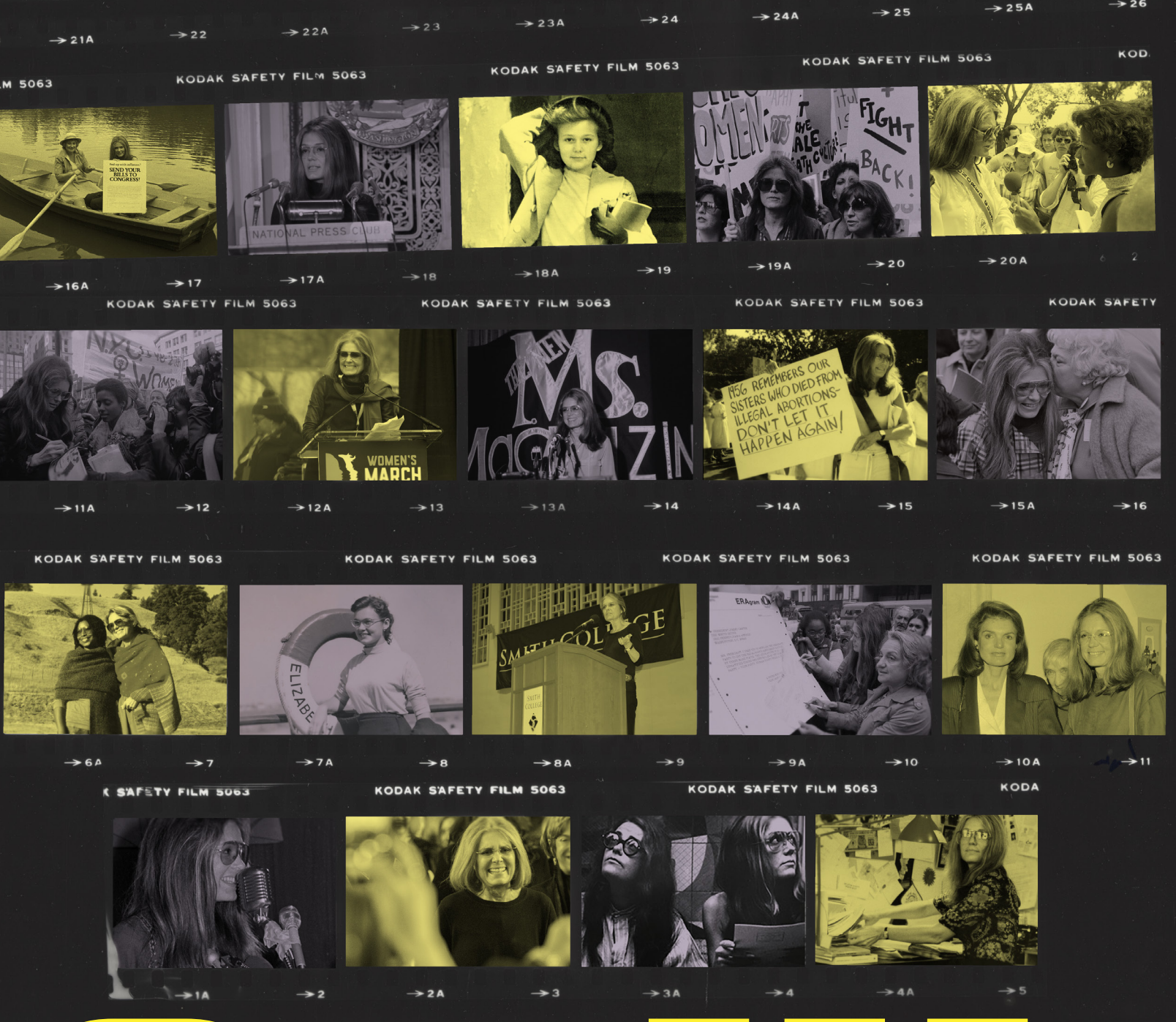

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5063
SEND YOUR BILLS TO CONGRESS!
NATIONAL PRESS CLUB
FIGHT BACK!
WOMEN'S MARCH
Ms.
1956 REMEMBERS OUR SISTERS WHO DIED FROM ILLEGAL ABORTIONS- DON'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN!
SMITH COLLEGE

Smith





CELEBRATING A NEW COHORT OF CAREGIVERS

Since its founding in 1918 as a psychiatric training program for social workers treating soldiers experiencing "shell shock," now known as post-traumatic stress disorder, the Smith College School for Social Work has been on the front lines of clinical practice. This year's Commencement ceremony celebrated 104 new M.S.W. graduates and four doctoral degree recipients. The ceremony in John M. Greene Hall spotlighted student speakers, a National Association of Social Workers Student of the Year award recipient, and keynote speaker James Herbert Williams, M.S.W. '75, a national social work leader and scholar.

Photograph by Shana Sureck





FINDING FALL BLISS
The joys of Mountain Day at Smith are myriad! Here, students combined some of the most beloved activities of the day—a trip to a local apple orchard, sunbathing, and reading—all in one go. A Smith tradition since 1877, Mountain Day is a surprise break from classes announced by the early morning ringing of the college bells. This year's day dawned with favorable weather and featured fall fun ranging from bike riding and vintage-store shopping to napping in the sunshine.

Photograph by Jessica Scranton


Julia Child Campus Center



A SIGNATURE SMITH ICEBREAKER
During Orientation, new Smithies were invited to participate in a host of activities designed to jump-start friendships and belonging, including Playfair, an outdoor event on Chapin lawn featuring interactive get-to-know-you games. The 648 members of the class of 2030 hail from 45 states and 37 countries. Seventeen percent of this year's entering class are the first in their families to attend college.

Photograph by Jessica Scranton



THE JOY OF HOUSE LIVING
Photograph by
Jessica Scranton

Carolina Atonal '28 enjoys reading in the early evening sun on the swing by Jordan House in the Smith quad. Every student house is unique, but they all share a welcoming vibe and housemates down the hall who often become lifelong friends.

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ALUMS PLAY IN
PUSHING THE WORLD
FORWARD AND
ADVANCING THE LIVES
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FRONT COVER: GLORIA STEINEM
(left to right, by row)

1. With former congresswoman Bella Abzug on a boat in Central Park in 1979 protesting inflation (Bettmann/Getty Images)

2. Speaking at the National Press Club in 1972 (Bettmann/Getty Images)

3. With books in the 1940s (Courtesy of Gloria's Foundation)

4. Marching through Times Square in New York protesting the pornography industry (Bettmann/Getty Images)

5. Attending the Equal Rights Amendment March in 1978 in Washington D.C. (Sonia Moskowitz/Getty Images)

6. Signing an autograph at the International Women's Day March in 1975 in Manhattan, New York (Bettmann/Getty Images)

7. Attending the Women's March on Washington in 2017 in Washington, D.C. (Noam Galai/WireImage)

8. Speaking at a *Ms.* magazine press conference in the 1980s (Robert R. McElroy/Getty Images)

9. Holding a class sign at her 20-year Smith College Reunion in 1976 (Phyllis Rosser/Courtesy of Gloria's Foundation)

10. Liz Carpenter and Gloria Steinem at a presidential campaign event for Senator George McGovern in 1972 (Bettmann/Getty Images)

11. With writer Alice Walker (Courtesy of Gloria's Foundation)

12. On the *Queen Elizabeth* in 1954 en route to Europe for her Smith Junior Year Abroad (Courtesy of Gloria's Foundation)

13. Giving a keynote speech in 2013 for "Activists and Archives: Allies for Social Justice," celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Sophia Smith Collection (Smith College Special Collections)

14. With Betty Friedan '42 signing an ERAgram to be sent to President Jimmy Carter (Bettmann Archive/Getty Images)

15. With Jackie Kennedy Onassis at the Academy of Arts and Letters in 1984 (Bettmann/Getty Images)

16. At a National Women's Caucus event during the 1972 Democratic National Convention in Miami, Florida (Fairchild Archive/WWD/Penske Media via Getty Images)

17. At Smith College Rally Day in 2017, where she was honored as a medalist (Sam Masinter)

18. With Kate Millett in New York City (Jill Krementz)

19. At home in New York City in the 1980s (Courtesy of Gloria's Foundation)

BACK COVER:

1956 yearbook photo included in *The Hamper* (Courtesy of Gloria's Foundation)

Contents

On the Cover: Gloria Steinem '56 **See page 20 for the full story.**

Letter From the President **8**
Smith President Sarah Willie-LeBreton reflects on the legacy of Gloria Steinem '56.

Building Blocks for Peace **9**
This year's Project for Peace award winners are building peace across the globe.

Data Point **11**
Smith College is named a top-producing Gilman Scholarship institution.

Victoria Is Taking Charge **12**
Victoria Flores-Almazan '23 teaches students how to make college affordable.

Nurturing Change in Ghana **14**
Adwoa Pokuaa Boakye '27 takes "no" for an answer.

Drawing on Smith **15**
A three-story mural in McCartney Hall captures the Smith experience.

Decoding Brain Injury **16**
Ingo Helmich conducts high-tech research on sports-related concussions.

The Complete Plath **17**
A new collection reveals more about Sylvia Plath '55.

Meet the Class of 2030 **18**
Learn more about this year's cohort of incoming students.

Writing a Revolution **20**
Lori Tharps '94 on Steinem's life as a writer, an activist, and an icon.

The Work Before Work **26**
The world beyond the classroom—internships set students up for success.

A Place For the Past in the Future **34**
Neela Wickremesinghe '09 draws on lessons from Smith to preserve stories in stone.

You Never Know What You'll Find **40**
Smithies are everywhere—including on the set of Antiques Roadshow.

Past Personal **46**
Elizabeth Pryor explores the intersection of scholarship and family history.

Notes **52**

In Memoriam **84**

Generosity **86**

Errata: The spring/summer 2026 issue of the *Smith Quarterly* misidentified the class of 1961 as leading the Reunion II parade in the "Scene" photo on p. 6. The class of 1951 led the parade. Thank you to Barbara Roberts Tilney '51 for bringing this to our attention.

Letter From the President



Dear Friends,

When I heard the sad news that Gloria Steinem ’56 had passed away, I took a quiet moment to reflect on her extraordinary life. I thought not only about what she accomplished, but about the way she moved through the world. And in the days and weeks that followed, I heard from so many of you about Gloria’s deep and lasting impact on her classmates and on generations of fellow Smithies.

That’s one reason I was so pleased that author, alum, and 2026 Smith Medalist Lori L. Tharps ’94 agreed to write about Gloria’s enduring importance in the lives of women over the generations for this issue. Writing was an essential part of Gloria’s intellectual development, political engagement, and community activism. At her very core, she was a writer and a reader who saw a story in every person she met.

What a moving and marvelous legacy Gloria has left us.

Gloria was a journalist, an organizer, and an activist whose work helped transform the lives of women in the United States and around the world. She challenged assumptions so deeply embedded in American culture that many people scarcely recognized them as assumptions at all. She asked us to imagine a society in which gender did not determine whose voice mattered, whose work was valued, or whose possibilities were respected. And then she spent a lifetime helping to build it.

Gloria arrived at Smith in the 1950s, at a moment when the expectations placed on women were profoundly different from those our students encounter today—though not, I imagine Gloria would agree, different enough. She graduated magna cum laude in 1956 with a degree in government and received the Chester Bowles Asian Fellowship, which took her to India for two years. There, she encountered the power of grassroots organizing—an experience that would influence the collaborative approach to social change she practiced throughout her life.

It is tempting, when remembering someone of Gloria’s stature, to focus on the individual: the iconic figure, the groundbreaking journalist, the co-founder of *Ms.* magazine, the writer and speaker whose name became synonymous with the modern feminist movement.

But Gloria herself continually redirected attention away from the individual and toward the collective. And that may be among her most important lessons.

Social change, she understood, is never the work of a single influential leader. It happens through relationships. Through organizing. Through listening. Through people discovering that an experience they believed was theirs alone is shared by others—and then deciding together that the conditions producing that experience can be changed.

Our founder, Sophia Smith, imagined an institution that would provide women with an education equal to that available to men. What began as a radical proposition became a college whose graduates have spent more than 150 years expanding our understanding of what women can do, and, more fundamentally, who gets to participate fully in the intellectual, civic, economic, and cultural life of the world. Gloria was part of that tradition, and she also greatly enlarged it.

Her feminism reflected an expansive understanding of the interconnectedness of sexism, racism, economic inequality, and other forms of injustice. She listened to younger generations of activists and insisted that movements remain open to new voices and new understandings. She demonstrated that conviction and curiosity need not be opposites—that we can hold deeply rooted values while continuing to learn. There is something profoundly hopeful in that idea.

A Smith education does not give our students a finished map of how to navigate their lives after graduation. It gives them the intellectual tools, confidence, curiosity, and community to encounter the world as it is, ask why it is that way, imagine how it might be different, and lead change in their own unique ways.

Gloria Steinem did that for seven decades.

Her legacy lives in laws changed and institutions transformed, certainly. But it also lives in countless people who learned from her that circumstances presented as inevitable are often simply decisions human beings have made over time—and that human beings, working together, can make different ones.

That is the promise of education. It is the promise of collective action. And it is part of the enduring promise of Smith.

Nearly 70 years ago, Gloria left this campus to discover what she might do in the world. She leaves us now with a challenge worthy of the generations of Smithies who follow her: to keep imagining a more just world—and then to do the patient, urgent, collective work required to bring it into being.



Sarah Willie-LeBreton
President

Smith College President Sarah Willie-LeBreton

Photograph by Jessica Scranton

Building Blocks for Peace

By Barbara Solow





Colloquially known as the Davis Peace Prize, Projects for Peace awards grants of $10,000 to student leaders who are developing innovative, community-centered projects that focus on conflict prevention, resolution, and reconciliation for a sustainable peace. It was started in 2007 by philanthropist Kathryn Wasserman Davis, who celebrated her 100th birthday by dedicating $1 million to fund 100 projects designed to encourage and nurture peaceful interactions around the world. Dozens of Smithies have been awarded the grant, and 2026 is no exception.

For this year's recipients, Sagufta Anchal '27 and Faithrose Daniel '27, peace begins at a deeply personal level—with women feeling safe and empowered in their own bodies and lives.

Anchal's belief is that peace is possible "when a person can be comfortable in their own body, when it's not treated as a source of shame." Her project, Menstrual Peace Chains, aims to help women in rural Bangladesh produce their own reusable menstrual pads.

For Daniel, peace-building means helping women become economically independent so they are free to make choices about their lives. Her project, Zizinduka: Healing and Harmony through Creative Empowerment, is a 10-week art therapy program for young women who have experienced domestic violence and/or sexual assault.

Anchal and Daniel are among the roughly 125 students selected in 2026 for Projects for Peace grants to support summer initiatives that create "building blocks for peace" around the globe.

"Projects for Peace is a wonderful opportunity for our students to explore grassroots community work," says Caitlin Szymkowicz, associate dean of global education and director of the Lewis Global Studies Center. "To have two projects selected this year is a true delight, and reflects well on the social justice awareness of Smith students."

As their projects got underway this summer, Anchal and Daniel discussed the experiences that inspired their work, what they hope to accomplish, and what peace means to them.

Left: Faithrose Daniel '27
Right: Sagufta Anchal '27

Photographs by Jessica Scranton



Sagufta Anchal '27

Biochemistry and statistical and data sciences major

What was the inspiration for your project?
"In 2024, there was a cyclone in my country [Bangladesh] that affected 3.7 million people. Everything was destroyed. Food, clothing—everything. The [aid organizations] were focused on food and water, but women were also menstruating, and there were no supplies. Many girls and women were missing school and work because they didn't want to go out when they were having their period.

