZY) ROSS** visited us from Alaska. [Izzy and I] visited Edinburgh together in 2014, when we studied on the JYA in Paris program. It was so fun to remember our first visit as I showed her my favorite local spots."

Don't be shy, folks. Please keep us updated on what you've been up to!

Sec., Jesse Kline, jesseleekline@gmail.com



Arabia Simeon '19, founder and CEO of the civic tech startup Politics on the Go (PoGo), pitches her company at the Build in Tulsa Female Founders Pitch Night competition.

2016

*Sec., Franny Eremín,
feremin22@gmail.com*

2017

DARIANA GUERRERO writes, “I celebrated my fifth-year Reunion last summer and the memory floodgates opened, reminding me of how much I’ve grown and changed in just five short years. Recently, I’ve been fortunate to live many dreams—my dream of performing spoken word poetry, making an impact in my community, traveling solo to seven countries, teaching, and seeing my work published. I am now a 2023 Periplus Fellow, Lawrence Arts Collective artist-in-residence, teacher, researcher, healer, storyteller, and warrior. One of the biggest things I owe to Smith is helping me cultivate my confidence, both in body and [in] voice. I no longer ask for permission to take up space. I no longer ask for permission to speak. Smith helped bring out the dormant wild woman aching to be released. And since graduating in 2017, I proudly claim the title of wild woman. I have learned I no longer need anyone’s permission to exist other than my own.”

*Sec., Katharine Cooney,
katharine.e.cooney@gmail.com*
*Sec., Nicole Peer,
peernicole94@gmail.com*

2018

By the time you’re reading this, we will have had our five-year Reunion! It’s hard to believe it has been that long. Stay tuned for lots of news from Reunion in the next quarterly.

ERIKA CHAO joined DC Advisory as an investment banking associate in New York City after graduating with an MBA

from Carnegie Mellon University’s Tepper School of Business. She has graciously offered to help or talk with anyone who is interested in pursuing an MBA degree. Feel free to email me if you would like me to connect you with her.

KATE FESSLER and **EMILY MYERS** recently got together in San Diego for a rainy mini-reunion full of fantastic food and a lot of laughter. They celebrated Kate’s recent master’s degree acquisition from the University of Minnesota and starting a new job as the grant and project manager for the Vitis-Gen3 grapevine breeding project!

New additions to the class of 2018 include **HALEY BARRAVECCHIA**’s daughter in Sept. ’22 (now living in Cuba) and **JESSICA WARNER**’s three kiddos (most recently in Nov. ’22). Jessica writes that schooling her three children at home is exactly what she never knew she wanted to do: “Every day is an emotional, mental, logistical, relational challenge, and each day is completely different, chock-full of opportunities to share what I am passionate about—writing, reading, music, dance, film, friendship, and faith.”

As for me? I had an incredible visit here in Philadelphia with my sister, **MIRA ELWELL**, MSW ’12, and her infant son, and spent time with **JULIA LEITERMANN** ’15, **EMILY RIDER-LONGMAID** ’13, and **DOMINIQUE STRAUGHN-TURNER** ’20.

*Sec., Madeline Elwell,
madeline.elwell@gmail.com*

2019

Hello, class of 2019 and friends! As we reflect on the past year, we are reminded of the incredible resilience and strength of the Smith community. I am thrilled to share some updates from our class—you continue to inspire us with your various life milestones, community engagement, and accomplishments.

ALEXA RAY SCHECTERSON says she had a fantastic start to 2023: “I married my wonderful partner, Calder Schecterson, on March 26, ’23, in Rancho Mirage, CA. We were surrounded by our closest family and friends, which included several Smithies. Calder and I met in June ’18, and he proposed on The High Line in April ’22.”

In January, **NINA HENRY** was sworn in to the New York State Bar. In 2022, she graduated cum laude from the New York University School of Law. Her article, “If Howard Could Have a Baby: Disability, Stereotyping, and the Sex-Neutral Pregnancy,” received the Albiston Prize for exemplary student scholarship on recent developments in gender, law, and justice. She is currently working as an Excelsior Service Fellow at the New York State Department of Health.

ARABIA SIMEON is the founder and CEO of the civic tech startup Politics on the Go (PoGo), a nonpartisan personalized voter guide that streamlines election research

and provides an all-in-one hub for voting information. Arabia says it started as a project in the entrepreneurship class run by the Jill Ker Conway Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center. She writes, “A classmate was going off about viscous campaign cycles and wanting to create a business around supporting underrepresented identities when campaigning. We didn’t have a lot of time to flesh that out, so our group switched gears to a tech-based solution, which continued as a project in the class. The next semester I couldn’t get the idea out of my head, so I created a special study around the project with a few computer science students. We worked on research, designs, and business development, and were a finalist in the 2019 Draper Competition. Postgraduation, I was still super passionate about the mission, so I decided to continue working on it. We’re now officially a startup, building our beta app and raising a pre-seed round of funding. I was inspired by my own personal struggles with preparing for elections and seeing the constant circulation of misinformation and bias in the news. I saw college students scrambling and feeling emotional around election season and I wanted to do something about it. For me, PoGo is about informing the next generation of young voters; it creates a culture around voting that caters to the millennial and Generation Z archetypes.”

SARINA VEGA is based out of Los Angeles and is currently pursuing a master’s degree in landscape architecture and urbanism at the University of Southern California. She also works as a consultant in the climate change adaptation and resilience space, working to support Native American tribes and environmental justice communities. She is the inaugural fellow at the Landscape Justice Initiative, where she currently provides research support for the community of Allensworth—founded in 1908 as California’s first Black settlement, located in the industrial agriculture-dominated Central Valley—in remediating their desecrated cemetery site. She strongly believes her role as a designer is in connecting ideas. At present, she is obsessed with California native grasslands and community land trusts, and she intends to set up a design practice based in Tijuana in Baja California, Mexico, upon completing her master’s.”

ATHENA SOFIDES is pursuing a master’s degree in environmental management at the Yale School of the Environment, continuing her organizing and legal advocacy around embodied toxicity, environmental justice, and public health through a specialization in people, equity, and the environment. Athena travels back and forth between New Haven, CT, and her hometown of Brooklyn, NY, and is pursuing her dream of modeling on the side. With a recent diabetes diagnosis, Athena’s been focusing on care and healing with and in community, dreaming of a (near) future where people of all ability levels can access the support they need and can thrive.

These alums have overcome challenges and obstacles to achieve these impressive accomplishments. Let’s continue to sup-



Teresa Gonzales AC '07 is pictured with her book, *Building a Better Chicago: Race and Community Resistance to Urban Redevelopment*.

port one another and share our updates as part of the incredible Smith community. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me, Diandra Dillon, your class secretary, if you would like to share your updates. You can reach out to me via email, and I am also available on most social media platforms. See you in the next quarter!

*Sec., Diandra Dillon,
smithcollegeclass2019@gmail.com*

2020

TSEWANG CHUSKIT writes, "In Dec. '22, I graduated from the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn) Graduate School of Education with a master of science degree in international educational development. One-and-a-half years at UPenn flew by for me. I took classes on international education policy, curriculum development, and children's literacy. I met some amazing peers from all over the world and got to take classes with experts from the international education field. As part of my program, I got to work with international organizations like FHI 360 and Geneva Global. I am currently looking for opportunities in the United States and my home country, India, in sex education, curriculum development, and research for education policy."