I had been working, when I was in high school, with a nonprofit called Put a Period [PAP, a youth-led initiative for breaking menstrual taboos]. The idea was already in my mind—especially after the cyclone—to go into villages and train women how to make their own pads using clothing scraps. When I saw the peace project [application] I thought, okay, I'm going to apply!"

How is your project going?
"Our team [from PAP] back in Bangladesh has been scouting places, and we found a village where we could implement the project. We have trainers and sewing kits, and we've spoken to about 30 women in the village. I'm really hopeful about this. We will not only teach the women to make their own pads, but we feel like they will teach their kids, their friends—they'll amplify the message."

What's next for you?
"I've been working with women's health for the long term. I feel like I'm going to continue this anyplace that I am. It's just one of the passions of my life."

How does your project contribute to peace?
"Peace begins when a person is comfortable in their own body. When one can move, study, and work without apology or shame—even in the midst of climate disruption—that is when peace begins."



Faithrose Daniel '27

Statistical and data sciences major

What was the inspiration for your project?
"Growing up in Kenya, I witnessed women and girls in my community experience domestic violence and sexual assault, often without the safety, resources, or emotional support they needed to heal. I saw how survivors were expected to simply move forward, even while carrying trauma, shame, and financial dependence.

Those experiences stayed with me and inspired me to establish [the nonprofit] MamaPower, through which I have continued working with young mothers and survivors of violence. Over time, I realized that shelter and vocational training, while important, were not enough. A woman could learn a practical skill and still struggle to rebuild her life if her emotional wounds remained unaddressed. I wanted to create something that allowed healing and economic empowerment to happen together.

That's where Zizinduka began. The name combines *zizi*, meaning "roots," and *zinduka*, meaning "awakening." Together, they represent an awakening from the roots—a process of helping women heal deeply and rebuild their lives. Through art, fabric, color, sewing, and weaving, participants can express experiences that may be too painful to put into words, while also developing skills that can become a source of income."

How is your project going?
"We are currently working with 25 young women and girls between the ages of 11 and 23 from several refugee homes, including some I had worked with previously [with MamaPower]. We provide the art materials and trained art therapists who guide the participants through the healing and creative processes. Zizinduka is now registered as a nonprofit, and we are also developing a digital shop where the women's creations can be showcased and sold.

The program will culminate in a community celebration, where participants can share their work and community members can have honest conversations about domestic violence: Why does it continue to happen? What can each of us do to prevent it? For me, involving the wider community is essential. If we support survivors without addressing the attitudes and systems around them, they may return to the same harmful environments, and we will not have created lasting change."

What's next for you?
"I have always wanted to build something of my own, but more than that, I have always felt a responsibility that whatever I build should open doors for other people too. I think this comes from seeing how many talented women around me have ideas, skills, and creativity, but not always the support to turn those into stable incomes. So even if I end up in finance, technology, or something completely different, I know I will still be building Zizinduka alongside that.

My next step is to take Zizinduka's digital shop seriously as a real business, not just an add-on. I want the women's work to be seen and valued beyond the spaces we currently operate in—beyond Kigali, beyond Rwanda, and eventually beyond Africa. My long-term goal is for Zizinduka to generate real, consistent income for the women and for the organization, so that it can last without constantly depending on outside approval or funding cycles."

How does your project contribute to peace?
"Zizinduka contributes to peace by beginning with the individual. I believe peace is not only the absence of war or conflict; it is also the ability to feel safe in your own body, to speak without fear, to regain control over your life, and to imagine a future beyond what has happened to you. For women and girls who have experienced domestic or sexual violence, that kind of peace can be difficult to reach. Through art therapy, Zizinduka gives survivors a safe and creative way to process those experiences."

"Peace begins when a person is comfortable in their own body. When one can move, study, and work without apology or shame–even in the midst of climate disruption–that is when peace begins."

171,000

Since March 2023, Smith students have received $171,000 in Gilman Scholarships, helping earn the college recognition as one of the nation's top producers of Gilman Scholars. The award provides merit-based scholarships to U.S. undergraduates with high financial need to study or intern abroad. The recognition reflects Smith's commitment to providing a truly global education.

Victoria Is Taking Charge

By Allison Racicot

Victoria Flores-Almazan ’23 spends her days studying the human brain. Outside the lab, she’s thinking about another complicated system: how young people without money, connections, or family experience in higher education find their way through college and into a career.

It’s a problem Flores-Almazan knows firsthand. Born in Mexico and raised from age 10 in Kankakee, Illinois, she was the first person in her family to pursue higher education in the United States. Now a neuropathology research associate at Mount Sinai Medical Center and an aspiring physician, she is sharing the valuable lessons she learned in her new podcast and website *Take Charge With Victoria*, which offers resources to low-income and underserved students who may not understand how to begin pursuing a college degree.

“I want to connect with them and invest back in them because I understand,” she says. “I also needed that [help] when I was in their shoes.”

Finding Her Way In

For Flores-Almazan, figuring out how to get to college was only part of the challenge. She also had to figure out how to afford it. When she began applying to schools, she received some financial aid, but not enough to avoid putting significant financial pressure on herself and her family. In an effort to save money, Flores-Almazan enrolled at Kingsborough Community College (KCC) in Brooklyn, with plans to later transfer to the City University of New York. It was at KCC where, as an honors student, she was named a Kaplan Leadership Scholar.

That distinction would change the trajectory of her education. As a student in KCC Honors, Flores-Almazan first learned about Smith through the Kaplan Leadership Program, which selects high-achieving, underserved community college students and provides them with resources and support in applying to top colleges and universities across the country. She earned an associate degree in chemistry from KCC, applied to Smith and was accepted, and made her way to Northampton to work toward a bachelor’s degree in biochemistry.

Smith’s generous financial aid gave Flores-Almazan the opportunity to fully immerse herself in her studies without other distractions—something she’d never been able to do before.

“This was the first time in my life when I didn’t have to worry about money or how to figure out how to pay utilities or rent,” she says. “I could just focus on studying, enjoying the act of learning, and having fun. Smith really helped ease that burden.”

But financial support was only part of what she found at Smith. One of the most memorable aspects of her experience was the supportive faculty. “Right away, professors would tell us to call them by their first names. They made it clear that they’re not working above us, but right beside us.”

From Smith to Mount Sinai

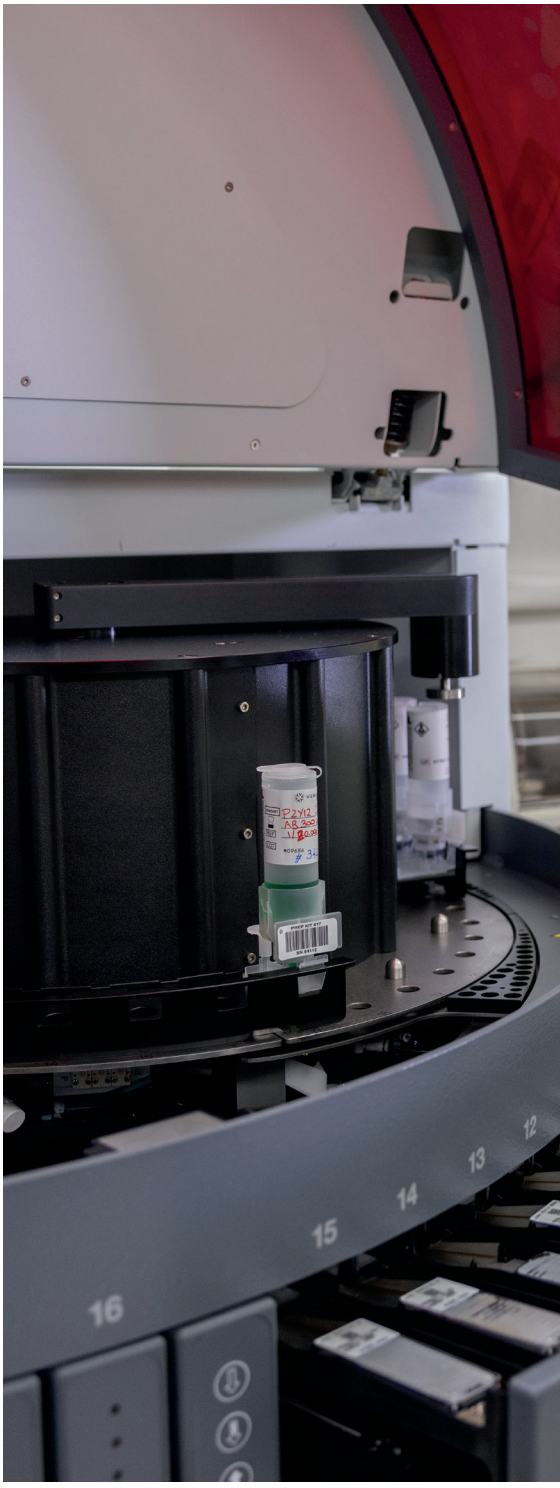
During the summer of 2022, leading up to her senior year at Smith, Flores-Almazan completed three internships. She spent the first month of the summer supporting Spanish-speaking students at a local multicultural high school, then worked as a research intern at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai’s Neuropathology Brain Bank and Research CoRE. To cap off the weeks, she spent her Saturdays volunteering at the Einstein Community Health Outreach (ECHO) Free Clinic in the Bronx.

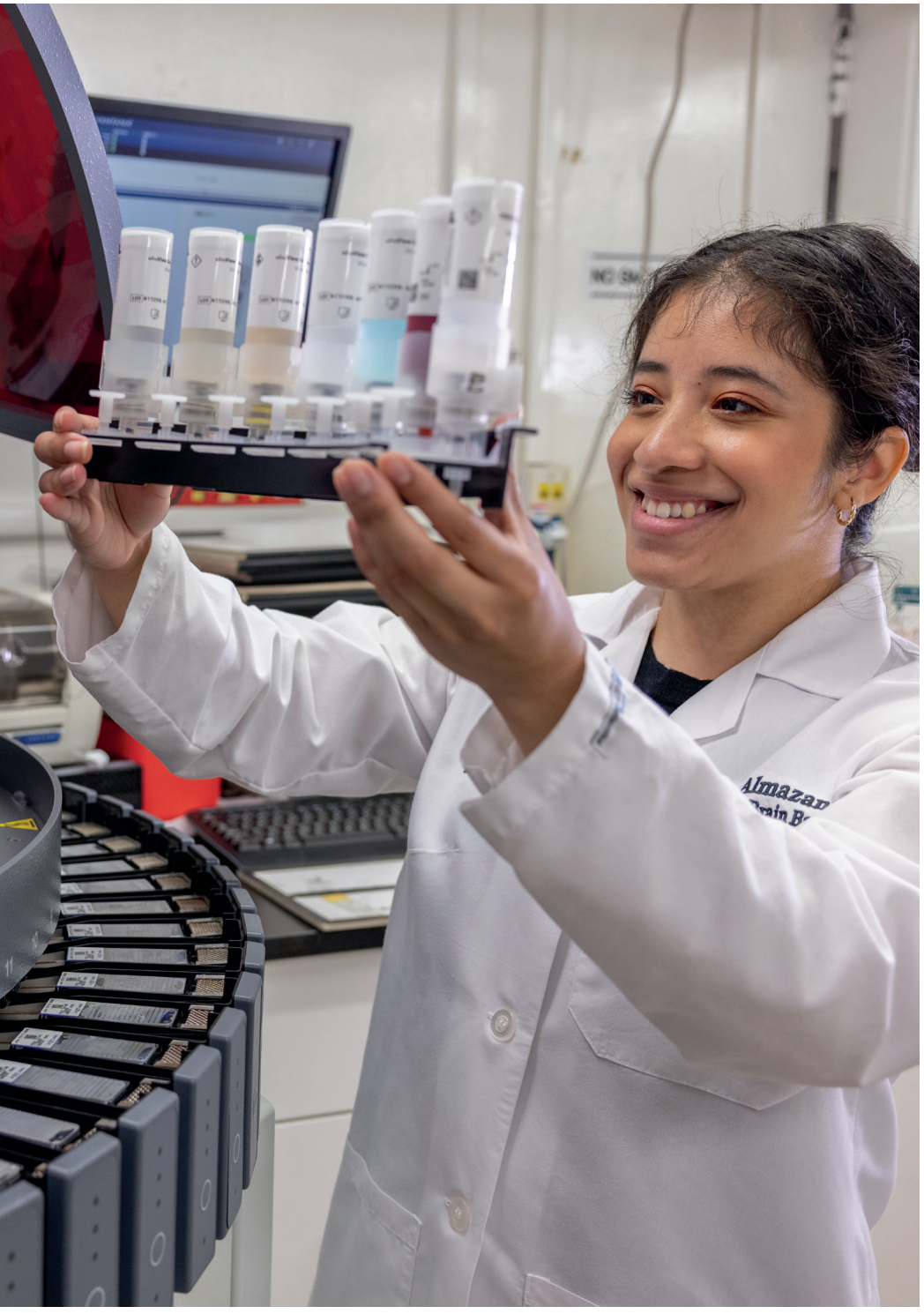
Her internship at the Brain Bank, which she secured through Praxis funding (to learn more, see the feature on p. 26 of this issue), led to the full-time position she holds today. During her time with the Mount Sinai Medical Center, Flores-Almazan has worked with three different Brain Bank teams—the clinical team that works directly with families of potential donors; the gross team that extracts, sections, and prepares the brain for close examination; and the histology team that cleans, slices, and dyes brain tissue samples before transferring them to microscope slides so they can be studied further and postmortem diagnoses can be made.

“I also help with training our new interns and other assistants,” she adds with a smile. “Full circle, right?”

Coming Full Circle

It is full circle in another way too. Even as Flores-Almazan moves toward medical school and a career as a physician, she is thinking about the students who will come after her—and what she wishes she had known when she was one of them. That desire led her to create the *Take Charge With Victoria* website.





"When I graduated from Smith, I started sharing my story and realized that a lot of high school students—especially first-generation immigrants—and their families had a lot of the same questions I did," she recalls.

The website earned Flores-Almazan a Mountaintop RIVET Fellowship that included a $500 grant to fund her website domain for a year. The fellowship's support helped her continue building the community around her work and extending her reach. She later earned additional funds to create the *Take Charge With Victoria* podcast—a move she hopes will spread the word about her resources even further.

In addition to offering a new, more easily accessible platform for her web content, Flores-Almazan plans for the podcast—which will be available on Spotify and YouTube—to include interviews with students who took less traditional paths in their education, as well as giveaways and raffles for everything from career advising and counseling appointments to her own MCAT textbooks.

The subjects Flores-Almazan has taken on may seem disparate—neuropathology, medicine, college access, financial literacy, immigration—but for her, they share a common denominator: helping others. She cites this quote originally penned by Bessie Anderson Stanley (but often misattributed to Ralph Waldo Emerson) to sum up her goals: "To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived; this is to have succeeded."

"That really resonates with me," she says. "If my life was able to make another's easier, to help create a better experience, then I'm happy for that to be my impact."

Victoria Flores-Almazan '23 holds up a tray of reagents used in an automated immunohistochemistry stainer that identifies proteins present in diseased brain tissue.

Photograph by Jessica Scranton

Nurturing Change in Ghana

By Allison Racicot

"Don't take no for an answer" is common advice for budding entrepreneurs, but Adwoa Pokuaa Boakye '27 disagrees. She thinks you absolutely *should* take no for an answer—and then keep going.

"I've made a lot of asks and gotten a lot of noes," she says. "Instead of pushing, I've learned to sit, reflect, and think about other options. Someone, somewhere, might be yearning for the opportunity to say yes to me. So just keep asking."

That blend of determination and flexibility has been crucial to the development of NurtureHer, a nonprofit Boakye founded to provide mothers in her home country of Ghana with nutritional education and guidance, health screenings, and other resources.

With support from the Jill Ker Conway Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center's Hatchery program, Boakye—a neuroscience major and chemistry minor—began turning her interest in maternal health and childcare into an organization focused on helping women in rural Ghana, where malnutrition for both mothers and children remains a serious issue.

Boakye researched facilities that NurtureHer could partner with and chose the Juaben Government Hospital in the Ashanti region of Ghana. She felt there was a genuine need for this community to have accessible maternal and child health education and resources. Boakye spoke with the hospital's nutritionists and members of its team, and with others who work directly with women navigating pregnancy.

"We wanted to determine the major problems these women face and then start coming up with ways to help them," she says.

One of the most prevalent challenges they identified was a lack of nutritional education. Many pregnant women have basic farming skills, Boakye explains, but some believe expensive, processed foods are their best—or only—source of adequate nutrition.

"The solution is so much closer to them than they can imagine," Boakye says. "We knew we had to step in, to educate these women and let them know that they don't need to depend only on expensive foods for adequate nutrition."



Running an organization in Ghana while attending college in Massachusetts presents its share of logistical challenges. Boakye relies on friends, volunteers, local nutritionists, doctors from the hospital—and her father, who is a teacher in Ghana, equally devoted to his students and his daughter's nonprofit.

"Oh, that man," Boakye says with a smile. "Sometimes it's last-minute, sometimes he has to cancel some of his appointments, but he still always makes time and steps up to help me."

In October 2025, Boakye and NurtureHer volunteers worked with a nutritionist to hold the organization's first nutritional education program. Boakye, who planned to follow the event by video call from the United States, was awake at 4 a.m. wondering whether anyone would come.

"What am I going to do if only two women show up?" she remembers thinking. Ultimately, their biggest problem was not having enough chairs—nearly 70 women attended.

"When I saw the turnout, I remember being amazed, surprised, thinking, 'Is this our event? Did we do this?'"

Needing more room was a problem Boakye was happy to have. NurtureHer soon held a cultural program and health screening in a larger location—with plenty of seating.

Today, Boakye hopes to secure partnerships and donations that will allow NurtureHer to expand into other communities. The experience has also taught her something about the kind of leadership such work requires.

"This all has made me better at using my voice, at asking for help," she says. "I've learned more about the power of genuine friendships and good relationships."

And, perhaps the most important lesson: "I can't do this alone."

Adwoa Pokuaa Boakye '27 doesn't let "no" deter her.

Photograph by Jessica Scranton

Drawing on Smith

By Megan Tkacy

A soaring three-story mural in the new Kathleen McCartney Hall offers a compelling narrative about the power of the Smith experience and the value of collaborative leadership.

"Seeing it, I was like—whoa! I could not have pictured in my head how big it would be," says Eloise Van Meter '26, a double major in studio art and French studies. She created the piece along with fellow mural intern Ruby Goldstein '27—a double major in studio art and history—and Boston-based artist Julia Emiliani, who is known for her murals.

Designed digitally and installed in April, the mural wraps around the walls of the building's central staircase, providing a vibrant, colorful visual element to greet and inspire visitors. "There are a lot of corners in the stairwell, and the mural is at an angle, so all of those elements were interesting puzzle pieces to pull together," Van Meter says.

Bringing the mural to life was a true collaboration. Van Meter and Goldstein spent hours combing through the Smith College Archives, looking for inspiration in scrapbooks, photos, and other relics from previous generations of Smithies. They also asked fellow students what they wanted to see in a mural, and presented their ideas to campus stakeholders, including faculty, staff, and students. "That feedback heavily influenced what ended up in the mural," says Van Meter.

Once the concepts were approved, they worked remotely with Emiliani to turn the winning ideas into art. Emiliani, in turn, relied on Goldstein and Van Meter to educate her about campus culture so she could help create an accurate and authentic piece of art. "She would prompt us with, 'Draw me something that feels iconic to Smith.' So we did our best to do that." Emiliani used their sketches and put them in her own style so the mural would have a cohesive look. The final piece comprises 90-plus scenes that encapsulate key elements of the Smith experience, including Mountain Day and the history of student activism.

Goldstein says her favorite scene in the mural is a depiction of the Smith Chop. "Basically, a lot of people come to campus with long hair, and once they're here for maybe a semester or less, they get the Smith Chop—where another student cuts your hair, and it's usually a distinctly queer hairstyle," Goldstein explains. "In the archives, we found an image of a student cutting another student's hair, and I was like, 'This is so perfect. This is so Smith-specific.'"

Given that the mural lives in McCartney Hall, home to both the Lazarus Center for Career Development and the Wurtele Center for Collaborative Leadership, it was important for Goldstein and Van Meter to include scenes of collaborative leadership, which turned out to be more difficult than they thought.

"We wanted to avoid scenes of leadership that were someone winning at the expense of someone else losing, like I got the job and you didn't," Goldstein says. "We wanted to showcase leadership in a way that felt like bringing together a community and celebrating a bunch of different kinds of work. We spent a long time looking at photos of student protests and really delved into the history of athletics at Smith, collecting images that might not be what you traditionally think of in terms of leadership."

The eventual plan is to transform the mural into something new in five years, giving a fresh cohort of student artists a chance to leave their mark at Smith.

"The idea for the mural to be temporary was built into the project from its original conceptualization, with the idea that leadership and career themes are shifting and dynamic, and we want the space to be a canvas for future generations of Smithies to be able to interpret what that means to them over time rather than installing something static and unchanging," says Erin Park Cohn '00, director of the Wurtele Center. "We also want to offer more opportunities down the road for student interns to participate in the creation of a future mural, so this isn't just a one-time project."



Eloise Van Meter '26 (left), Ruby Goldstein '27 (center), and mural artist Julia Emiliani.

Photograph by Jessica Scranton

Decoding Brain Injury

By Cheryl Dellecese



It's estimated that each year in the United States, nearly 4 million people suffer a concussion. They occur in every age group—from curious babies to fall-prone seniors—and can happen quickly, and surprisingly quietly.

Despite the frequency of concussions, detecting one is not an exact science—yet. Unlike a broken bone that shows up on an X-ray, a concussion can leave no visible mark. Symptoms may not appear for days, and diagnosis often depends largely on what patients report.

Ingo Helmich, director of Smith's Motor Neuroscience and Neuroimaging Laboratory and assistant professor of exercise and sport studies, is working to change that. A motor neuroscientist and movement scientist, Helmich is exploring ways to combine measurements of brain activity and movement with real-time data from the playing field to better diagnose sports-related concussions.

His current research involves Smith's rugby team. Before the season, Helmich establishes a baseline for each player's movement, balance, and cognitive processes using functional near-infrared spectroscopy (fNIRS). Players wear lightweight caps embedded with sensors that measure changes in blood oxygenation in the brain while allowing them to move freely.

Paired with cameras and motion-capture equipment, fNIRS allows Helmich to observe brain function and movement simultaneously. Concussions are often characterized by postural deficits, which are impairments in a person's ability to maintain balance and stability. "So, I use movement science and brain science together to get a better understanding of post-concussion deficits," he says.

The combination is important because traditional concussion assessments can depend heavily on symptoms and performance. An athlete may appear to have recovered—or even perform better on some tests—while changes in brain activity suggest something more complicated is happening beneath the surface.

The research then moves onto the field. During games and practices, players wear mouthguards equipped with sensors that record head acceleration and impact in real time. If a player registers a significant hit, they return to the lab, where Helmich compares postimpact results with their preseason baseline.

Helmich cites a recent case that reveals why those comparisons matter: A player who had suffered two concussions before the spring season experienced another significant hit in March and reported symptoms, including headaches. And while the follow-up testing showed slight improvements in the player's cognitive score and balance, the brain told a different story.

Although the player performed as well as—or slightly better than—before the injury, their brain activation patterns had changed markedly, suggesting that the brain was working significantly harder to achieve similar results.

"This showed that after the potential concussion, the student's brain works differently than before for the same performance," Helmich says.

Such data could also shed light on the effects of repeated subconcussive impacts, such as headers in soccer. Helmich hopes that more sensitive real-time measurements could eventually help coaches and medical professionals make better-informed decisions about when an athlete should rest—or even stop—and when it is safe to return to play.

Helmich's plans extend well beyond rugby. He hopes to include athletes from other sports and other area colleges, including men's teams, and eventually follow participants for five to 10 years. A longitudinal study could help researchers understand not only what happens immediately after a concussion but whether repeated impacts produce neurological changes that persist over time.

Students are also central to the work. In addition to participating in the research, Smith students serve as lab assistants—conducting assessments, analyzing data, and contributing ideas. For students interested in neuroscience, exercise science, medicine, and related fields, the lab offers the opportunity to take part in research with potential applications far beyond campus.

"Smith students are very creative," Helmich says. "I benefit from their ideas so much."

A student wears the fNIRS cap for concussion research.

Photograph by Jessica Scranton

The Complete Plath

By Cheryl Dellecese

There is, it seems, always more to discover about Sylvia Plath '55—whose life, writing, and death have intrigued poets and scholars for decades.

That realization led to *The Poems of Sylvia Plath*, a new variorum edition documenting the poems' revisions and variants, published in May by Faber & Faber and co-edited by Plath scholars Karen V. Kukil and Amanda Golden—both Smith College research affiliates.

The most complete volume of Plath's poetry to date, this new collection spans almost her entire life, from childhood poems through the celebrated works of her final years.

"A lot of what the public knows about her work is the work she produced closer to her death," says Golden. "But here we have poems from 1937 to 1963, including a poem she wrote at age 5, poems written as a college student, as well as the complex revisions behind her most celebrated works."

The volume contains 532 poems, nearly double the number in the previous collected edition, *Sylvia Plath: The Collected Poems*, published in 1981 and edited by Plath's estranged husband, the late Ted Hughes. It also includes more than 500 pages of new notes and annotations, compared with the 20 pages Hughes provided.

Hughes controlled access to Plath's journals after her death, publishing a selected edition in 1982. He also stipulated that two of Plath's journals held at Smith remain sealed until Feb. 11, 2013—the 50th anniversary of her death. He reversed that decision shortly before his own death in 1998, allowing Kukil to unseal and transcribe the journals 13 years ahead of schedule. Kukil incorporated them into *The Unabridged Journals of Sylvia Plath, 1950–1962*, which she edited and published in 2000. Kukil later co-edited the two-volume *Letters of Sylvia Plath*, published in 2017 and 2018.

For Kukil and Golden, the five-year project—*The Poems of Sylvia Plath*—fills gaps left by earlier editions. Among them is Plath's now-famous villanelle "Mad Girl's Love Song," which Hughes omitted from his collection.

The new edition also restores dozens of early poems in chronological order, accompanied by detailed notes drawn from archives at Smith, the Lilly Library at Indiana University, the Morgan Library and Museum, the British Library, and other collections worldwide.

But the collection offers more than a fuller accounting of Plath's poetry. It also reveals how methodically she approached the work of being a writer. Her meticulous submission logs tracked where she sent her work, which magazines accepted it, how much she was paid, and when.

That discipline, the editors say, complicates the popular image of Plath as a writer defined primarily by sadness. Instead, the archives reveal a highly organized, ambitious student and professional writer.

Plath's connection to Smith runs deep. She studied and later taught at the college and wrote many of her best-known works, including *The Bell Jar*, on the now-famous pink Smith memo paper. The Plath archive in Smith's Mortimer Rare Book Collection continues to draw scholars and readers from around the world.

Kukil witnessed the archive's power to change perceptions of Plath when she was teaching classes on the poet during her tenure as associate curator of special collections.

"As a class exercise, I would ask for an adjective to describe Plath, and the responses were all pretty dark," Kukil says.

After students worked with drafts of Plath's poems and letters, Kukil asked again.

"They were always much more positive," she says. "You have to really read Plath to get a sense of her."

For Kukil and Golden, that is ultimately what the new edition offers readers—the opportunity to see Plath not simply through the lens of her final months, but through a lifetime of ambition, discipline, craft, and creativity.



Amanda Golden (left) and Karen V. Kukil captured a truer image of Sylvia Plath '55 in the new edition of *The Poems of Sylvia Plath*.

Photograph by Jessica Scranton

MEET THE CLASS OF 2030

1,677
Admitted students

8,630
Applications

19%
Admit rate

14%
International students

37
Countries represented

17%
First-gen students

20%
Pell Grant recipients

65%
Receiving Smith aid

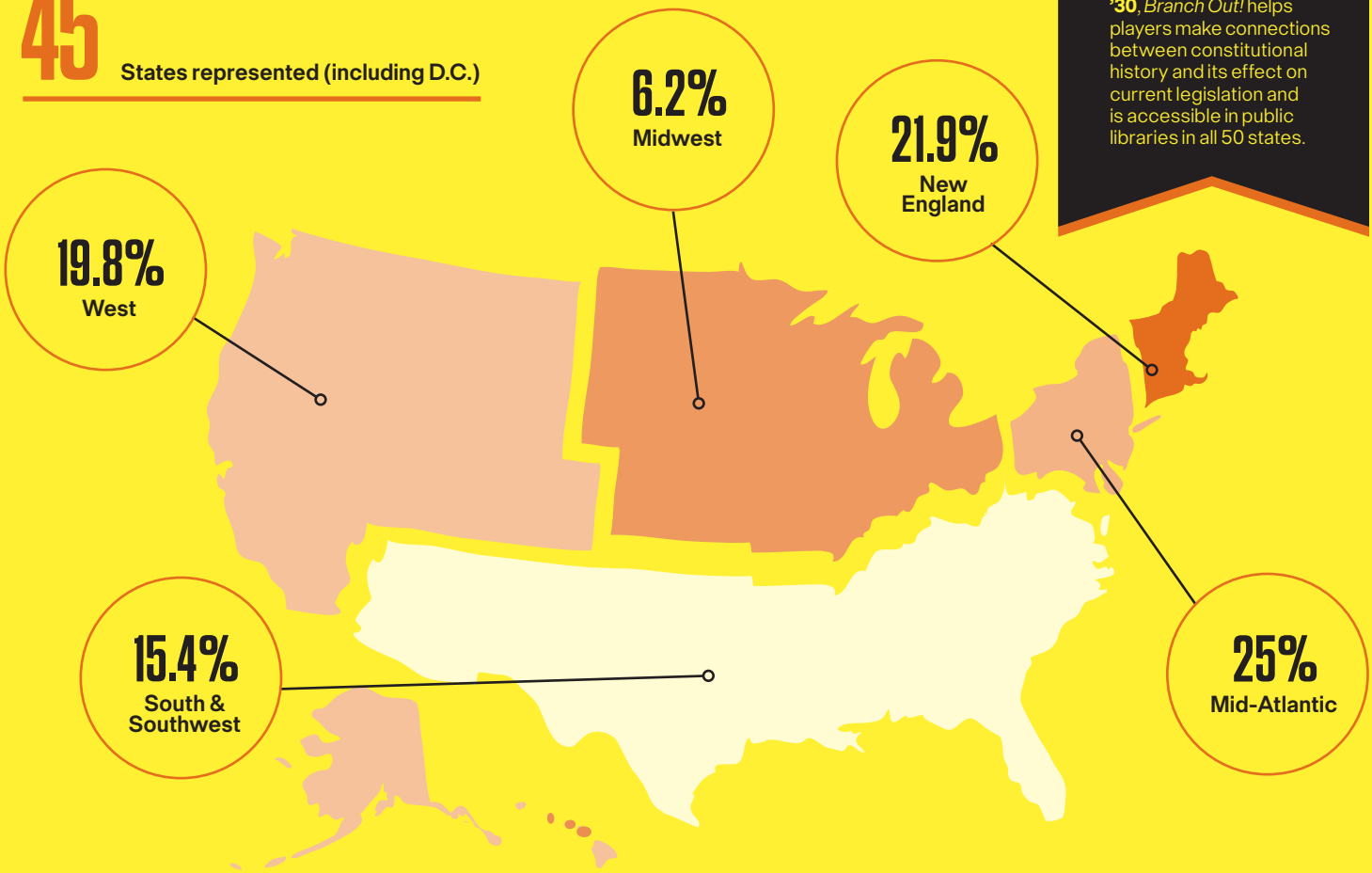
648
Class size

23
Transfer students

8
Ada Comstock transfers

As the co-author of a published research paper on 3D models of marine animals, **Isabel French-Luce '30** has got you covered when it comes to fun facts about sharks and marine biology.