*Sec., Leah Brand,
leahbrand97@gmail.com*

2021

*Quarterly Office, Northampton, MA
01063, classnotes@smith.edu*

2022

*Quarterly Office, Northampton, MA
01063, classnotes@smith.edu*

Ada Comstock Scholars

Your devoted class secretary would like you to know that more and timely news as well as connections can be found on our website,

alumnae.smith.edu/smithcms/adacomstock/. There you will see links to the Ada Comstock Alums Facebook page, where we keep you up to date on the latest announcements that relate to Ada alumnae; the Ada Comstock Scholars Facebook group—open to both current Adas and alums—which helps you stay connected to what's happening on campus and join in the discussion (you'll need to answer a couple of questions before an admin lets you in the group); and finally Instagram. For even more fun, join us online the third Thursday of every month from 12 to 1 p.m. ET for conversations and reconnection. The Zoom link for the Ada virtual lunches is provided on Instagram and on the Ada website under "Events."

LISA CLYDE AHLSTROM AC '91 and her husband, Richard, purchased a Neilson Library periodical room table at auction in Jan. '21. Lisa writes, "It is now in the center of our 100-year-old home in Holyoke [MA], which we share with our daughters, **ISABEL AHLSTROM '20** and **MARY AHLSTROM '13**, both of whom attended the Campus School of Smith College. Richard, a woodworker and furniture maker, made some changes so it would be more useful as a dining room table. A wonderfully fun project, the table is a daily reminder of how close our family has been to Smith over many years."

EDIE ADAMS AC '08 shares unhappy news

with an upbeat end: "I spent 18-months in a hospital with COVID and I survived! Every day, I get just a little stronger, and I am grateful to all the nurses who [always] give me their best. Being an Ada also kept up my morale. Whatever is causing you pain or stress, hang on—you too will survive."

ERIN MOLLOY AC '09 adopted a third dog, which is both far too many dogs and also just the right number.

JILL JOHNSON AC '13 found a happy balance between Vermont and St. Petersburg, FL. After graduation, she worked in admission at Smith, then moved on to earn an MFA in creative writing from Lesley University in Cambridge, MA. The writing community holds her heart and interests. She's the associate nonfiction editor for *Solstice* literary magazine and spends time reading and writing her memoir and essays. "Retirement is the best!"

DIANNE JESTER AC '16 transitioned to a new position at the University of Massachusetts Amherst as an academic adviser for the Isenberg School of Management graduate programs. She is thrilled to offer guidance and support to graduate students while they manage academics, professional work, and their personal lives. In addition to her role at Isenberg, Dianne continues to teach composition to first-year college students at Elms College. She is also grateful for her deeply woven Ada friendships that have carried her through these years.

LAURA CAMPUZANO AC '22, our newest contributor (thanks, Laura), jumped right in with this update: "It feels like we just graduated, yet here I am, working in the admission office at Smith (how could I leave?!), getting ready to help select the class of 2027."

*Sec., Anne McNeill AC '92,
anne_mcneill@yahoo.com*

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email address?

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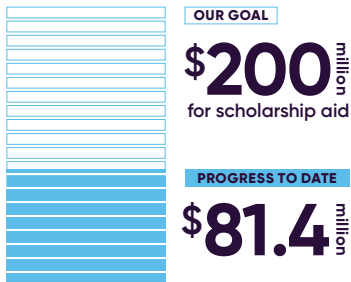
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Here for Every Voice Sets Smith Solidly on Path to Need-Blind Admission

Thanks to the support of many generous alums, we are approaching the halfway mark for our goal.

BY NICOLE PELLATON

When Sena Amuzu '24, a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow, was looking at colleges, affordability was her top consideration. She is not alone. For many promising students, the barriers to college—financial and otherwise—are tremendous and profoundly unjust. As Egypt Ballet '23 puts it, "I don't think enough people talk about how difficult it is being first generation and/or low income and having to figure out how to apply to college, often totally alone."

The Here for Every Voice initiative is removing financial barriers so that all students can attend Smith, regardless of family resources. It's also helping to equalize the Smith experience, ensuring that all Smith students can thrive. And, crucially, as demographic trends signal greater competition for college-age students, the initiative is strengthening Smith's future with increased endowed financial aid funds that can be used to attract, enroll and retain the most promising students. Meeting the initiative's \$200 million goal will allow Smith to become need blind and remove

financial considerations from admission decisions.

Hundreds of amazing students have benefited from the Here for Every Voice endowed funds, and thousands more will in the years to come. Smith is among a small number of liberal arts colleges that meet all demonstrated financial need for accepted students (including "extra" essentials such as conference fees and textbook purchases), and is one of an even more select group that has replaced undergraduate student loans with grants. During the first year of the no-loans program, the academic year just ended, Smith replaced loans with grants in the financial aid packages of over 1,600 students.

The Here for Every Voice initiative has helped Smith increase financial aid awards significantly. Between academic years 2020–21 and 2021–22, financial aid awards increased more than 25%, from \$71 million to \$90 million. And aspiring Smithies are noticing! Admission numbers for the incoming class of 2027 have broken records once again.

Growth in Admission Applications

(2013–2023)

- 9,800+ applications received for the class of 2027
- 36% increase over last year
- 122% increase over 10 years



1 out of 5

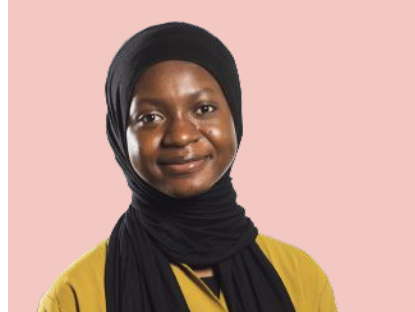
Smith applicants were admitted to the class of 2027—the most selective Smith has ever been.

What Students Say



"Knowing that I have a debt-free future makes it possible for me to make the most out of my time here. Smith's generous financial aid makes me feel that this community wants me."

—Marta Almazovaite '24



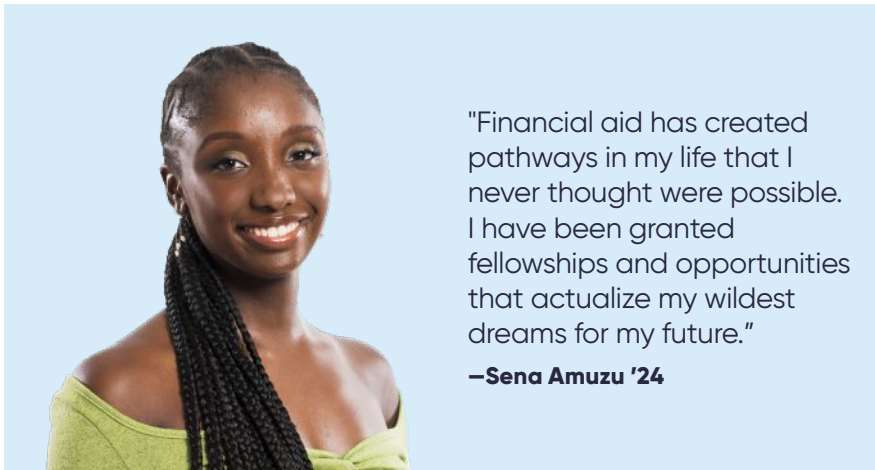
"Financial aid means proximity to my dreams, one less burden for me and my family, and one more win for my community."

—Rukaiya Abdullah '23



"To see the ways in which Smith has increased grant funding for its students in recent years makes me proud to call myself a Smithie."

—Norma Jean Haynes AC '23



"Financial aid has created pathways in my life that I never thought were possible. I have been granted fellowships and opportunities that actualize my wildest dreams for my future."