45
States represented (including D.C.)



Looking for your new favorite board game? Created by **Julia Brumer '30**, *Branch Out!* helps players make connections between constitutional history and its effect on current legislation and is accessible in public libraries in all 50 states.

17%
Students associated with local, national, or international community-based organizations

39%
Domestic students of color

11.7%
Schooled abroad

68
Individual community-based organizations affiliated with students

Inspired by her work in the Model UN Club at her high school in Thailand, **Gammie Jungpaibul '30** applied her passion for diplomacy, political systems, and humans rights to real-world scenarios by landing an internship with the People's Party—a leading progressive party in Thai politics.

Identity	Federally Reported	Self-Reported
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.2%	2.2%
Asian American	8.6%	16.0%
Black or African American	5.1%	10.8%
Latinx	14.5%	14.5%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.2%
Two or more races	10.3%	N/A
White	44.3%	63.3%
Did not report	2.9%	2.9%
International citizens	14.0%	14.0%



WRITING a REVOLUTION

Before Gloria Steinem '56 became an icon of the women's movement, she was a writer—and words remained her most powerful instrument for change.

BY LORI L. THARPS '94

Poet and activist Sonia Sanchez said, "All writers are political. They either maintain the status quo, or they say, 'Something's wrong, let's change it for the better.'" In this quote, Sanchez perfectly describes Gloria Steinem—a writer who noticed something was very wrong in the lives of American women, and then did her best to "change it for the better."

I've long admired Steinem, but the truth is, if I hadn't been asked to write this tribute, I would have kept my admiration of her on a shelf reserved for feminist leaders and trailblazers of the women's movement. I would have honored her memory by referencing all of the many things she accomplished to make this world a safer and more just place for women and girls—from being an active proponent of Title IX, which, among other things, opened doors and opportunities to women and girls in schools and sports—to co-founding seminal organizations, including the Women's Action Alliance, the National Women's Political Caucus, and *Ms.* magazine. Not to mention, she spent her life supporting untold numbers of individuals and institutions that champion women and girls, including our own Smith College.

But I *was* asked to write this story because, like Steinem, I am a journalist, an activist, and a storyteller, and I had a journalist's hunch that Steinem might not want to be remembered as the face of the feminist movement. Instead, she might be more comfortable being lionized as a writer who used her words to change the world. Because it was her words—in books, in articles, in speeches, and in the intimate conversations she had with everyday people—that perhaps should be considered her greatest legacy.

What's more, in examining her origin story—how Gloria Steinem the writer became Gloria Steinem the activist—we get to witness her evolution and her motivations for trying to make a difference. We get to see how as a writer, Steinem was always willing to learn new things, seek new perspectives, and perhaps most importantly, change her mind and update her opinions. Writers have to do that. They have to stay mentally nimble, actively curious, and open to new ideas. Steinem did all of those things for over seven decades, which is how she stayed relevant and why she continued to write, to organize, and to hack away at the shackles of patriarchy. And when a person does something so well and for so long, it's almost inevitable they will be referred to as an icon.

But icons aren't born, they are forged in the fire of experience. They are shaped by the people who came before them. They gain wisdom by listening not to other icons, but to the people they are trying to serve. This is how Steinem came to be a great champion of women. And when we understand *that* narrative—the true origin story of her activism—rather than the myth of her exceptionalism, we all benefit. Not only because the truth is always better than soundbites and headlines, but also because Steinem's path to exceptionalism was actually quite simple and anyone could follow suit. All it takes is a desire to make things better.

Gloria Steinem writing in her New York City apartment in the fall of 1990.

Photograph by Barbara Alper/Getty Images

Raised by Books

Gloria Marie Steinem was born in Toledo, Ohio, on March 25, 1934. Her father, Leo Steinem, was a dreamer who was always coming up with new business ideas but never quite able to find his financial footing. In the summers, he ran a dance hall in Michigan. In the winters, the family would hitch a camper to the back of their car and drive to either California or Florida to escape the bitter cold. Along the way, Steinem's father would sell antiques for money.

Because of her family's itinerant lifestyle, Steinem didn't regularly attend school until she was 12 years old, when her parents divorced. But she taught herself to read and educated herself with a voracious reading habit—a habit perhaps gleaned from her mother, Ruth, who had once worked as a newspaper journalist. Before she married Leo Steinem, Ruth had dreams of moving to New York City and becoming a writer.

Following her parents' divorce, Steinem and her mother eventually settled in East Toledo. Money was tight, and Gloria was left to take care of her mother, who dealt with serious mental health issues that included severe depression and hallucinations. It was a difficult childhood marked by poverty and instability, but Steinem always found solace in her books. "I love to read," Steinem told journalist Evelyn White in 2007. "That was my big escape when we were living in the house trailer. I would sit up all night and just enter into the world of the book."



By the time she arrived at Smith College in 1952, Steinem was grateful for the comfort and stability the college offered, something she'd never had growing up. But what Steinem really loved about Smith was that she could read to her heart's content. "Once I was at Smith, I fell in love with all kinds of reading that I had not known about," Steinem said in that same interview with White. "I took a course in Russian authors. I read *War and Peace* and Dostoevsky. I remember sitting in the library, crying over *Crime and Punishment*."

Contrary to what some may assume, Smith wasn't a hotbed of activism during Steinem's time there. Discussions over Friday Tea were hardly radical. This was the 1950s, so most students were focused on finding a fiancé rather than a fulfilling career after graduation. Steinem herself hoped to work for a few years and then maybe marry a professor so she could stay ensconced in the academic world and have unlimited access to all the books.

Even though she loved reading, while she was at Smith, Steinem never officially declared she wanted to pursue a literary career. "I always wanted to be a writer ever since I was a little girl reading Louisa May Alcott," she told *The Boston Globe* in 2022. "But I didn't know how I was going to do that. I didn't know how I was going to make a living." Unfortunately, Steinem wasn't able to get any advice from fellow Smithie Sylvia Plath about her literary ambitions, despite their shared time on campus. Plath was only one year ahead of Steinem and perhaps would have encouraged her to try her hand at writing for one of Smith's many literary publications, as she had. Or maybe she did suggest that. While I did find one issue of *The Sophian* where both Plath and Steinem have a byline, I have found no record of a friendship.

A Passage to India

Steinem graduated with honors from Smith in 1956 as a government major and won a fellowship that allowed her to spend two years in India. And while some would say this is where the story of Gloria Steinem the activist begins, I would argue that this is the beginning of her story as a writer.

Those familiar with the activist narrative of Steinem's life know how to connect the dots between the work she was doing in India—studying grassroots activism—and her future role in the feminist movement. But in this new narrative, the one where we understand that icons are made not born, India was the first place Steinem felt free in the world. And that's the thing about writers: Before we can write, we have to collect experiences to fuel our creative imagination and ignite our curiosity. We need to see the world and meet her citizens. "Gloria was so open and so curious about cultures and people and their stories," confirms Mona Sinha '88, CEO of Equality Now and a close personal friend and neighbor to Steinem. "She always had this curiosity in her that she just wanted to know more."

It is true that while she was in India, Steinem was learning about political movements, community building, and grassroots organizing. But it is also true that while she was in India, she ran out of money and ended up writing articles for a local Indian newspaper to earn a small salary. It was one of the first times she got paid for her writing, so one could say that was the spark that convinced Steinem she could turn her secret writing dreams into a real career.

Journalism Before Activism

Steinem moved to New York City in 1960 and threw herself into launching her journalism career, picking up freelance gigs wherever possible. There weren't a lot of opportunities for women journalists at the time, but that didn't stop her from getting assignments at both women's magazines and pop culture publications.

One of the articles Steinem is most famous for from this time in her career was the one she wrote for *Show* magazine in 1963 about the life of a *Playboy* bunny. Steinem went undercover and worked for three weeks as a bunny at the New York branch of the Playboy Club. The story exposed the poor treatment that female employees had to endure, as well as other negative aspects of the club. Many people assume this article was the one that radicalized Steinem and inspired her to turn her career toward championing women's causes. But that's not true. In fact, for many years, Steinem regretted writing that article because it led to a host of legal issues, and she felt it tarnished her reputation as a serious journalist.

At this point, Steinem was just trying her best to find opportunities to write. More often

Gloria Steinem '56 stayed connected to Smith College her entire life. She gave Smith's Commencement address three times, in 1971, 1995, and 2007; began donating her papers to Special Collections in 1984; was awarded an honorary degree in 1988; received the Smith Medal in 2017; and had a reading room in Neilson Library named for her in 2022. This timeline is but a brief list of her many accomplishments over her iconic lifetime.

1956 • Graduated from Smith College with a bachelor's degree in government

1957 • Journeyed to India on the Chester Bowles Asian Fellowship awarded by Smith College—an experience that would greatly influence her career in feminist activism

1968 • Co-founded and was a contributing editor for *New York Magazine*, a publication she would use to write about political and women's rights issues

than not, women writers were relegated to writing about food, fashion, family life, or home decor. Over time, Steinem's reputation as a skilled journalist grew and she became a recognized talent in the media landscape, writing a wide variety of articles for publications that included *New York Magazine*, *Esquire*, *Glamour*, and *Vogue*.

During this era, Steinem wrote really incisive and astute profiles on some of the most popular figures of the time, including James Baldwin, Truman Capote, Robert Redford, Tom Wolfe, and Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. She also wrote a regular political column for *New York Magazine*, which indicates just how well respected she was as a writer and how much she was learning about the diversity of the human experience. In fact, throughout her career, she won several journalism awards, including the National Magazine Award and the Lifetime Achievement in Journalism Award from the Society of Professional Journalists.

In 1969, Steinem was sent to cover a meeting of the Redstockings—a radical feminist group—for *New York Magazine*. It was a multiracial group of women meeting to discuss their abortion experiences, a conversation that made clear for Steinem the connection between the lack of women's reproductive choices, sexism, and inequality. This was Steinem's lightbulb moment that inspired her to do something definitive—to get involved in the feminist movement. But her first act wasn't protesting in the streets, instead, it was picking up her pen. Her response was a column titled "After Black Power, Women's Liberation." This was Steinem's official "coming out" moment as an activist. She was 35 years old. Icons, remember, are made over time.

Once Steinem wrote that piece about women's liberation, it was almost impossible for her to stop the momentum of her own evolution in the feminist movement. But her most powerful weapon in the fight for equality wasn't her voice—or her face—it was her words. Sinha says Steinem initially wrote articles about feminism because she was afraid to speak in public. But even after she found her speaking voice, Steinem never stopped using the written word as her primary source of activism. In fact, one could argue that her greatest contribution to the women's movement was the creation of *Ms.* magazine.

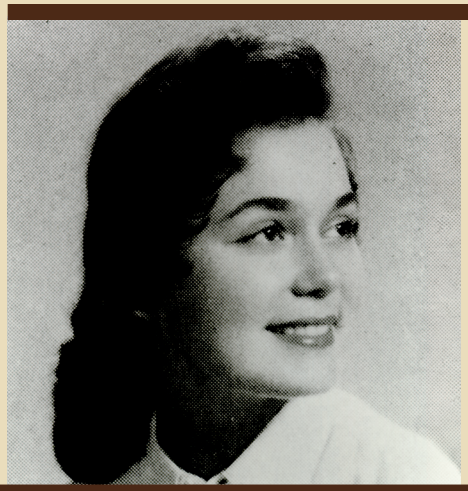
The Ms. Revolution

"Gloria Steinem understood early on that the feminist struggle would be fought through the media," said journalist Rokhaya Diallo in a tribute to Steinem in *The Guardian*. And indeed, Steinem's writing and her activism were forever entwined, from the moment she and her six co-founders decided to launch the very first magazine written for women and published by women in the United States.

It is not hyperbole to classify *Ms.* as revolutionary. More than a new law or a new organization, *Ms.* did something Steinem deeply believed in: It built a community. *Ms.* magazine was like the secret password for American women who were fed up with feeling marginalized and alone. It shed light on their shared experience by putting it on the page—not the story of the perfect woman or the perfect housewife, but the messy, complicated reality they were actually living. *Ms.* gave American women a new narrative for their lives. It gave them language to describe their pain and permission to voice their pleasures. And perhaps most importantly, *Ms.* gave them a place where they could tell their own stories in the publication's popular Letters-to-the-Editor section, which became one of the most beloved parts of the periodical.

In short, *Ms.* was a revolution delivered to your door. Which meant one didn't have to live in a major city to access the information, resources, and energy of the growing feminist movement. The magazine united women across the country who were ready to launch their own liberation.

Today, we might call the kind of journalism Steinem and the other *Ms.* editors were using "social justice journalism" or "solutions journalism." Name aside, it is the kind that doesn't endeavor to be objective; instead, the goal is to incite social change—"change for the better," as Sonia Sanchez said. It's the same method Ida B. Wells used to call attention to her anti-lynching crusade at the beginning of the 20th century, and how Frederick Douglass pleaded his case for abolition in the popular press. As a student of history and a careful observer of the human condition,







L to R: A young Steinem with books in the 1940s (Courtesy of Gloria's Foundation); 1956 Smith College Yearbook, *The Hamper*; Steinem speaks from a podium at a press conference about *Ms.* magazine (Photo by Robert R. McElroy/Getty Images); Steinem signs books at the Auraria college bookstore in 1983 (*The Denver Post* via Getty Images).

1969 • Announced at an abortion speak-out event in New York City that she'd had an illegal abortion in London when she was 22 years old

1971 • Formed the National Women's Political Caucus to increase political participation and decision-making power for women with congresswomen Bella Abzug and Shirley Chisholm, and activists Fannie Lou Hamer and Betty Friedan '42

1972 • Co-founded *Ms.* magazine—a feminist publication that was the first of its kind—with journalists Patricia Carbine and Letty Cottin Pogrebin

1972 • Co-founded the Ms. Foundation for Women to advance gender equality and the Free To Be Foundation, which created children's educational products that challenge stereotypes, fight discrimination, and encourage individuality

Steinem knew speaking in public was important to rally a crowd. But if you needed people all over the nation to not only hear the message but also understand what was at stake, you had to put that message down on paper and then send it out into the world. "There is something about seeing the printed word, so portable and personal, that can change our idea of the possible," Steinem wrote in the introduction to her posthumous memoir, *An Unexpected Life*.

Ironically, it was the launching of *Ms.* magazine and her very public-facing role as one of its editors that kept Steinem from writing as much as she wanted to. "It's one of the ironies of trying to be a writer and an activist at the same time, that just when you feel you have the most to write about, you have the least time in which to write it," Steinem said in 1983, as she was preparing for the launch of her bestselling book, *Outrageous Acts and Everyday Rebellions*. And it's true, even in her final years, Steinem continued to lament that she hadn't written enough.

It's All About the Stories

Steinem wrote 10 books, more than half of which explored some aspect of her own life. Through her memoirs, Steinem interrogated her experiences and tried to make meaning from them, with the goal of helping the rest of us get more out of life.

In truth, Steinem was far more interested in hearing other people's stories than in talking about herself, which is what made her such a good writer. She was genuinely fascinated by people and helped anyone she could, as evidenced by everyone who has a Gloria Steinem story, especially Smithies. When reaching out to our alums, over 40 people immediately responded with fond memories, photos, and stories of brief but memorable times when Steinem made time—for both friends and fans—to offer up advice, support, and laughter. "The most consistent compliment I heard from people after they'd met Gloria was how interested she was in them," says Winter Miller '95, who considered Steinem a mentor and gracious supporter of her work as a playwright. "She was a genuine listener and her lifeblood was connection with others."



1979 • Co-founded Voters for Choice, a political action committee supporting pro-choice legislation and political candidates and access to safe abortions

1983 • Published *Outrageous Acts and Everyday Rebellions*, a personal essay collection about gender inequality

1992 • Created annual Take Our Daughters To Work Day, introducing young girls to various careers, breaking rigid gender roles in the workforce

1993 • Inducted into the Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, New York, for her profound and impactful commitment to the women's rights movement

1997 • Joined the Smith College Board of Trustees for a five-year term



The Reluctant Icon

In almost every interview I read to research this story, Steinem pushed back on the idea that she was the face of the feminist movement. She would often refer to the Black women and other women of color—like her speaking partners Florynce Kennedy and Dorothy Pitman Hughes—who taught her "everything she knew about feminism," as the true leaders of the movement. She also bristled at the icon label. "She did not see herself as an icon," says Sinha. "[Gloria] saw herself as someone who could encourage other voices to be heard." And that's exactly what Steinem did throughout her lifetime. She used her platform to platform others. And while she did do much of this work in person, on stages, and often in her own living room, she never stopped putting her ideas down on the page. "Being a writer was the essence of who Gloria was," says Sinha. "Writing was how she expressed herself and how she communicated with the world."

Steinem confirmed Sinha's assessment in her recent memoir. She wrote: "There are many ways to reach out to one another, from the touch of a hand to the sound of a voice. I've chosen words, and writing because books are what touched me the most when I was growing up, and also because they can be translated and, thus, can journey to different parts of the world."

Steinem may never have set out to become an activist, much less an icon. She simply kept paying attention, listening to other people's stories, and putting what she learned into words. "We have to behave as if everything we do matters," she wrote in *My Life on the Road*. "Because it might."

Thank you, Gloria. It did. ●

Steinem at her desk. (Photo by Mel Finkelstein/*NY Daily News* Archive via Getty Images)

1997 • Participated in the roundtable discussion "In Pursuit of Justice: Women's Equality and the Public Good," presented alongside Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's acceptance of the first Sophia Smith Award

2005 • Co-founded the Women's Media Center, a nonprofit seeking to create more visibility for women's stories and women working in media, alongside Robin Morgan and Jane Fonda

2013 • Awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama

2022 • The Special Collections Reading Room in Neilson Library of Smith College is renamed the Gloria Steinem '56 Special Collections Reading Room

2026 • Posthumously published *An Unexpected Life*, a final memoir about her expansive and transformative life as a feminist activist



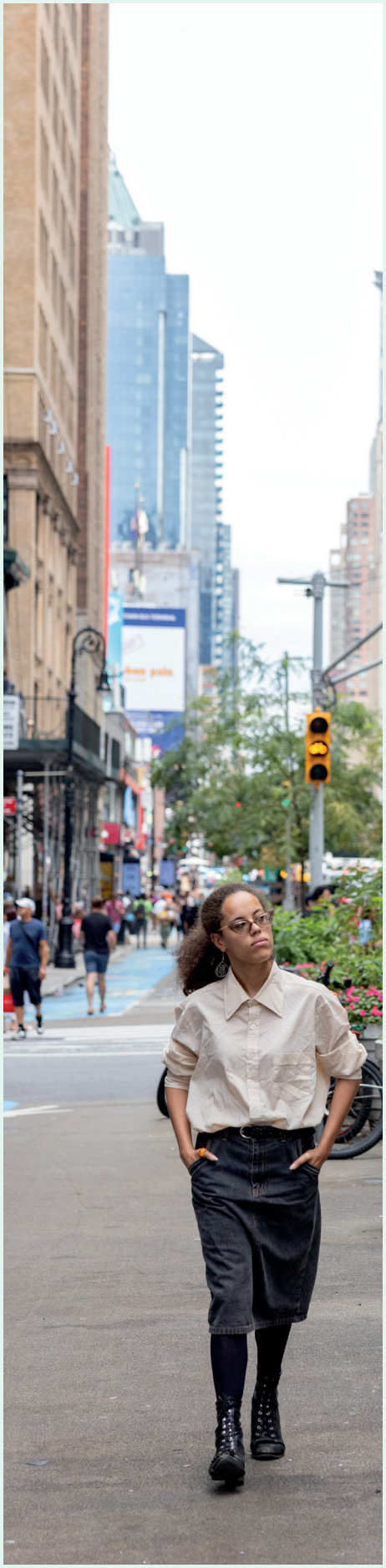


Nina Paris '27 at NASA

THE WORK BEFORE WORK

From NASA headquarters to a Himalayan hospital, Smith students are discovering how experience beyond the classroom can shape the work—and lives—that come next.

By Gigi Marino
Photograph by Rebecca Drobis



In 1999, Smith College made an unusual promise to its students: If they found an unpaid internship that could help them explore a career and gain professional experience, the college would help make it financially possible. The result was Praxis—a pioneering program spearheaded by then-President Ruth Simmons built on the idea that the value of an internship shouldn't depend on a student's ability to work for free.

At Smith, eligible students don't compete for a limited pool of money to make an unpaid summer internship possible. Instead, any student who secures a qualifying internship can receive a stipend—$3,500 for an internship in their country of residence and $4,500 outside of it—to help make the experience affordable.

"We were one of the first institutions to offer a guaranteed, funded internship experience for students," says Deborah Wijnhoven, assistant dean of employer partnerships and career communities at Smith's Lazarus Center for Career Development, which manages Praxis. The ambition behind the program was audacious but simple: Every Smith student should have the opportunity to gain real-world work experience before graduating.

More than a quarter-century later, that experience has become more important than ever. At one time, a college degree might have been enough to open the door to an entry-level job, where a new graduate could learn the ropes. Increasingly, however, employers expect graduates to arrive ready to contribute from day one. "The narrative used to be that you need at least one internship to be a competitive applicant," Wijnhoven says. "Now we're saying you really need two." Employers are also recruiting students earlier, she says, with some actively seeking first-years for internships.

Research underscores the importance of on-the-job experience. According to the Cengage Group's 2025 *Graduate Employability Report*, nearly half of recent graduates said they felt unprepared to apply for entry-level positions, and 56% of those who felt unprepared identified a lack of job-specific skills as their biggest gap. Among graduates working in jobs related to their degrees, 87% said an internship helped them secure their position.

Cengage's 2026 *Employability Report*, which surveyed college instructors, found that while 83% believe the class of 2026 is prepared to enter the workforce, 58% believe today's graduates are less prepared for work than graduates were a decade ago, citing declines in critical thinking, communication, and work ethic.

The employment landscape is also shifting as artificial intelligence assumes more of the routine tasks in certain professional fields, raising the premium on graduates who can apply knowledge, exercise judgment, communicate effectively, and solve problems from the outset.

Those are also precisely the kinds of skills at the heart of a liberal arts education.

"We have employers who come to Smith specifically because we have these diverse liberal arts students who are critical thinkers and good communicators," Wijnhoven says. Even engineering employers, she notes, value students who combine technical knowledge with the interdisciplinary thinking that comes from studying across the liberal arts.

Making Opportunity Possible

Recognizing the value of an internship, however, is different from being able to take one. Many potentially transformative internships—in government, the arts, research, nonprofit organizations, and other fields—are unpaid. For a student who needs summer earnings, an exciting opportunity can carry an impossible price tag. Praxis was created to help close that gap.

Today, approximately 400 Smith undergraduates each year receive Praxis stipends for unpaid internships in the United States and abroad. Since the program began, Praxis has supported more than 10,000 internships worldwide. The stipend is not need-based or awarded through a competition for a limited number of grants. All students are eligible for one Praxis stipend during their undergraduate years, and students enrolled in a Smith concentration are eligible for a second stipend through Praxis Plus.

Praxis-funded internships are easy to track because students must apply for and receive funding through the program. Other internships and summer research experiences don't necessarily pass through the Lazarus Center, making a precise count more difficult. Even so, survey data collected from recent graduates shows that approximately 85% of Smith students complete at least one internship.

Summer internships must encompass at least 220 hours over a minimum of five and a half weeks.

And students don't necessarily wait for someone to post the perfect position. Many create their own internships.

"I think that's what's cool about Praxis," says Emily Beaudry, Praxis internship manager. A student is able to apply to an established internship program, or they can approach an organization doing work that fascinates them and create an internship that doesn't exist yet.

"They might say, 'I see you don't have any internships posted. Can we talk about creating an internship?'" In fact, Beaudry says, many students report that they found their internships by creating the opportunities themselves, as did Emma Cohler '27, who sought an internship in the Himalayas to study maternal health.

A World Beyond the Classroom

Praxis is just one spoke in the wheel of Smith's larger approach to experiential learning and career development. Throughout a student's time at Smith, the Lazarus Center helps them explore fields, identify opportunities, prepare applications, connect with employers and alums, and understand how the skills they develop at Smith translate into the workplace.

The network that helps Smithies discover, develop, and create internships extends well beyond Northampton. Wijnhoven says Smith alums have been among the Lazarus Center's strongest partners, opening doors at their own organizations and helping students navigate industries and career paths.

Among them is Bonita LloydNettles '75—co-founder of the Harlem Renaissance Economic Development Corporation—who estimates that she has supervised some 25 Smith students since 2001. LloydNettles treats an internship as a consulting engagement: The student is the consultant, she is the client, and together they identify a real problem to solve. Over the years, Smith interns have helped launch a Harlem farmers market, develop arts and entrepreneurial programs, record oral histories, and preserve some 2,000 poems written by Mansour—the late husband of LloydNettles.

"I did not see the students simply as assistants," she says. "I saw them as developing professionals and consultants who needed opportunities to think independently, work with a client, solve real problems, and produce meaningful results."

And each year, the Smith in the World Conference brings those experiences back to campus, where students share what they learned during their internships with other students and members of the wider Smith community.

The point isn't simply to add another line to a résumé. An internship can confirm an ambition—or overturn one. It can transform concepts learned in a classroom into problems with real consequences, introduce a student to a mentor or professional community, and provide the confidence that comes from discovering the ability to do work they've never done before.

This summer, Smith students put that idea to work in places as disparate as a botanic garden and a state legislator's office, a rural hospital in India and Madison Square Garden. They studied pollinators, preserved NASA history, designed for people with disabilities, communicated the value of the arts—and discovered something about the work, the world, themselves, and the possibility of what might come next as they embark upon their next journey with a deeper sense of confidence.



Left: Bailey Herbert '27 walking to their summer internship at Adaptive Design Association.

Photograph by Jessica Scranton

Above: Elie Pichanik '27 stands at center court at Madison Square Garden—the site for her photography internship this past summer.

Photograph by Matt Ramirez



Emma Cohler '27 | Sonam Nurboo Memorial Hospital

Photograph by Jigmat Stanzin

High-Altitude Medicine

For Emma Cohler '27, an internship more than 11,000 feet above sea level brought together several long-standing interests—medicine, women's health, research, and India.

A biology major on the premed track and an aspiring OB-GYN, Cohler spent the summer at Sonam Nurboo Memorial Hospital in Leh, Ladakh, in the Indian Himalayas. Working closely with senior OB-GYN Padma Dolma, she observed deliveries, surgeries, and other obstetrical and gynecological care while learning from the hospital's all-women staff.

"I will carry the knowledge they bestowed upon me throughout my career," Cohler says.

She also assisted with research on malignancies among women living at high altitudes. Such populations have historically been understudied, Cohler says, despite physiological adaptations to the low-oxygen environment that could affect cancer development and mortality. Her work focused primarily on data collection for research that could eventually inform cancer treatment and preventive care in the region.

Cohler had previously traveled to India through Smith's Tibetan Studies in India Program and worked in gynecology for four years. "As an aspiring OB-GYN and researcher of women's health in Buddhist communities, this internship couldn't have been more perfect," she says. International Praxis funding made the experience possible.

But first, she had to create the opportunity.

At a talk at Amherst College, Cohler approached Williams College senior lecturer Kim Gutschow, whose research includes women's health in Ladakh. Gutschow connected her with Dolma, who agreed to help Cohler design an internship.

The experience left Cohler with advice that extends well beyond medicine.

"Go to that talk! Send that email! Just say hi!" says Cohler. "You never know what might follow, and sometimes it might be the summer of your dreams."

–Gigi Marino



Chloe Dyehouse '28 | The University of Rhode Island

Photograph by Jessica Scranton

Swamp Summer

Plants don't wait for good weather. Neither does Chloe Dyehouse '28.

This summer, Dyehouse spent hot, humid—and sometimes rainy—days in Rhode Island's Great Swamp counting flowers, buds, and fruits as part of a large-scale study examining how climate change has affected the flowering patterns of native shrubs.

Working with researchers from the University of Rhode Island (URI) and Roger Williams University, Dyehouse helped recreate a study conducted in the same location in the late 1970s and early 1980s—meticulously documenting the shrubs' reproductive activity in the field. Researchers are now comparing those new observations with the historical data to identify shifts in flowering timelines that may affect competition among plants and their relationships with pollinators.

"I love field work, so this is a great fit for me," Dyehouse says. "Plus, the swamp is a beautiful area with awesome biodiversity!"

As part of the same internship—funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF)—Dyehouse also developed an independent research project studying the pollinators of maleberry, a native shrub that hosts the rare specialist blunt-horn bee *Melitta melittoides*. She spent mid-mornings catching and observing pollinators during their busiest hours, then returned to the lab in the afternoons to swab bees so their pollen could be analyzed.

The NSF internship grew directly from a Praxis-funded experience Dyehouse had at URI the previous summer. After being rejected from every internship she had applied for in 2025, she cold-emailed community ecologist Evan Preisser and asked to work in his lab. Praxis funding made it possible for her to accept the resulting unpaid position.

"I fell in love with the bumblebees we were working with," she says.

That first summer not only revealed a passion for pollination but also gave Dyehouse the research experience that led to this year's NSF internship.

Her advice to other Smith students is as direct as her approach to getting an internship: "Never be afraid to reach out."

Sometimes, it seems, a cold email can lead straight into a swamp.

–Cheryl Dellecese



Beatriz Cazho Garcia '28
Office of Massachusetts Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa

Photograph by Jessica Scranton

State of Mind

Beatriz Cazho Garcia '28 spent the summer learning that politics happens as much in town halls and in letters from constituents as it does in the halls of government.

As a legislative intern for Massachusetts Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa, Cazho Garcia has staffed public events, attended hearings and conferences, and responded to calls and letters from constituents. The work has exposed her to issues ranging from transportation for older residents to concerns about data centers and technology.

"Events are one of my favorite parts of the job," she says. "I love hearing about the different projects and talking to people."

A government major who also studies neuroscience, Cazho Garcia has been interested in civic life since she went to high school in Amherst, Massachusetts. Previous experiences with the Community Action Pioneer Valley Youth Council, Massachusetts Trial Court, and Family Reach—a nonprofit serving families facing cancer—have helped shape a growing interest in health law.

"At the start, I was focused on law school," she says. "Now, I'm seeing how health and health access are connected to policy."

The internship also taught her to communicate differently. Writing constituent letters initially challenged Cazho Garcia, who was accustomed to the analytical papers she writes at Smith. "You have to think about your audience," she says. "You have to do your research and tailor the writing."