—Sena Amuzu '24



"Smith's decision [to replace loans with grants] is a big step toward an equitable education that I hope to see other colleges take."

—Mariam Ahmed '24

"President McCartney's passionate leadership in addressing educational access and affordability for students from all walks of life has placed Smith at the forefront of the nation. We are recognized for our bold thinking and impactful moves to change lives and create a more just world. Thanks to the caring generosity of Smith alums, we are well on our way to achieving the financial stability needed to ensure that the best and brightest students can attend Smith, regardless of family resources, now and forever."

—Beth Balmuth Raffeld

Senior Vice President for Alumnae Relations and Development

Watch videos, read about more scholarship aid recipients and add your voice to our call for scholarship support.

smith.edu/access

For more information and to give a gift, please contact:

Betsy Carpenter '93
Associate Vice President for Development
ewcarpen@smith.edu
413-585-2052

Smithie Lives

Obituaries

OBITUARY POLICY Friends, family, and classmates can inform the Smith community of an alum's death by writing up to 100 words to share the date of death and a brief memory. Newspaper obituaries cannot be reprinted. Please use the form at smith.edu/saq/obit, or email classnotes@smith.edu. Obituaries are accepted on an ongoing basis and will be published in the issue in production closest to the date of receipt.

1930s

MARTHA GARLO KELLETT '39, Nov. 21, '22, in Amherst, MA. After majoring in biology at Smith, Martha moved to Brooklyn, NY, to begin her professional career. She relocated to Nutley, NJ, where she pursued her work in microbiology at Roche labs, got married, and raised two children. After her retirement, she returned to her ancestral home in Northampton, MA, where she was surrounded by family and friends. Predeceased by husbands Joseph and Ralph, Martha is survived by children James and Russell, stepson Alan, grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.—*Russell Johnson, her son*

1940s

FRANCES KENDALL MOON '44, Feb. 20, '23, in Peabody, MA. Born in Boston and known as "Kennie" by many, Frances grew up in Maine and attended Smith, where she met her husband, Philip, at a Smith dance. They married and raised their family in Michigan. Frances was passionate about historic preservation and genealogy and made lifelong friends wherever she went. She is survived by two children, eight grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren.—*Lyn Shields, her daughter*

MARGARET FENN BORDEN '46, Jan. 18, '23, in Bozeman, MT. Margaret's remarkable spirit sparkled until her last breath, knowing she was greatly loved. With peace she let go of the body that could no longer keep moving—her secret to a good, long life. She kept up with some Smith classmates, was featured in *Alumnae Lives* in the Summer 2016 *Smith Alumnae Quarterly* with her Bernese mountain dogs, and delighted in meeting young graduates. Margaret is survived by her children, Curtis, Laurie, and Sally; nine grandchildren; and many great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.—*Laurie Borden, her daughter*

JANE BLACKMAN LYMAN '46, Jan. 24, '23, in Winter Park, FL. While at Smith, Jane lived in Franklin King House and enjoyed her wonderful friends, being on the synchronized swimming team, and gaining an academic foundation that led to her

receiving a master of fine arts from the drama school at Yale University. She had a 30-year teaching career at Western Connecticut State University and was a proud lifelong Smithie. Jane is survived by her son, Rev. Philip Lyman; her daughter, Libby Lyman-Askew; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She will be dearly missed.—*Libby Lyman-Askew, her daughter*

GRACE GRIFFITH HOAG '47, Sept. 26, '22, in Medway, MA. Born in Manchester, VT, Grace was a physicist in Cambridge, MA, where she met her husband, David, an MIT engineer. They lived in Medway and had five children, eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. They lived in their 1800s house for 70 years and traveled to five continents. Grace volunteered extensively and co-authored an ancestral biography and a local history of Medway. She also studied political thought and, with her research partner Gordon Hall, created a collection that is now housed in the John Hay Library at Brown University.—*Rebecca Atwood, her daughter*

JOY FISHER PRESTON '47, March 12, '23, in Lewes, England. Joy was English and went to Smith after crossing the Atlantic with her mother on convoy ONS 18 in 1943 to be reunited with her father, an admiralty officer seconded to Washington, DC, during the war. Upon her return to England in 1946, Joy earned a second degree at Newnham College, University of Cambridge, where she met her future husband, with whom she had three children. After Cambridge, Joy lived in London; Nigeria; Hong Kong; Brighton, England; and finally Lewes, where she died peacefully.—*Nick Moore, her son*

VIRGINIA (JINNY) COX ATKINSON '49, Oct. 24, '22, in San Mateo, CA. Jinny majored in economics and was a lifelong political and community volunteer. A class officer, she was also an officer in the Kansas City (MO) Smith club and led the

San Francisco Peninsula Smith club. Her leadership and hands-on volunteerism spanned family services, Junior League, the National Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependency, garden clubs, and more. Predeceased by husband R.J. and sister **MARY ANNE COX THOMPSON** '45, Jinny is survived by daughter **REBECCA ATKINSON STIRM** '75, son Gordon, five grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.—*Rebecca Atkinson Stirm '75, her daughter*

ARTEMIS (ARTIE) DAMASKINIDOU NASH '49, Dec. 6, '22, in New York, NY. A native of Greece, Artie immigrated to the United States to attend Smith. Her well-worn Greek-English dictionary has "Dawes House" inscribed inside. Unable to return to Greece, her classmates generously hosted her, and she obtained her bachelor's degree in three years. She then graduated from medical school at Columbia University, where she met her beloved husband, Warner. She was a trailblazer in the field of pathology and practiced for 55 years. Artie is survived by two daughters and four grandchildren.—*Jackie Rea and Laurie Nash, her daughters*

MARILYN MILLS SALE '49, Feb. 4, '23, in La Jolla, CA. Born in Brooklyn, NY, Marilyn married William Sale in New York City after graduation; raised two children, Liz and David; and earned a master's degree from Washington University. A talented book editor, she had a career as managing editor of Cornell University Press. She retired by the ocean in California. Marilyn loved to act and performed at regional theaters. She also created mosaics and listened daily to opera, musicals, and the Beatles. She is survived by both children and two grandchildren, Matthew and Scout.—*David and Liz Sale, her children*

ROSE SUN TCHANG '49, April 16, '21, in San Diego, CA. Rose came to the United States in childhood with her older sister, Pearl. She graduated from Dana Hall School before entering Smith. She was an art major and had a very accomplished life as a painter. Rose married Paul Tchang in 1949 and had two daughters and a son. She made trips to Taiwan and mainland China when pos-

ALERT US. Email smithierecords@smith.edu to notify the college of an alum's death.

In Memoriam

This "In Memoriam" listing contains the names of undergraduate and graduate alumni who were confirmed deceased by the records department between **January 14, 2023**, and **April 6, 2023**, although the actual date of death may have occurred outside that period. To report the death of an alum, please email smithierecords@smith.edu. Submit obituaries for publication directly to the *Smith Alumnae Quarterly* by using the form at smith.edu/saq/obit.