Sabadosa has noticed another developing skill. "She is good at being thoughtful and reading the room," the representative says. "That's a skill that will serve her well."

Cazho Garcia isn't ruling out elected office herself someday. For now, she's embracing the intersection of her interests in science, policy, and law.

"I'm excited about the interdisciplinary approach," she says. "It helps me learn more when it's not just one subject."

–Barbara Solow



Bailey Herbert '27 | Adaptive Design Association

Photograph by Jessica Scranton

Human Scale

Bailey Herbert '27 was accustomed to designing in square feet and yards. This summer, they had to learn to think in inches and centimeters.

An architecture and urbanism major with a minor in landscape studies, Herbert worked as a design and fabrication intern at the Adaptive Design Association in New York City—a nonprofit that creates custom adaptations for students with disabilities.

Using computer-aided design software, Herbert designed and 3D-printed custom joints and clamps. They learned to use an industrial sewing machine to make belts and cushions, and discovered more than they ever expected to know about the anatomy and reinforcement of cardboard—a primary material used in the organization's adaptations.

The experience fundamentally changed the scale of their thinking.

"Before my internship, I was working within a very theoretical 2D architectural mindset," Herbert says. At Adaptive Design, they had to translate that thinking into a practical, three-dimensional context, making their conceptual sketches more detailed and precise.

Working alongside designers and interns from different disciplines also showed them how readily design skills can cross boundaries. Although Herbert still plans to pursue landscape architecture, they now see product design as another possibility.

"It was really eye-opening to see how similar different sections of the industry are when it comes to the design process," they say.

Praxis funding and networking advice from the Lazarus Center helped Herbert pursue the internship, which ultimately reinforced their desire to build a career in design—even if the particular form that career takes may change.

Their advice reflects that newfound flexibility: "Don't be afraid to shift your mindset and don't be afraid to pivot from your desired field, as long as you're learning something you want to."

And, they add, "Learn to separate yourself enough from your work to get good at taking criticism."

–Gigi Marino



Daniela Martinez '28 | Resnicow and Associates

Photograph by Jessica Scranton

The Art of the Story

Daniela Martinez '28 spent her summer helping artists and cultural institutions tell their stories—and learning that how you tell them depends on who's listening.

As a digital intern at Resnicow and Associates, a New York City communications agency specializing in arts and culture, Martinez developed short-form content, researched potential partnerships, and collaborated across client teams. The work taught her to think beyond what might capture attention today.

"It's essential to not only think about what works in the short term but also what choices can be made in the long term to support the mission, values, and goals of an institution," she says.

Working with clients whose artists included Judy Chicago, Manuel Chavajay, and Manoucher Yektai also showed Martinez how dramatically voice and strategy can change from one organization to another. "One approach is not a one-size-fits-all," she says.

New York pushed her beyond the office, too. Press previews, networking events, and coffee chats gave Martinez opportunities to meet professionals and fellow Smithies. A conversation with Jessica Nicoll at the Smith College Museum of Art helped her recognize that her background in theater could translate into a broader career in arts and culture.

Martinez also received support from the Lazarus Center's Professional Development Fund—a new program that provides $1,000 to undergraduates for conference attendance and professional development. She attended the FUTURE NOW Media & Entertainment Conference, where industry panels deepened her understanding of the digital strategy work she was already doing.

Her biggest takeaway is one she would pass along to other Smith students: Don't assume that being an intern means you have nothing to contribute.

"The person sitting next to you might not know what you have to offer," Martinez says. "Taking initiative is not only a skill that companies look for, but it also signals to yourself and your team what kind of work you're most passionate about."

–Gigi Marino



Nina Paris '27 | NASA Archives

Photograph by Rebecca Drobis

Space for the Past

Nina Paris '27 went to NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C., to spend the summer looking backward.

As an archives processing intern, Paris worked to preserve and make accessible NASA's history of innovation and discovery. She processed and arranged archival collections, created descriptions for NASA's database, researched and wrote about historical materials, and helped respond to reference requests.

For Paris, whose academic and professional interests have largely centered on museums and the arts, NASA wasn't an obvious destination. That was precisely the point.

"I wanted to explore new environments and learn more about myself, so I applied broadly," she says. "I'm very glad I did!"

Paris discovered that one of her favorite aspects of archival work is "learning the language of a new subject." At NASA, that meant immersing herself in scientific innovation, space exploration, and institutional history, while figuring out how to describe highly technical records for both specialized researchers and the public.

The experience extended well beyond the archive. Paris toured NASA centers and the National Air and Space Museum, attended talks and events, and explored subjects ranging from Mercury 13 and the Artemis Accords to space law and the NASA Art Program.

"I've realized that the arts and humanities are much closer to science than we sometimes think," she says, "and that preserving the past can help shape what comes next."

Paris credits Smith's Archives Concentration and previous internships supported by the Rosenthal Fellowship and Praxis with giving her transferable skills and confidence. She also participated in the Lazarus Center's Arts, Media & Communications Career Community.

Her advice to other students? Look beyond the obvious.

"Don't limit yourself to opportunities that seem like an obvious fit for your major or previous experience," Paris says. "This summer has expanded my understanding of where archival work can take me."

–Gigi Marino



Elie Pichanick '27 | Madison Square Garden

Photograph by Emma Wannie

Garden Exposure

For Elie Pichanick '27, a summer internship at Madison Square Garden (MSG) meant more than photographing concerts and sporting events. It meant documenting milestones.

"MSG is such a special place in the sense that it's a milestone for a lot of artists when they play there," says Pichanick, who worked as a photography student associate. "You get to document this incredible moment for them."

A studio art major and photo editor for *The Sophian*, Pichanick traces her interest in photography to an analog photography elective she took in middle school. "I loved the experience of being so hands-on with the image-making process," she says. "Even as a 13-year-old, I was like, 'OK, I have to continue this.'"

She had been watching MSG's internship program for several years when the call finally came. Pichanick was eating lunch with a friend in Washburn House when she learned she had been selected. "I remember feeling like I was almost going to drop the phone," she says.

At MSG, no two days looked quite the same. She organized archived photographs, assisted on shoots, shadowed concert photographers, studied her mentors' editing techniques, and photographed events.

One of her favorite assignments happened just outside MSG at Plaza 33. After covering a 5 Seconds of Summer concert, Pichanick and two staff photographers rushed outside to capture fans watching the final minutes of Game 5 of the NBA Finals, when the Knicks clinched their first championship in 53 years.

"The people who come to Plaza 33 are die-hard fans," she says. "Seeing them experience that was so cool."

Pichanick is still considering what she'll do after graduation, but the internship clarified the kind of workplace she wants.

"All of the creatives weren't just collaborative—they were so supportive," she says. "They did everything they could to help me flourish."

–Allison Racicot



Beatrice Tauer '27 | Kew Gardens

Photograph by Jessica Scranton

Old Plants, New Tricks

Some of the plant specimens Beatrice Tauer '27 handled this summer were collected nearly two centuries ago. At London's Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Tauer used decidedly 21st-century tools—including DNA extraction, statistical analysis, and bioinformatics—to uncover what those specimens can tell scientists today.

A biological sciences and statistical and data sciences double major, Tauer was one of two Smith students selected for a coveted internship at Kew, a UNESCO World Heritage Site whose herbarium holds one of the world's largest collections of preserved plants.

Tauer's research focused on *Macaranga*, a genus of tropical plants. She began by combing through folders of herbarium specimens, many dating to the 1800s, before moving on to identifying uncategorized and misidentified specimens, analyzing the collection and the geographic distribution of species, and extracting DNA.

"I've been really enjoying how much of this project I have been able to develop, and getting to explore areas that interest me," she says. That freedom allowed her to help shape both the research questions and the methods used to answer them.

Her Smith education prepared her for both sides of the work. Coursework in biology and statistics provided a foundation in bioinformatics and molecular biology, while her work as an intern at Smith's Center for Molecular Biology gave her laboratory experience that she now uses to recover historical DNA from herbarium specimens.

The work has brought a few surprises. Because many of the species she studies are endemic to Madagascar, specimen descriptions are often in French. "I didn't realize how many words there are to describe a plant specimen," she says, "and I didn't expect to need to learn them in both English and French!"

Best of all, Tauer says, is "getting to contribute to an herbarium collection that was established nearly two centuries ago and will last for much longer still." ●

–Cheryl Dellecese

A PLACE FOR THE PAST IN THE FUTURE

At Brooklyn's historic Green-Wood Cemetery, Neela Wickremesinghe '09 draws on lessons learned at Smith to preserve the stories written in stone—and keep the past alive for the future.

By Amy Ellis Nutt '77
Photograph by Maria Spann





Restoration is intimately connected with memory, says Wickremesinghe, who admits to being steeped in the past.



There is familiarity in the woman's touch as her hands glide over the face of a white marble memorial with a little lamb curled at the top. "Our Darling Florrie" the tombstone reads. Neela Wickremesinghe '09 didn't know the child, who died in July of 1872 at the age of three months and seven days, but she helped unearth her marker in the summer of 2025. As the director of restoration and preservation at Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York, Wickremesinghe led a group of New York City public high school interns in uncovering the tombstones of 44 children—all of them from the 19th century, and all of them laid to rest in one of the public lots of Green-Wood, which once made small graves affordable to families during a time of high infant and child mortality.

Buried beneath dirt and grass but without foundations, the plots were revealed by archival maps. Wickremesinghe and her team dug as if for buried treasure, finding not just fractured marble and granite, but also forgotten lives.

"I always think, I'm not the first person to be standing on this spot. I used to think that at Smith, too," says the 39-year-old director who majored in architecture and urbanism. "Some other woman my age, years in the past, once stood where I did. And someone else was right here, too, and mourned for their child long before we stood here."

Wickremesinghe is the first director of restoration and preservation at Green-Wood. She is also trained as a conservator, and since 2016, she has felt an uncanny closeness to the cemetery's 580,000 "permanent residents." They aren't part of the past, she says, they are part of the present, and her work includes uncovering old grave markers, restoring broken statuary, replacing masonry joints, and steam-cleaning memorials.

To do the job right, Wickremesinghe needs expertise ranging from conservation science to construction safety, and she credits Smith with inculcating a deep interest in all disciplines. "There's no such thing as a wasted class at Smith," she says. "So I took biology. I took calculus. Those were some of the most difficult classes I ever took, but I did it. And I struggled. And I think having to struggle is also really important, because I had to work really hard and in the end it was also a lot of fun."

Lessons Learned at Smith

Working hard and enjoying the labor motivates Wickremesinghe every day, a trait that Rich Moylan, president of the cemetery for 39 years before his retirement in 2025, appreciates. He says, "Her eyes are always open. If she sees anything in need of repair, she takes a picture of it. And she's actually raised the level of the entire staff to be aware of [preservation]. All of these monuments are important."

Wickremesinghe is committed to keeping history alive at Green-Wood. "I think it's an inherently queer thing to hope that there is a place for the past in the future," she says, "and I'm so happy to have the challenges that I do in my chosen profession. I am at a job where I can totally be myself and I'm so grateful for that."

Wickremesinghe says that in her work at Green-Wood she draws on many of her experiences at Smith. She lived in Lawrence House all four years and was not only its president but its historian. "I wouldn't be able to do the work that I'm doing now without that liberal arts background," she says, noting that in addition to difficult science courses, she attended classes in everything from history to film. "I think that what you learn at Smith is that if you are very interested in something, it's never just one thing, it's interdisciplinary. Historic preservation is incredibly interdisciplinary. And you have to have a wide lens because it's really important to keep the big picture."

Wickremesinghe says that Nanci Young, archivist for Smith College Special Collections, was one of several faculty and staff members who encouraged that view. Young would visit Lawrence House and share photographs of some of its famous former residents, including Sylvia Plath, and it deepened Wickremesinghe's perspective. "I think that understanding the history behind a place was another important part of why Smith set me on the path I took."

Memory and History

Before Green-Wood, that path first took her to the New York firm of EverGreene Architectural Arts, where Wickremesinghe worked on several Broadway theaters and the famous Rose Main Reading Room at the New York Public Library. But it was an enchanting tourist trolley tour of Green-Wood with her mother, where she had a chance encounter with Moylan, that motivated her to take her first step toward Green-Wood by sending him her résumé. When the restoration and preservation job opened, it seemed like a perfect fit.

Today, Wickremesinghe is as steeped in the history of Green-Wood as she is in the science of conserving its monuments. Chartered by wealthy urban planner Henry Evelyn Pierrepont in 1838, Green-Wood was a solution to overcrowded cemeteries in downtown Manhattan and part of the rural cemetery movement in America, which created garden-like graveyards outside city limits. The garden cemetery, in fact, was the precursor to the public park. Frederick Law Olmsted, who transformed the Smith College campus into an arboretum in the early 1890s, came to Green-Wood to study its design before creating both Prospect Park in Brooklyn and Central Park in Manhattan.

Whether visiting the dead or taking in the resplendent natural surroundings, some 400,000 visitors come to mingle among the monuments every year. The garden cemetery, Wickremesinghe says, met a peculiarly American set of appetites: "We can make money and take care of the public's need for a burial site, while also making a day trip out of it."

For Wickremesinghe, her cemetery work is hardly a desk job. When she arrives each morning at 7:45 she fashions a daily to-do list, which represents only a part of a longer seasonal list that in turn makes up just a fraction of the several hundred outstanding work orders that will likely take years for her small crew to complete. Then she's out the door, driving the 21 miles of cemetery roads with an eye to preserving and restoring the big and the small.

This morning she's in her cemetery truck, a rusting 2005 heavy-duty pickup, with a wrench, pliers, and a 6-inch-long skeleton key. The job should be quick: fixing a sticky lock on a mausoleum door. Beneath the dashboard of the truck and inside a ceramic mug are several No. 2 pencils, a feather from one of the red-tailed hawks that frequent the cemetery, and a popsicle stick—not for stirring her coffee (that's in a thermos)—but for mixing stone epoxy, which is used for gluing some of the statuary back together. In 2021, she reconstructed an angel atop a mausoleum that had fallen and shattered into 80 pieces.

Restoration is intimately connected with memory, says Wickremesinghe, who admits to being steeped in the past. At Smith, she took a course from history professor Darcy Buerkle on memory and history that dealt with themes she still thinks about in her work today. "That really was the crux of my interest," she says. "What do we remember and how do we make sure we don't forget? Going to a place like Smith makes you think deeply about those kinds of things. And now it's all connected in my brain."

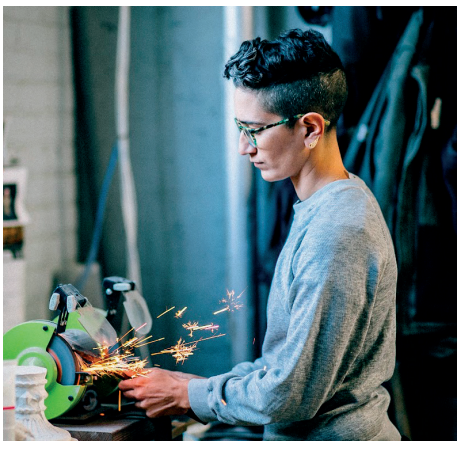
Perhaps the most important job at Green-Wood is also the most basic: repointing, which Wickremesinghe describes as the careful removal of old mortar from masonry joints and its replacement with more compatible mortar. Left unrestored, marble can crack and chip. And no restoration is too small or unimportant to be left unattended.

Wickremesinghe especially appreciates the beautifully detailed architectural flourishes of older homes. In her 19th-century childhood home in Port Richmond, Staten Island, one of those beautiful details was the wooden banister, which included a carved fish head at the bottom of the staircase. "It's the kind of thing when you're a little kid, you think, why is that there? It's just so interesting and so beautiful. I was always looking at the world that way."

As a kid, she was also watching and learning. Wickremesinghe still has the canvas tool belt a contractor gave her when she was 6 and stood by watching as new rooms were being added to her family's house.

"I loved thinking about things, but I also loved fixing things," she says, which are characteristics she learned from her parents. Wickremesinghe's mother is a psychiatrist and her father is a gastroenterologist. "It's the head and hands combination," she adds. "Thinking critically, yet knowing how to use the tools."

The power of observation is also key to being a good conservator, she says, and it's a habit she cultivated in certain classes at Smith, particularly in her courses with lecturer Kirin Makker. "Her architecture studio course was foundational," says Wickremesinghe. "She was a great professor because she said you have to draw to understand things." Makker's students learned first how to really see something in order to draw it, which helps Wickremesinghe make beautiful repairs in her job now. An added benefit of that studio art class: She learned a lot about public speaking. "At the end of an architecture project you have to defend your designs, your model, everything," she says, "and that served me really well in graduate school."



Sparks fly as Neela Wickremesinghe '09 sharpens her chisel in her restoration shop at Green-Wood Cemetery.

Photograph by Amanda Crommet

A Storyscape of Her Own

It was at Columbia Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation that Wickremesinghe realized the big picture for her was conservation. In her thesis about the need to preserve four historic structures on the Smith campus—Alumnae Gym, Lawrence House, the Quadrangle, and Cutter and Ziskind houses—she wrote that the college landscape could be understood by the architectural term "storyscape," a landscape made up of personal stories and events that don't rise to the level of official history.

When asked whether a cemetery is also a storyscape, Wickremesinghe answers excitedly: "Absolutely! Historical cemeteries are the most ideal example. It's not just the monuments that you see, but we are ascribing importance to them every time we look at them, every time we pass by them, every time we touch them or wonder about them."

That kind of perspective is unusual, says Nina Antonetti, one of Wickremesinghe's former architecture professors and a founder of Smith's Landscape Studies program—the nation's first. "Neela had a worldview others didn't have when they first arrived at college," Antonetti says. "She was very diligent, but not about how to get an 'A.' She was inquisitive about the best method, the best questions to be asking. She was very good at reading a landscape as layers that accrue over time, and their changing meaning."

Green-Wood is replete with those layers, and for Wickremesinghe, Smith remains a touchstone. "It's one of those great things about Smith," she says. "History is integral to its plan; all the buildings are of a certain time. I think that's important, to have great contemporary buildings and also great historical buildings. You see that all over the Smith campus, and it explains the special relationship students have with the houses they live in."







Wickremesinghe '09 scales historic mausoleums and statues in order to repair structural flaws both big and small in the cemetery.

Photographs by Ezra Goren and Juan Valencia

Not yet 40, Wickremesinghe is a kind of time traveler, familiar with the liminal spaces of history and just as comfortable thinking about and cherishing the past as she is contemplating the future.

According to Wickremesinghe, preserving history at Green-Wood takes one quality above all else: craftsmanship. In 2023, she and a team that included a dozen college and young-adult interns spent six weeks restoring the weathered Tuckahoe marble Delafield memorial. They removed damaged sealant and replaced the mortar from all 55 joints—not with drills or spackling blades, but with delicate dental tools.

Wickremesinghe especially enjoyed working with a diverse team. Today, many of those in historic preservation are women, and she takes particular pride in belonging to that group. "When I was getting my master's degree, I was really inspired by and felt good about entering a field that was full of women and gay people," she says. "And I think it's also interesting to realize that the small groups that I belong to—marginalized people—are often the people who are fighting to preserve everyone's history."

Wickremesinghe comes naturally to the long view. "She has a great mix of reverence for the past and an astute anticipation of the future," Antonetti says. "On the one hand, acknowledging the power of replacing something missing, and then creating something to make it look like it's always been there. She's kind of a magician."

When she's not performing works of wizardry, Wickremesinghe can usually be found with her partner, Shira Becher, and their rescue pit bull terrier, Gina, in their Brooklyn apartment just blocks from Green-Wood. She might be tuning up her saxophone with the Queer Big Apple Corps, a community band in Manhattan, or playing shortstop for the Brooklyn Beavers in the Prospect Park Women's Softball League. There's also an annual softball game between Green-Wood Cemetery and the Brooklyn Museum that's a bit one-sided: "We bury them," says Wickremesinghe with a mischievous smile.

Not yet 40, Wickremesinghe is a kind of time traveler, familiar with the liminal spaces of history and just as comfortable thinking about and cherishing the past as she is contemplating the future. She still has handouts and syllabi from beloved Smith classes and a piece of Himalayan redwood from a tree behind Neilson Library that came down in a lightning storm right before her fifth Reunion.

"I'm a person who holds onto items once they cross my path," she says. "The plates I use in my apartment were my grandmother's, along with her knives and forks. I like to wear my dad's T-shirts. [I read] the books my mother read." To preserve something—to see it, touch it, whether it's a memento or a monument—is to keep it relevant.

If time is the longest distance between two places, as Tennessee Williams once wrote, then Neela Wickremesinghe has it covered. From one of her favorite hills inside Green-Wood, she can see "the Staten Island ferry making its way back and forth from St. George to lower Manhattan, and its audible foghorn, every 30 minutes, like clockwork. I can see the crenelated limestone roofline of my high school peeking out from behind a too-tall apartment building and the rounded arch of the Bayonne Bridge, just steps from my childhood home."

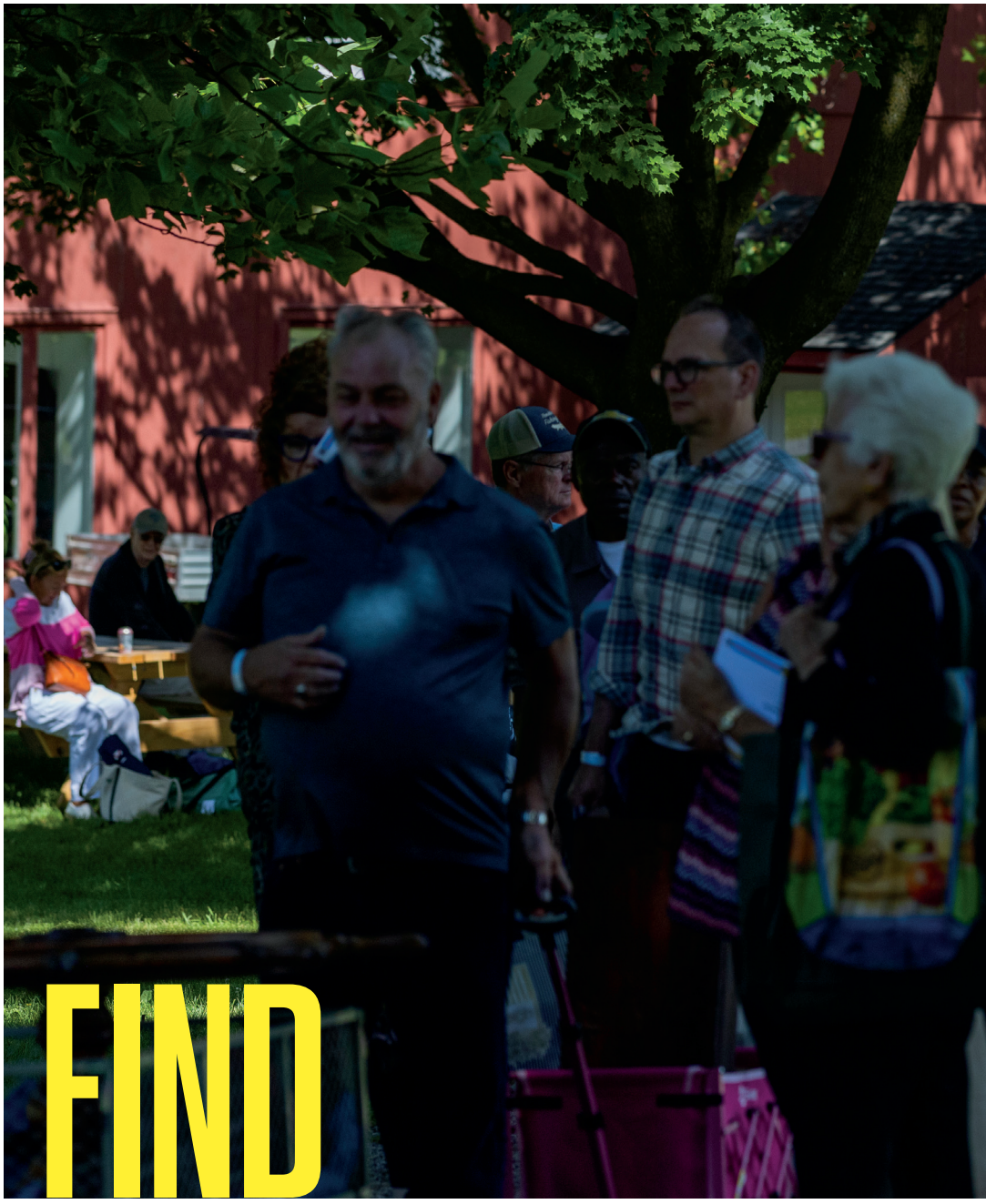
For Green-Wood's director of restoration and preservation, it's her own storyscape—all the world—past, present, and future—in history's singular embrace. ●



The Historic Chapel at Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York.

Photograph courtesy of Green-Wood

YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU'LL FIND





On the set of Antiques Roadshow, *three Smith alums have turned a shared appetite for curiosity, history, and discovery into careers built around the stories objects can tell.*

By
Linnea Duley '16

Photographs by
Lauren Petracca

At first glance, preproduction for *Antiques Roadshow* is chaotic—cables zigzag across the grass, static from walkie-talkies fills the air, and occasionally someone hauling an antique dresser in a little red wagon down a gravel path somehow sounds like a jet taking flight. But upon closer inspection, it's clear that the magic being made inside this little tent isn't happening by accident. And it's no surprise that the woman in the blue and gold Smith College baseball cap is the one calling the shots.

Sarah Elliott '95 started working at *Antiques Roadshow* in 2000 as a production assistant and has spent the last 20 years as a producer. In that time, she's traveled to 49 states with the program—she's awaiting a trip to Wyoming, her 50th state—conversing with and directing camerapeople and appraisers alike to give the items featured on the show their well-deserved moment in the spotlight.

A sociology major at Smith, Elliott learned the ropes of TV production once she landed the job. As I watch her, it's obvious this is exactly what she's meant to be doing. The ease with which she interacts with everyone in this tiny tent, watching monitors intently and quietly giving direction—she's in her element.

And she's not the only Smithie at *Roadshow* today. The appraiser she's talking to inside this particular filming tent is photographs expert Deborah Rogal '05, and down the road at the glass appraisal table is Arlie Sulka '78. Kerry Shrives '89, a specialist in sculpture, decorative arts, and silver, and Kaitlin Shinnick '99, a jewelry specialist, are also on hand to share their expertise.

"Perfect," Elliott says, turning from a camera monitor to face Rogal, who's standing to one side of a large framed Ansel Adams photograph. "Next, could you talk about the insurance value versus price at auction?" Rogal nods, smiles at the owner of the photograph in question, and begins her next segment.

"I thought so highly of Sarah even before I knew she went to Smith," Rogal said when I spoke with her back in February. "But when I found out I said, 'Oh, now it all makes sense.'" Rogal, who majored in art history at Smith, didn't always feel comfortable in front of the camera, but Elliott has helped curb that. "Sarah manages her set with such quiet, calm, competent authority, I'm always so glad when I get to work with her."





The Thrill of Discovery

Antiques Roadshow began in the United Kingdom in 1979. The American version, produced by GBH and aired on PBS, has been a household staple since 1997. The show has amassed 4.4 million followers across social media platforms, and it even had its own plotline on an episode of the sitcom *Frasier* back in the day.

The show's premise is simple: It brings together a host of expert appraisers—all volunteers, most of whom work at galleries and auction houses around the country—and the everyday people who own the items the appraisers are most interested in. Everything from teacup collections to comic books, from Civil War medals to baseball cards, has a place at *Roadshow*.

Filming its 31st season this year, *Antiques Roadshow* is one of those rare television gems that resonates with people from every walk of life. The 24-time Emmy-nominated show (which, as this issue was going to print, had won its first-ever Emmy for Outstanding Structured Reality Program) sits comfortably at the intersection of public media, educational programming, and reality TV. Who among us hasn't watched an episode and then glanced furtively around the house, eyeing Grandma's china collection with renewed interest? The show almost immediately changes the way you see the world and the objects in it.



Left: Sarah Elliott '95 has called *Antiques Roadshow* home for the past 26 years.

Above: Arlie Sulka '78, a self-proclaimed "glass nerd," appraises a blue marbled Steuben glass bowl at *Antiques Roadshow* in Mumford, New York.



Appraiser Deborah Rogal '05 is filmed appraising the famous Ansel Adams photograph *Moonrise, Hernandez, New Mexico.*

Not every appraisal is filmed—the vast majority take place completely off camera at categorized tables scattered across the event grounds. When an appraiser sees something particularly noteworthy, a producer is notified, and, if chosen for filming, both the item and its owner are whisked away to create television magic. Their onscreen reactions are genuine: Attendees whose items are filmed aren't told much about them—including appraisal estimates—until the cameras are rolling.

"I love all aspects of the show," says Elliott, "but my favorite part is the genuine connection we get to make with the fans, and the trust they have in us to tell their stories."

On a sunny June morning in Mumford, New York, the Genesee Country Village & Museum has shut down for the day to make way for *Roadshow*. Over 26,000 people vied for a free pair of tickets to this particular event, and the 4,000 or so lucky winners are abuzz with excitement despite the long lines. Folks chat with their neighbors as they inch toward the "triage tent," where they'll present their items to generalists who will sort them into more specific categories and send them on their way. A couple has a pair of delicate-looking vases strapped to a dolly; one man is hefting around a large oil painting of John F. Kennedy. The people are as varied as the items they've brought, but they have one thing in common: They're all eager to learn something new.

As I make my way down the path, past gorgeous 19th-century buildings, it occurs to me that a living history museum is the perfect setting for an event like this. I imagine some of the items carted here today—stoneware crocks, woven tapestries, perhaps an old apple basket—may feel like they've finally come home. The 1865 book of English grammar I've brought to be appraised could have been used in Genesee Country Village's little red schoolhouse back when it was first published.

This assignment is a bucket-list item for me—my love of antiques was instilled in me by my mom when I was very small, and ever since, I've been in awe of books, linens, furniture, and other everyday items that have somehow survived for centuries. It's often the ordinary items that most resonate with me: things like a colorful tin of coffee from the 1920s, for example, used by a woman whose life likely looked very little like mine, except maybe for the familiar ritual of that first morning sip.

Built on Curiosity

Like most Smithies—myself included—Elliott, Rogal, and Sulka can all trace their careers back to lessons learned at Smith.

"Smith is a really special place, where I felt like intellectual curiosity and a deep appreciation for ideas and creativity are pretty much built into all aspects of student life," says Elliott when asked to reflect on her time at Smith.

Those institutional values, she says, have carried over into her professional life. "One of the best things about *Roadshow* is that I get to learn something new every day. The show is built on curiosity."

While at Smith, Elliott explored a wide array of interests: She played rugby for three years; was a head resident for one; and studied abroad at the University of Glasgow in Scotland, where she took the only film and media classes of her time in school.

For Rogal, the line between Smith and her career is more linear. Armed with a degree in art history, she joined the photographs department at Swann Auction Galleries a year after graduating and has been there ever since. Now their director of photographs and

photobooks, she credits Smith with leading her to her career—right down to the company. "I didn't really even know this career existed until [former curator of the Mortimer Rare Book Collection] Martin Antonetti suggested I look at auction houses as an option," she says. "He specifically mentioned Swann. I feel incredibly lucky."