1940

Elizabeth Dexter Bell
Nancy Luster Farthing

1941

Margaret Perkins Kelley
Mae Zukel Thorne
Martha Nissly Walker

1943

Sandra Ueland McCoy
Jane Oman Sargent

1944

Jane Cahill-Blumenfeld
Susan Marty Dexter
Elsa Tucker Falls
Claire Caverly Harter
Betty Jane Cudworth MacMichael
Susannah Townsend Mallett
Frances Kendall Moon
Eleanor Uhl

1945

Barbara Young Benner
Jean Freiberg Bloch
Ann Miller Bragg
Jeanne Davis Brody
Sylvia Dennison Corrigan
Suzanne Smith Dragge
June Willard Hails
Ruth Coffin Harvie
Midge Beach Hoffman
Constance Taffinder Ives
M. Edith McBride Kane
Katharine Wuerth Lynn
Mary Manness MacNamara
Elinor Mead Martin
Mary Adele Newcomer Melis
Priscilla Carruthers Moorman
Anne Batchelder Morrow
Lily Zucker Munford
Jeanne De Voe Nebel
Carol Chur Ritchie
Jessie Bowman Searles
Louise Harison Seidel
Jean Sawyer Weaver
Mary van der Voort Wilmer
Beverly London Wolf

1946

Margaret Fenn Borden
Jean Foulkes Borden
Coralie Davies Castle-Ayers
Joan Schoellkopf Chamberlain
Harriette Clark Chambliss
Elsie Taylor Conly
Dorothy Bush Curtis
Patricia Goldsmith England
Jean Allen Day Lowry
Jane Blackman Lyman
Evelyn Means McKittrick
Joan Arnold Milligan
Elizabeth Wagman Petergal
Isabel Filley Rostykus
Helen Sanger
Madeline Sherman
Barbara Lewis Vandeventer
Anne Rudolf Warburton
Ann Roberts Wears
Genevieve Denoeu Willis

1947

Patricia Coerper Buck
Natalie Spencer Fox
Barbara Zeller Imbrie
Jeanne Comey Owen
Joy Fisher Preston
Shirley Broome Purdy
Arlene Williams Stern

1948

Elizabeth Banks
C. Jean Haws Brown
M. Barbara Diven Carlile
Anne Gage Davis
Anne Thompson Gartner
Mary Jane Walsh Hughes
Michelle Pynchon Osborn
Patricia Owen Steiner

1949

Jinny Cox Atkinson
Sabina Gildemeister Cournoyer
Ann Podoloff Lehman
Elizabeth Banks McCluskey
Jean Utter McCrosky
Heloise Bacon Power
Marilyn Mills Sale
Lois Deile Saunders

1950

Jane Harvey Baldwin
Cicely Taylor Buckley
Joan Willson Carver
Jean Wood Churchman
Elizabeth Knight Cochran
Virginia Palmer Davis
Gloria Legori Ditz
Virginia Thomson Gross
S. Anne Beede Jencks
Anne Held La Budde
Carroll Bounds Leavell
Mary Coughlin McHale
M. Katherine Cromwell Moore
Jean Musser
Jacqueline Brown Nelson
Marion Homer Painter
Betsy Hommel Powers
Caroline Hendren Robb
Anne Goewey Stevenson
Roxanne Kuter Williamson

1951

Mary Ellen Pappas Barden
Barbara Goldsmith Blau
Christine Chin
Patricia Davis Klingenstein
Marilyn Reder Less
Phoebe Kruge Pfaehler
Diana Roesch Phillips
Roslyn Berkowitz Rettew
Lois Alexander Stout
Anne Reese Taylor

1952

Barbara Ruben Migeon
Margaret Winsor Stubbs

1953

Betty Bowry Bears
Betty Goldsmith Forbes
Peggy Buckley Grauman
Elizabeth Scott Groves

Grace Johnson Perkins
Leba Gross Wine

1954

Meredyth Rubidge Armitage
Rosamond Horton Lownes
Abigail Lombard

1955

Alky Petsiavas Danezis
Marion Moore Gilbert
Judith Barkdull Morter

1956

Sandra Nash Baldonado
Fufa Triplett Fullerton
Elisabeth Levine
Maria Pickard Morgan
Mary Grimes Pilosi
Mary Heisley Smith

1957

Carla Wilson Heath
Elizabeth Lewis Kamm
Jerrie Marcus Smith

1958

Monique Schumacher Allen
Marilyn Czelusniak Hurst
Frances Davis Johnstone
Susan Chappell McCabe
Felice Evans Morris
Cornelia Campbell Moynihan
Cynthia Nathan Salzhauer
Penelope Potter Saxe

1959

Diana Dane Dajani
Joanne Potters Gow
Carolyn Ise
Joanna Blake Melone
Sarah Paul Thorson
Pam Mack Young

1960

Barbara Bartlett
Sally Williams Casey
Johanna Collins Duclos
Marnie Harrison Parsons Frost
Joan Stouffer Stogis
Elizabeth Hendrie Wooster

1961

Judith Hess Greenhalgh-Feldherr
Marilyn Martin Read
Bernadette Carey Smith

1962

Helen Burke
Priscilla Holmes Dickey
Hermine Richter Leone

1963

Janice Schwartz Ambrose
Barbey Nyce Dougherty

1964

Nina Worthington

1965

Claudia Kirkpatrick
Mary Walker Paramore

Cordelia O'Brien Thomas
Sheila Johnson Wise

1967

Paige Preston Peck

1968

Helen Davis Preston

1970

Victoria James Munsey

1973

Elizabeth Bowen
D.D. Lapointe

1974

Lynn Garten

1975

Louise Virgin

1976

Mary Macey
Claire Mansur

1982

Jennifer Bacon-Blaine

1985

Julie Brown Edmunds

1991

Taya Swenson Schmid
Karl (KJ) Surkan

1995

Michelle Elzay

Ada Comstock Scholars

Elizabeth Jackson AC '87
Carolyn Safarik AC '89
Pamela Fairhurst AC '90
Patricia Safford AC '93
Susan Reidy AC '02

Graduate Alumni

Elizabeth Mayo, MA '34
Carol Turner Hall, MA '39
Martha Ahlijian Kevorkian, MA '40
Anne Benson Summerfield, MA '40
Almeda Howard, MEd '42
Mildred Parrish Erisman, MA '43
Estelle Cotton Bain, MA '44
Mildred Hunt, MA '44
Edna Goldberg Rappaport, MEd '45
C. Jeanne Ward Schmidt, MA '45
Verna Weems Macbeth, MEd '47
Etta Kramer Steiner, MA '47
Alice Levine Mitchell, MA '48
Donna Barrand, MS '49
Ann Donaldson White, MA '49
Annabel Harvin Ballard, MA '54
Gwendolyn Green, MEd '66
E. Michael Richards, MA '80
Elisabeth Haxby, MEd '97

Faculty

Carolyn Hemenway
Nancy Webb

sible to visit family. Predeceased by Paul and her two brothers, Rose is survived by her children, Lorna, Jenny, and Ted; five grandchildren; and her sister Pearl.—*Leigh Berrien Smith '49*

1950s

VIRGINIA PALMER DAVIS '50, Jan. 1, '23, in Berkeley, CA. Smith was the beginning of Virginia's life journey throughout the United States and the world. She had an early interest in anthropology and later became a fiber artist, with expertise in Japanese ikat technique, and a scholar of Indigenous Mexican and Central American textile art. Her work is held in the permanent collection of the Art Institute of Chicago and many other institutions. Martin Davis, her husband and a prominent mathematician, was her lifelong companion. Virginia is survived by two sons, six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.—*Harold Davis, her son*

GLORIA LEGORI DITZ '50, Nov. 25, '22, in East Providence, RI. Gloria was raised in Rio de Janeiro and was grateful to be sponsored by the International Student Program. She majored in early childhood education and had fond memories of Franklin King House. She possessed a striking ability to relate well with other people and was viewed by many as friendly, witty, imaginative, and extremely thoughtful. She delighted in simple pleasures, from sipping hot cocoa and browsing secondhand shops to sitting among birds on warm days. Gloria is missed by her children, Marc, Eric, and Nicole.—*Marc Ditz, her son*

ELLIE LANDER HORWITZ '50, Nov. 3, '22, in Washington, DC. A prolific freelance journalist, Ellie wrote for national newspapers and magazines and authored 13 books, primarily for children and young adults. She designed a competition-winning gargoyles for the Washington National Cathedral, served on the DC ACLU board, and wrote and edited for the *Defenders of Wildlife* and the *American Association of University Women* magazines. She remained an ardent Smith alumna. Her long, happy marriage to neurosurgeon Norman Horwitz ended with his 2012 death. A beloved matriarch, Ellie is survived by two children, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.—*Erica Horwitz, her daughter*

ANNE REESE TAYLOR '51, April 22, '22, in Huntington, NY. Anne majored in art history at Smith and worked at The Metropolitan Museum of Art for 10 years. Later, she lived in Ridgewood, NJ, where she was an avid bridge player—a skill she acquired at Smith. She also loved crossword puzzles, chess, Scrabble, walks on the beach, gardening, and, most of all, her friends and family. She spent her last years at her home in Quogue, NY, surrounded by family.—*Mary Vogel, her daughter*

JOAN GOLDBERG AMRON '52, Dec. 23, '22, in New York, NY. After Smith, Joan started a greeting card business and later earned a master's degree in education from Teachers College, Columbia University. A pioneer in the field of children with learning disabilities, she had a long career working in private schools and in private practice in New York City. She loved music and was the longtime co-chair of Goddard Riverside's Musical Evenings. A ferocious gardener, she treasured every blueberry that survived the

Connecticut deer. Predeceased by her husband, Howard, Joan is survived by three children and two grandchildren.—*Elaine Abelson, her sister*

DOLORES (DILLY) HENDEL SCHAPIRO '52, May 10, '22, in Richmond, VA. A native of Brooklyn, NY, Dilly majored in English at Smith. She earned a second bachelor's degree from the Parsons School of Design and attended the Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture. She worked for New York architectural firms and later joined her father in managing commercial and industrial properties in northern New Jersey. An enthusiastic patron of the arts, Dilly traveled widely, frequently visiting France and taking pleasure in organizing French-only evenings at her Manhattan apartment. She is survived by a son, a daughter, and three grandchildren.—*Judith Lager Raymo '53*

BETTY (BETTS) GOLDSMITH FORBES '53, May 3, '22, in New York, NY. Originally from Reading, MA, Betts looked back fondly on her Smith days and stayed in touch with several classmates, especially her wonderful friend **JANET GRABOSKY DEMUTH '53**. Her children, Alden, Alexandra, and Bruce; her brother, James Goldsmith; her loving grandchildren; and other relatives and friends remember her bright smile, quick mind, and lifelong beauty. A sparkling hostess and a skillful bridge player, Betts was generous to all and had a passionate love of dogs, enthusiastically greeting every pup who crossed her path.—*Alexandra Forbes, her daughter*

ELSIE TRASK WHEELER '54, Dec. 26, '22, in Duxbury, MA. Elsie adored her childhood in Long Island, where she raced dinghies and took trips on horseback, exploring the meadows and coastal ponds of Chappaquiddick. After attending the Chapin School in New York, she graduated from Smith, where she was devoted to supporting the Tryon Prizes. An early career at *Time* Life sparked a lifelong passion for photography. She was determined, irreverent, and not afraid of wielding a power tool. Elsie's sense of humor meant living in her presence was bound to include adventures, minor mishaps, and laughter.—*Chelsie Olney, her daughter*

ALKY PETSIVAS DANEZIS '55, Jan. '22, in Athens, Greece. Born in Athens into the affluent family of a Greek businessman, Alky excelled at Smith—years she cherished—and was one of the first Greek women to receive a bachelor's degree in interior decoration from an American university. After brief stays abroad, she returned to Greece. Married twice, first to Nikos Makrakis and then to OB-GYN John Danezis for 22 years, Alky is survived by her daughters, Teresa and Louisa Danezis, and five grandchildren, who will always remember her dynamism, love of travel, and curiosity.—*Lillian Agapalidou '70*

ANNE ELMENDORF IMPELLIZZERI '55, Jan. 5, '23, in New Rochelle, NY. Anne graduated magna cum laude from Smith and earned a master's degree from Yale University, later serving as a trustee for each institution. After teaching for two years, she joined MetLife, where she started its corporate social responsibility department. She then led the Blanton-Peale Institute and Manitoga/The Russel Wright Design Center. Board activity included Nuveen, Scenic Hudson, Bard Music Festival, Partnership for New York City, and the Lakeland (NY) Central School District.

Anne is survived by a brother, a daughter, two stepsons, seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.—*Sally Paynter '55*

ELINOR LOCKWOOD YEO '55, Jan. 10, '23, in Newton, MA. Elinor received a master of divinity from Union Theological Seminary and was ordained in the United Church of Christ. She was an avid gardener, active in her beloved Old South Church, and a leader in the reproductive rights movement. Before 1973, she counseled and connected women with doctors willing to perform abortions. She later served as executive director of an abortion clinic in Milwaukee and was chair of the National Abortion Rights Action League. Elinor is survived by her husband, Richard; three sons; and six grandchildren.—*Peter Yeo, her son*

SANDRA (SANDY) NASH BALDONADO '56, March 10, '23, in Claremont, CA, surrounded by her four children. The formative years Sandy spent at Smith gave her a voice she used tirelessly in advocating for women. She ran for office in California in the mid-1970s and blazed a political trail through various campaigns and non-profits. She ultimately became a lawyer in 1983 and continued her advocacy. Smith nurtured her and gave rise to a powerful woman with a strong voice, always speaking up, even when it was uncomfortable to do so.—*Liana Baldonado Bayles, her daughter*

FUFA TRIPLETT FULLERTON '56, March 1, '23, in Warren, AR. After graduating from Miss Porter's School in Farmington, CT, Fufa went to Europe and fell in love. The fall of 1952 would be her only term at Smith, but the love of learning instilled there led her to earn a bachelor's degree later in life and a law degree at age 65. Active in her community, she served for 30 years on the Warren City Council, fighting for the underdog. Predeceased by her husband, Samuel, Fufa is survived by three children, one grandchild, and two great-grandchildren.—*Arthur Fullerton, her son*

CAROLE O'BRIEN LOENING '56, Jan. 25, '23, in West Palm Beach, FL. While at Smith, Carole lived in Clark House, majored in English, and graduated Phi Beta Kappa. She worked for *Vogue* magazine and *Ladies' Home Journal*, and her freelance writing was published in a number of publications.—*Barbara Eckert, her sister*

MARILYN TARGANSKY STATLAND '56, Dec. 13, '22, in Florham Park, NJ, of pancreatic cancer. My mother was always proud of being a Smithie. She loved her time there and made lifelong friends, many of whom I had the good fortune to know. Some passed away long ago, like **ANN HILL HAGENSTEIN '56** and **ROZ LUBETSKY BRESSLER '56**, while others are still with us—**JOAN EPSTEIN BRAGEN '56**, **BARBARA (BOBBIE) RAFFEL PRICE MCHALE '56**, and **HELEN WEILL SAFFER '56**. Marilyn is survived by her longtime companion, Paul; her daughters, Sherryl and Diana; and two grandchildren, Jenna and Gabriel.—*Sherryl Statland, her daughter*

NANCY BOYD WEBB MSW '56, Feb. 5, '23, in Newburyport, MA. Nancy was the wife of Kempton Webb for 68 years and was a leading authority on social work and play therapy. She earned a doctorate from Columbia University, taught at Fordham University for 30 years, and founded a post-master's certificate program in child and adolescent therapy. Her 15 books focused

on child therapy, trauma, and bereavement. She received Smith's Day-Garrett Award and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association for Social Work. Her abiding hope was to prepare social work students to help children and families.—*Rachel Webb, her daughter*

SARAH (PENNY) PAULL THORSON '59, Nov. 25, '22, in Greenwich, CT. Penny grew up in Wheeling, WV, and went to The Ethel Walker School. As captain of the Talbot House swim team, she nudged us to the gym on those cold mornings. She had a wonderfully quirky personality and used her brainpower as an art history major. Married in Nov. '59, she and Petr raised three daughters. Always athletic, Penny rode horses—English and Western—swam, cycled, and rock climbed. She worked in development for the Women's Sports Foundation and Outward Bound. Penny loved opera, literature, film, and fashion.—*Susan Cleary Garratt '59*

1960s

JOHANNA COLLINS DUCLOS '60, Dec. 23, '22, in Wayzata, MN. Johanna was little sister to **MARY COLLINS MOORE** '58 and an active member of her local Smith club, carrying on the legacy of their mother, **MARY BRADLEY COLLINS** '30. During 64 years of love and adventure with husband David, Mary served scores of global communities as they traveled throughout Asia, Africa, South America, and Europe. Their frequent trips to visit grandchildren in New York City gave us time to grow old together. Johanna is survived by her husband, David; her son, Tom; her daughter, Annie; and seven grandchildren.—*Carol Fineberg '58*

JOAN STOFFER STOGIS '60, Feb. 28, '23, in Gaithersburg, MD. At Smith, Joan was a national merit scholar. She spent her junior year in Paris and then attended Yale University's architecture school, where she met and married architect Ulrich Scharnberg. They moved to Washington, DC, and operated an architecture firm. After they divorced, Joan worked on architectural projects for the US Holocaust Memorial Museum and Georgetown University. She married Pete Stogis and they lived in Silver Spring, MD, until they moved to a retirement community in Gaithersburg. Predeceased by Pete, Joan is survived by her sister, Stephanie.—*Patricia Daniells Carter '60*

MARILYN MARTIN READ '61, April 1, '22, in Glen Mills, PA. Marilyn was born in Seattle to George and Agnes Martin and spent her childhood in Evanston, IL. With a major in mathematics, she began her career as a systems analyst for IBM and supported her first husband in the founding of Rodel Inc., which grew into a global supplier of semiconductor manufacturing materials. She loved sailing in the Caribbean with her second husband, Dave Read. Marilyn is survived by her daughter, Susan; her son, William; two stepchildren; two grandchildren; and five stepgrandchildren.—*Susan Martin Budinger, her daughter*

BERNADETTE CAREY SMITH '61, Dec. 5, '22, in Tuckahoe, NY. Bernadette had a notable career as one of the first Black female journalists at *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*, reporting first on fashion and society but eventually all news. She also worked for *Vogue* and ABC, founded a public relations firm, and worked in real estate. She interviewed and befriended

many notable people during her lifetime. Beyond her career, she is remembered for her tremendous wit, sharp intellect, and stunning presence. Predeceased by her husband, Bruce, she is survived by many nieces and nephews.—*Edith Smith '61*

HELEN BURKE '62, Nov. 30, '22, in New Haven, CT, of acute myeloid leukemia. Beloved mother of Ilaria and Ippolita and sister of Molly and Marty, Helen majored in art history at Smith and met her future husband during her Junior Year Abroad in Florence, Italy. She was an artist and a consummate craftsperson. With her husband she curated fine art exhibitions and designed theater performances, and later in life she became a decorative painter. Helen is survived by her daughters, her sisters, four grandchildren, and one great-grandson.—*Ilaria Papini, her daughter*

HELEN WETHERBEE '63, Nov. 1, '22, in Madison, MS, unexpectedly of a fall. A Bostonian, Helen headed to rural Mississippi in 1968 to begin a distinguished career in public service. With a law degree and a master's degree in public health, she used her brilliance to help the disadvantaged, eventually becoming executive director of the Mississippi Division of Medicaid. She married her husband, Allan Lessem, in 2016, and together they shared the joy of making classical music. Helen is survived by Allan; her brother, Winthrop; two nephews; and other loved ones, including her horse, George.—*Susanne Smith Tomlinson '63*

CLAUDIA KIRKPATRICK '65, Dec. 26, '22, in Alto, MI. Claudia earned a master's degree from Boston University and a doctorate from Carnegie Mellon University, where she was a staff writer for the development office and later served as publications director, academic adviser, and associate teaching professor of management communications at the university's Tepper School of Business until her retirement in 2009. She cared deeply about her students and was active in the Sierra Club, Third Presbyterian Church, East End Cooperative Ministry, and radio station WQED-FM. Animals were a big part of her life. Her sister, nieces, nephews, and friends miss her.

DEANE ZBAR LAPPIN '65, June 20, '22, in Newton Square, PA. Deane came to Smith from the Jersey Academy in Jersey City, NJ, and lived in Talbot House. She was a licensed clinical social worker and psychotherapist, and as such, she focused on the evaluation, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of mental, emotional, and behavioral health issues using psychotherapy and other counseling skills. Deane is survived by her husband, Richard Peters, and a brother.

MARY WALKER PARAMORE '65, Aug. 18, '22, in Enterprise, AL. Mary left Smith after her sophomore year, graduated from West Texas A&M University with a bachelor's degree in English, and received a master's degree in education from Troy University. She spent the majority of her career teaching English at Enterprise High School and as an adjunct instructor at Troy University. She also published numerous articles and essays on teaching and public education. Predeceased by her husband, Doug; a son; a daughter; a sister; and a brother, Mary is survived by two daughters and their husbands, eight grandchildren, and several great-grandchildren.

CORDELIA O'BRIEN THOMAS '65, May 14, '17, in Camarillo, CA. Cordelia came to Smith from Abbot Academy in Andover, MA; lived in Ziskind House; and was a French major. She met her future husband, Don, in the Peace Corps while teaching English in Nigeria. After the Peace Corps, she continued working in education and became an excellent math teacher. She loved her dogs and horses, traveling with Don, and enjoying life. Cordelia and Don were married for over 49 years. Don and her friends still miss her.

SHEILA JOHNSON WISE '65, Mar. 9, '23, in Stamford, CT. Sheila's publishing connection explains her love of books. Her junior year in Paris explains her love of France. Talent from her Yale Whiffenpoofs father explains her singing with the Smith Octavians and concert choir, three a cappella groups, and a Darien church choir. Her mother's horticulture passion explains Sheila's becoming a master gardener and using it for therapy. After battling cancer last summer, she took her final swim in the Atlantic surrounded by family. We will miss her talents and fierce love of life.—*Liz Matthews Rath '65 and Sue Shepard Jaques '65*

PAIGE PRESTON PECK '67, Dec. 25, '22, in Lovettsville, VA, at home after a long battle with pancreatic cancer. After graduation, Paige got married and had a brief modeling career, followed by a long stint of providing biofeedback therapy services. She and her husband, Rick, stood a Shire stallion at their historic farm in Lovettsville. Paige is survived by her husband, two children, and three granddaughters.—*Rick Peck, her husband*

1970s

VICTORIA JAMES MUNSEY '70, Feb. 27, '23, in Torre Pellice, Italy. Victoria's life was unique and full of treasured friends. A licensed marine captain, she established a yacht charter business in Key Largo, FL. She lived in Italy for 35 years, where she developed a consulting business and traveled throughout Europe, partnering with the United Nations to train its staff in communication and run postwar reconciliation programs. Victoria also had a strong faith. In Italy, she was the first woman and non-Italian elected vice president of the Diaconia Valdese. Family, friends, Maine, and Italy were her loves.—*Karen Kell Hartman '72*

CLAIRE MANSUR '76, Sept. 27, '22, in Boston, MA. To eat at Claire's table was to be treated like a queen. No recipe dreamed up by a world-class chef was beyond her ability or thought to be too much work. I still remember two glorious soups—one bright orange, the other pale cream—poured from opposite pitchers to meet in the middle of the bowl, a culinary yin yang. She lived large and ravenously, laughed wickedly, and showered those she loved with warmth and affection. She was a sparkler on a dark night. She will be missed.—*Maureen Foley '76*

PATRICIA (PATTY) KLIMCZAK ANDERSEN '77, Nov. 25, '22, in Canton, CT. Patty was such a bubbly and lovely person. She was a friend who was always ready with a quick smile or laugh. We knew her affectionately as Paté Klimczaky. Her classmates at Cushing House send deep condolences to her loved ones. Patty is survived by her husband of 43 years, Rolf; her sister, Grace; three brothers, Walter, Benjamin, and John; three daughters, Kathryn, Megan, and Erin; and five grandchildren.—*Dolores (Tot) Kunda '77*

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JANICE FRANKE '77 April 15, '23, in Columbus, OH, of pancreatic cancer. My dear friend Janice died less than a year after her diagnosis. I was the privileged recipient of regular FaceTime calls during this period. We shared memories, laughter, and tears, for which I will always be grateful. Janice had the support of her loving life partner, Terri, and was a doting grandmother to her three grandchildren. I can still see her walking Chapin lawn with her perfect posture and regal stride. Janice is survived by her two devoted children, Hilary and Xander.—*Jane McInerney* '78

SARAH (SALLY) KLASING SCHROER '77, July 23, '22, in St. Louis, MO. A biology major at Smith, Sally earned a master's degree in nursing from Saint Louis University. After living in Baltimore and Las Vegas, she returned to St. Louis, married Mark Schroer, and worked in the intensive care unit and the neurology and research departments at Mercy Hospital St. Louis, where she was highly regarded for her expertise and patient care focus. Sally is survived by her husband, Mark; their son, Scott; and countless friends, who will remember her sparkling smile, laughter, and joyous dancing.—*Lisa Gilson Clancy* '77

1990s

CONSTANCE ROTHMUND AC '90, Dec. 13, '22, in San Diego, CA. Constance treasured her years at Smith, and education was her career passion. After Smith, she earned a doctorate in education from Capella University. She was an administrator and taught at several universities until her retirement. Constance's family held a moving celebration of life service on Jan. 21, '23, to honor the woman loved and admired by her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and friends. **TERI RIETFORT AC** '91, **JOAN EARLEY AC** '92, **KATHY BOULTON AC** '90, and **KATE WHITTAKER AC** '90 were grateful to attend via livestream.—*Teri Rietfort AC* '91

2000s

DALE DINGLEDINE PhD '00, Nov. 15, '22, in Greenville, SC. The daughter of **MARGARET COLLINS WOODS** '44 and the mother of **GRACE DINGLEDINE WOODS-PUCKETT** '03, Dale attended Abbot Academy in Andover, MA, and Hollins University in Virginia before earning a doctorate. She spent her early years in Northampton, MA, so Smith and the city held a special place for her. She was loved by many for her great insight, understanding of people, and wonderful sense of humor. Dale is survived by her husband of 48 years, Bill; their daughter, Grace; and their son, Matthew.—*Bill Dingedine, her husband*

2010s

KARI FLETCHER PhD '12, Feb. 13, '23, in St. Paul, MN. A leader in her field, Kari was MSW program director, coordinator of the MSW Area of Emphasis in Military Practice scholars program, and a full professor at the University of St. Thomas School of Social Work. Earlier, she served as a clinical social worker for the US Veterans Affairs Department in Minneapolis. In addition to publishing papers and giving presentations, she helped the university launch its military social work curricula. She was on numerous boards and maintained a private practice as a psychotherapist and clinical social worker.—*Marilee Hedberg, her aunt*

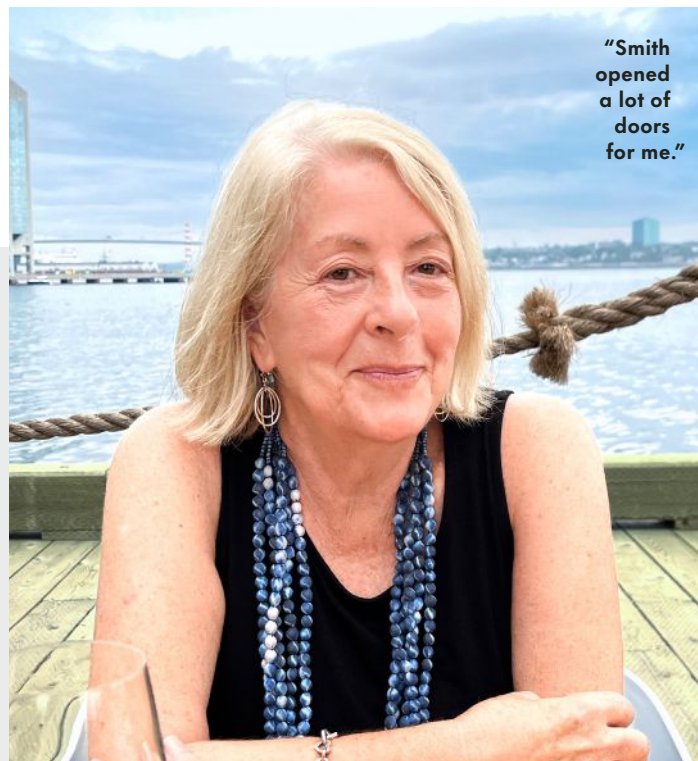
A Gift to Smith Provides Income for Life

Alum gives back by funding scholarships while securing her future

"Coming to Smith really opened a whole exciting world to me," says **Jane Hathaway Mitchell '74**. "In high school, I was a student government leader and valedictorian of my class but found few kindred spirits in my small New England town." When she arrived at Smith, she adds, "It really rocked my world to be around that many ambitious, curious, and fun women. The feeling of sisterhood was powerful."

Life after Smith took Jane in many directions and to many places. A psychology major, she was working in the adolescent care unit at Brown University's Butler Hospital when she met her future husband, Glenn. He was doing his medical residency at Butler on his way to a military career in emergency medicine and helped Jane in a touchy situation with a young patient who was threatening her with physical harm.

Once they were married, Glenn's military career resulted in frequent moves. "If you read my CV, it looks like I'm a person who can't



"Smith opened a lot of doors for me."

hold a job," jokes Jane. Yet wherever they went, she found meaningful work in mental health. She volunteered and held leadership roles with the American Red Cross and worked as a compensated service provider.

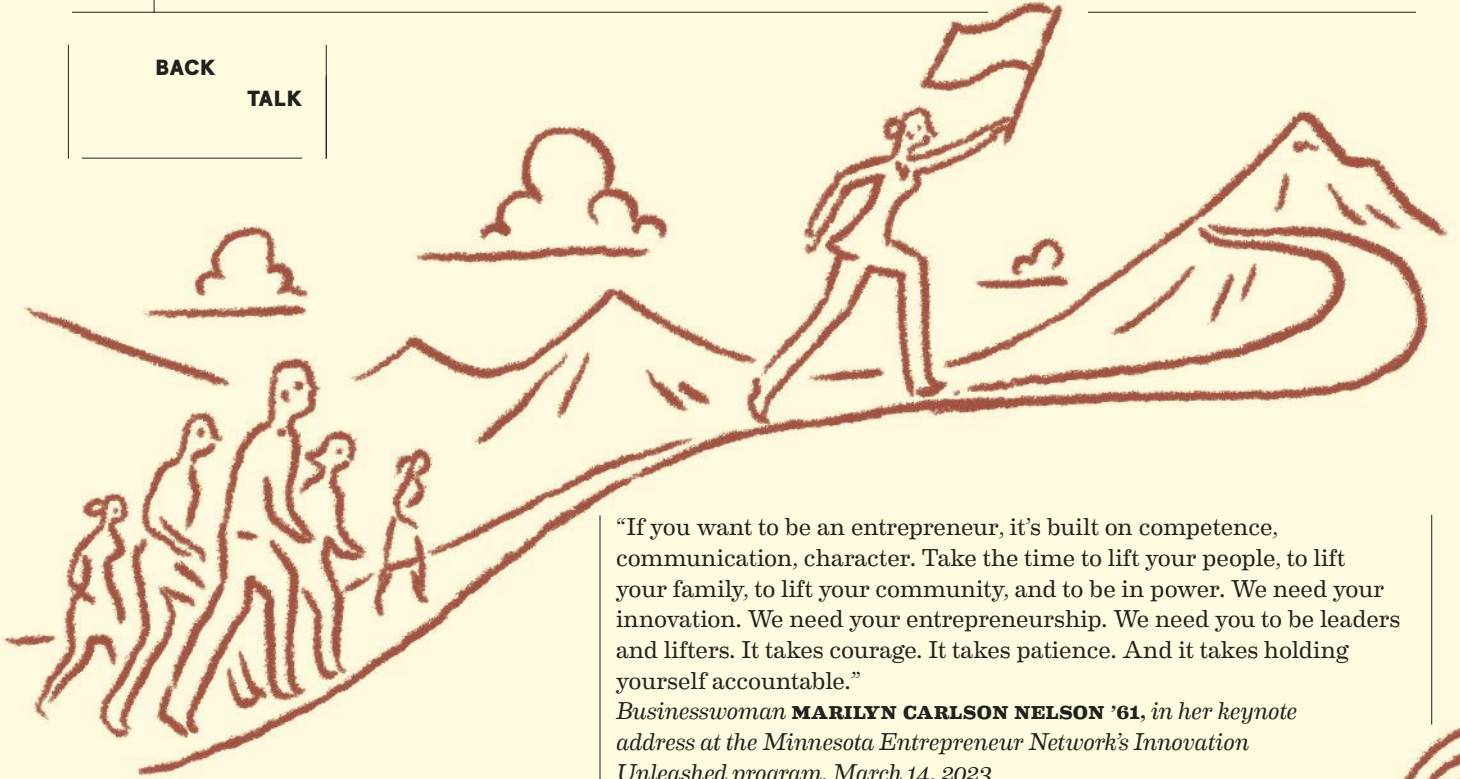
Over the years, Jane was also active in many local Smith clubs. Recently, she and Glenn decided that it was time to give back. Their gift to Smith is a charitable annuity, which will pay them an income for life and eventually fund scholarships for Smith students.

"The scholarship decision was easy," says Jane. "I was a financial aid student myself. People would ask my father where he got the money to send me to Smith, and his comeback was, 'It's not costing us any more than you paid for your son to go to UMass.'"

Thinking back, Jane is grateful that she had the opportunity to attend Smith. "It opened a lot of doors for me," she says, "Glenn and I both feel a great indebtedness to our colleges, and feel it's time to give back for the future."

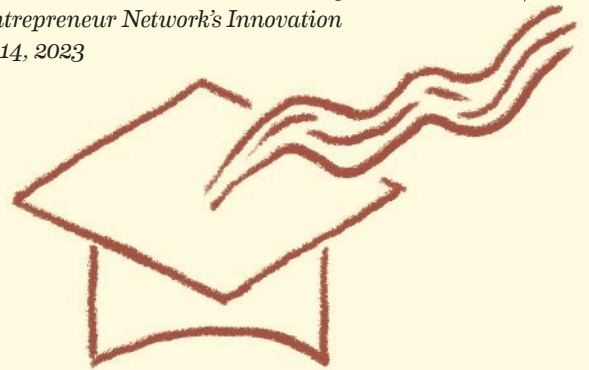


BACK TALK



“If you want to be an entrepreneur, it’s built on competence, communication, character. Take the time to lift your people, to lift your family, to lift your community, and to be in power. We need your innovation. We need your entrepreneurship. We need you to be leaders and lifters. It takes courage. It takes patience. And it takes holding yourself accountable.”
*Businesswoman **MARILYN CARLSON NELSON ’61**, in her keynote address at the Minnesota Entrepreneur Network’s Innovation Unleashed program, March 14, 2023*

“Community colleges enroll more economically and racially diverse students, and it’s a conduit for upward mobility. So, I think this presents an opportunity for institutions to consider strengthening the transfer pipeline.”
***NOLVIA L. DELGADO ’11**, executive director of the Kaplan Educational Foundation, on two major upcoming Supreme Court decisions that could change college admissions for generations to come, BK Reader, March 23, 2023*

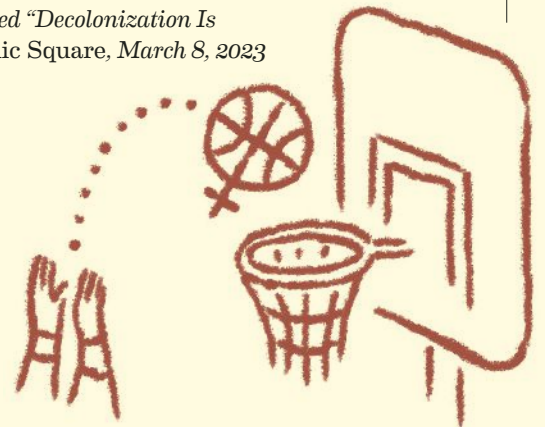


“If you do not understand enslavement in this country, you don’t understand the country. Period.”
*Author and journalist **TA-NEHISI COATES**, explaining why he would support requiring the teaching of the history of slavery in America in schools, Smith College Presidential Colloquium, May 1, 2023*



“Our regional and national women’s struggles are still global, still marked by economic and political colonialism in new forms. Survival for many is still precarious—we have a strong tradition in International Women’s Day to imagine an alternative future without inequity.”
*Professor of the Study of Women and Gender **ELISABETH ARMSTRONG**, in an essay titled “Decolonization Is Women’s Work,” Zócalo Public Square, March 8, 2023*

“I am honored to receive an award named after Mel Greenberg, a living icon who welcomed me into the world of women’s basketball media with goodwill and generosity.”
*Veteran Black sports journalist **CHERYL COWARD ’91**, founder of Hoopfeed.com, on the significance of winning a 2023 WBCA Mel Greenberg Media Award, Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder, March 30, 2023*





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From South Africa to Smith to the Silver Screen

Jane Dawson Shang '82, left, and Tandiwe Njobe '94 are the filmmakers behind *Where I Became*, a new feature-length documentary that brings to light the incredible but mostly unknown story of an apartheid-era program that gave Black South African women the opportunity to study at Smith on full scholarships. **Page 24**

STREAM IT FREE! Scan the QR Code or go to smith.edu/saq/where-i-became to watch the film through August 31, when the link will expire.