Originally intending to major in English, Rogal says she was "all in" in art history after her first few semesters. Spending her senior year interning at the Smith College Museum of Art, she began envisioning a career that allowed her to focus on and talk about art on a daily basis. "There's no better way to understand art," she says, "than to approach it in a hands-on way."

As for the photography focus, Rogal credits Smith with that too. "It was really the support of professors at Smith that led me here," she says. After taking an American studies course that delved into photography and decorative arts, she began to understand how photography has been used as a tool for documenting rapidly changing landscapes.

"Photography is an incredibly accessible medium," she explains. "That's part of what has always appealed to me about it."

When I stop by the glass appraisal table in Mumford, Arlie Sulka is animated, excitedly waving over the next person in her line. After educating him on the items he brought—a set of four Steuben glass vases from the 1920s, inherited from his late father-in-law—she turns to me, smiles, and throws her hands up.

"You just narrowly missed seeing me filming!" she cries. "It was a gorgeous Tiffany lamp valued at around $200,000." My eyes widen and I feel my eyebrows rise. Sulka laughs. "Some days I don't see any Tiffany, so that was really exciting."

Tiffany glass is Sulka's specialty—she's been the owner of the New York City-based Tiffany Studios gallery Lillian Nassau LLC since 2006, having worked there since 1980. Widely considered one of the world's foremost experts on Tiffany glass, Sulka—like Rogal—graduated from Smith with an art history degree. Also like Rogal, that wasn't her intended path.

Originally wanting to be a studio art major, Sulka enrolled in both a studio class and an art history class during her first semester. "I very quickly realized I didn't have any talent [in the studio]," she laughs. "But what I did have was an eye for art—for recognizing pieces from the same artist, even if I'd only seen their work once before."

The Value of Things

Roadshow events—and the episodes of public television that result from them—foster many of the same values instilled in students at Smith, among them curiosity, exploration, community, and even sustainability.

"Contributing to arts education in some format, to me, is extremely important," Sulka says. She has been appearing on *Roadshow* since 1998, when the American version of the show was still in its earliest days.

Elliott echoes these sentiments. Having grown up watching public television, she recognized GBH for the "media powerhouse" that it was—and still is—and had that front of mind when trying to get a foot in the door somewhere after graduating from Smith. "*Roadshow* is about sharing. It's sharing knowledge, it's sharing history," she says. "And I think that's why it's withstood the test of time."

Knowledge and community may be the most obvious ties to Smith, but there's another aspect to *Antiques Roadshow* that's likely serving the world in an entirely different manner. In a time of mass-produced tchotchkes and fast fashion, it's easy to see where a show that highlights family heirlooms, garage sale scores, and attic treasures actually promotes sustainability quite brilliantly.

While most people who watch the show probably daydream about turning a thrift shop find into a six-figure payday (I'm guilty of that myself), the show's focus isn't only on the monetary value of the items it features. Appraisers go into great detail before disclosing what an item is worth, giving background information about its location of origin, the materials it's made of, and any visible maker's marks or signatures that provide valuable clues to its past.

The venue in Mumford is arranged more or less in a large circle. I make my way slowly from Sulka's appraisal table, admiring the lengths some people have gone to in order to bring their treasures here. For every small item squirreled away in someone's purse, there's a mammoth antique table, armoire, or sculpture being hauled down the road. Walking around, it's abundantly clear—these are more than just things, their value so much more than just monetary.

I'm elated when I reach the Feedback Booth—one of my favorite parts of the show. People whose appraisals were not filmed stand in line, waiting to give a quick recap to the camera about what they brought, what it's worth (or *not worth*, more often than not), and about their experience at *Roadshow*. I don't go inside, but I can hear laughter coming from within.

Leaving the event, I pass the line of people waiting to get to the triage tent. Different people than this morning, of course—my press guide for the day told me entry times are staggered—but with the same palpable energy coursing through the air.

All at once I'm struck with gratitude for this shared experience—I got to be a Smithie, and so did Elliott, Rogal, and Sulka. Each with their own individual passions and talents, they all contribute to the unique privilege of sharing knowledge with the masses. That my own path led me here as well feels serendipitous, but I know that's really just Smith magic at work.

Oh, and my grammar book? It's worth about $25, but my *Roadshow* experience was priceless. ●





Above: Appraiser Catherine Williamson inspects an 1865 grammar book brought in by Linnea Duley '16.

Below: Arlie Sulka '78 examines a peach Steuben glass vase with an engraved nature design.

PAST PERSONAL





In a deeply personal new book—and an innovative Smith classroom—historian Elizabeth Stordeur Pryor explores what happens when scholarship and family history collide.

By Cheryl Dellecese
Photograph by Jessica Scranton

"It was incredibly challenging to integrate my scholarship with my personal life and my teaching," says Elizabeth Stordeur Pryor, professor of history at Smith, of writing her latest book, *Something We Said: Richard Pryor, a Notorious Word, and Me*, published by Simon & Schuster in June.

For a historian accustomed to examining other people's lives, the project required Pryor to turn that same searching gaze on herself.

Part memoir, part historical exploration, *Something We Said* examines Pryor's complicated relationship with her father, legendary comedian Richard Pryor, through the history and power of one of the most volatile words in the English language. Her father was known for highlighting the absurdity of racism in his comedy, often pushing boundaries with his use of the N-word. Pryor describes the book as "the story of how a single volatile word impacted my life, my research, my teaching, and connected me to my famous father, unlocking the love I had buried for years."

The process of writing it brought memories to the surface that Pryor had not visited in years.

"Stories came alive that I hadn't really thought about for a long time, many of which involve the intimacy of racism and the complicated way it impacts family and public relationships," she says. "I feel like there'll be a lot of interesting conversations to come out of the book."

Since its release, *Something We Said* has received national attention, including inclusion in *The New York Times* column The Nonfiction Everyone Will Be Reading This Summer, and Pryor has appeared on programs including NPR's *Fresh Air*. In August, Latigo Films and Inaugural Entertainment acquired the film rights to the memoir and announced plans to develop it as a feature film.

But the questions at the heart of the book—about race, language, identity, history, and the stories people tell about themselves and one another—have occupied Pryor for much longer.

Following the Questions

Pryor did not initially set out to become a historian. A desire to learn more about the history of Black women, coupled with a passion for storytelling, led her to study Africana studies for a time as a graduate student.

"I dreamed of writing screenplays and felt like I had to understand more about Black women because that's who I wanted to write about," she says.

Instead, she discovered something else.

"I soon realized that I was interested in the nuts and bolts of the historical lives that I study now."

That fascination with individual lives—and with what they can reveal about the larger forces shaping their times—has become a throughline in Pryor's scholarship.

While working on what she had originally envisioned as a dissertation about turn-of-the-century anti-lynching activist Ida B. Wells, Pryor found herself wondering about the logistics of Wells's 1893 journey to Europe by ship. *How had she been treated aboard the ship? Had racism impeded her travel?*

"I was looking for a book that would answer my questions," Pryor says, "and there wasn't one."

So she pursued the questions herself.

The result was *Colored Travelers: Mobility and the Fight for Citizenship Before the Civil War*, published by The University of North Carolina Press in 2016, which explores how travel became a front line in the battle for African American equal rights before the Civil War. The book examines the ways Black Americans used mobility to expand their networks and fight racism and inequality more than a century before Rosa Parks refused to surrender her seat on a Montgomery bus.

Another question—this time one that arose inside Pryor's own classroom—would eventually bring her scholarly interests much closer to home.

In 2010, a white student quoted a line containing the N-word from *Blazing Saddles*, the 1974 film co-written by Pryor's father. The student, Pryor emphasizes, was not using the word as a slur.

Still, the moment stayed with her. It sent Pryor on what she describes as a three-pronged journey: into the history of the word itself, into her own complicated relationship with it as a biracial woman, and into a reckoning with her connection to her famous and complex father.

Pryor began studying the historical and contemporary uses of the word and trying to unpack its power through her research, writing, and teaching. Her 2016 essay, "The Etymology of [the N-Word]: Resistance, Language, and the Politics of Freedom in the Antebellum North," published in the *Journal of the Early Republic*, won the Ralph D. Gray Article Prize for the best article of the year. Her 2020 TED Talk, "Why Is It Hard To Talk About the N-Word," has garnered more than 2 million views.

Her father's relationship with the word was itself complicated. Richard Pryor helped popularize its use in the 1970s, wielding it in his comedy to mock white racism and assert Black identity. But after returning from a trip to Kenya, he stopped using it in his act, calling the word "wretched" and expressing regret that he had ever included it in his performances. He felt he had lost control of its meaning and that audiences often misunderstood what he was trying to communicate through its use.

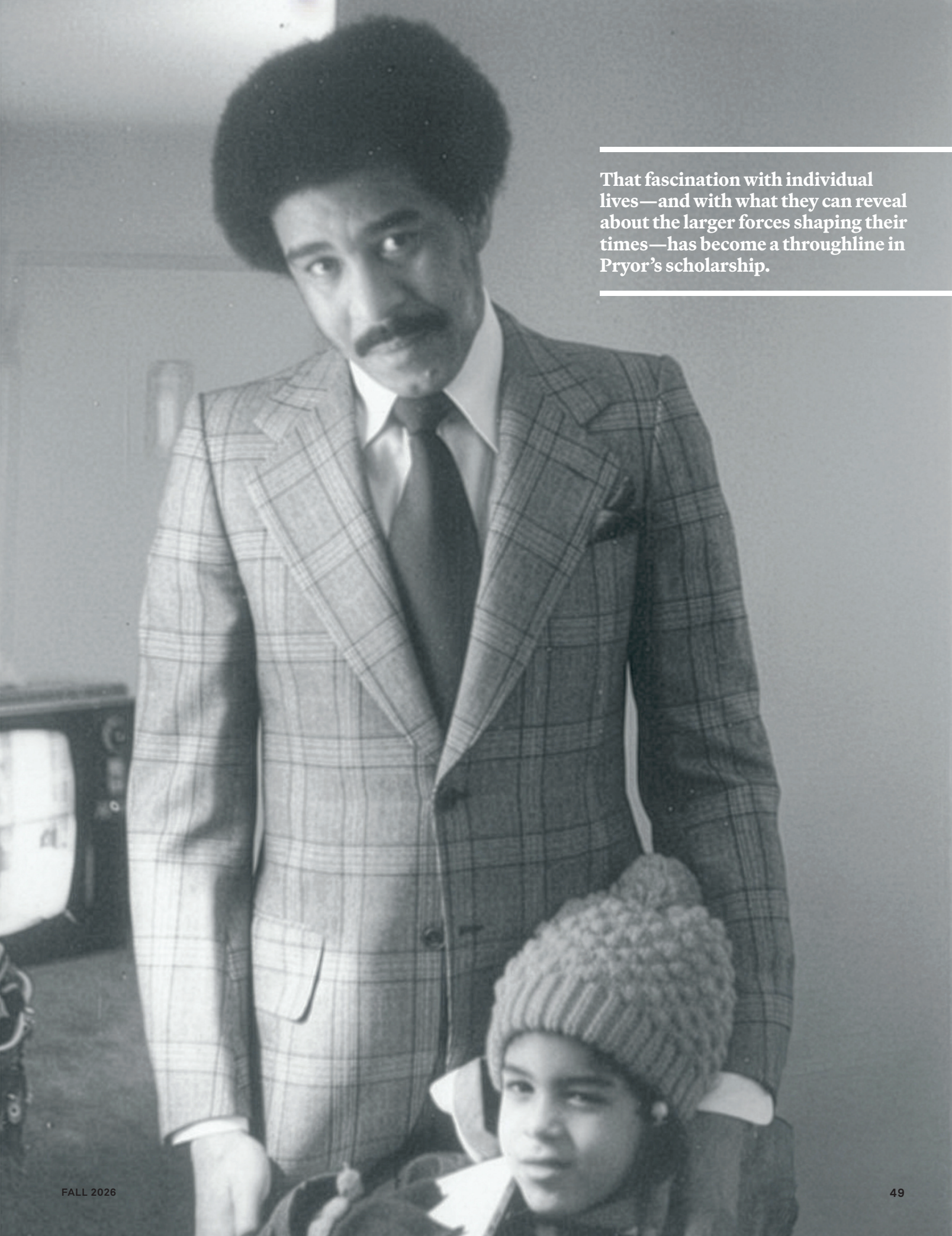
For his daughter, investigating that history became inseparable from investigating her own.

The eventual result was *Something We Said*—a book that blends celebrity biography, historical critique, and memoir, bringing together strands of Pryor's intellectual and personal life that had once seemed distinct.

History Gets Personal

That same interplay between an individual life and the historical forces surrounding it is central to Pryor's teaching.

Pryor came to Smith in 2009, soon after earning a doctorate in history from the University of California, Santa Barbara. A recipient of the 2016 Sherrerd Prize for Distinguished Teaching, she teaches courses on



That fascination with individual lives—and with what they can reveal about the larger forces shaping their times—has become a throughline in Pryor's scholarship.



citizenship, race and racism, and the history of U.S. slavery, asking students to consider how enslaved people's histories are remembered—and who gets to do the remembering.

Her classroom is collaborative. Students explore archives, examine primary documents, and take ownership of their learning. And in Richard Pryor's America, a course Pryor taught for the first time in the spring 2026 semester, the connections among history, individual lives, and personal experience became especially explicit.

Students used Richard Pryor's life as an anchor to look both forward and backward in time, studying his work alongside historical and theoretical readings on comedy, race, enslavement, and Black humor traditions. Then they turned the historian's lens toward their own families, pairing personal reflection with research into the larger historical contexts in which their relatives lived.

For Maya Smith '27, an Africana studies major, the course underscored something fundamental about the way history works.

"You cannot separate your family history from its larger historical context," she says.

Smith particularly appreciated Pryor's analog approach to the class. Students maintained handwritten notebooks for their reading and discussion notes, which Pryor collected and responded to.

"We talked a lot about the rich lineage of Black American history that Richard Pryor came from, and especially Black humor traditions," Smith says. "The afterlives of slavery are a constant part of Black life in America, and this class really encouraged us to think about how Richard Pryor used his comedy to express his thoughts on and experiences with the reality of Black life in America."

For Colleen Lynch '27, researching her own family history became unexpectedly urgent.

Lynch began the course soon after her maternal grandmother was diagnosed with dementia. When students were assigned a family history, Lynch chose to research her maternal grandfather's mother, Eva, who had died several years earlier. She interviewed her mother and grandfather and was struck by how much they knew about Eva's life, extending all the way back to her childhood.

Their memories made Lynch realize how little she knew about her own grandmother—and how quickly dementia was closing the window in which she could ask.

Although Lynch had to reconstruct Eva's life through family memories and secondary historical sources rather than through conversation, the process changed the way she understood her.

"The project forced me to engage with her humanity and consider her experiences, feelings, and their potential causes," says Lynch.

It also allowed her to encounter Eva as "a full person," rather than someone defined by the Parkinson's disease and dementia she experienced later in life.

For Emily Fox AC '27, Pryor's practice of learning alongside her students—and approaching new ideas with the same curiosity she asks of them—is part of what makes the classroom distinctive.

"Professor Pryor's willingness to sit and take notes and learn with us rather than just lecturing at us also feels uniquely Smith," Fox says.

Pryor facilitates discussions, Fox says, but she also takes notes while her students speak and tells them when their observations have taught her something new.

"We're all still learning no matter our education level or amount of experience," Fox says, "whether it be learning about our own histories or other history that goes way beyond our own families."

The Past in the Present

For Pryor, that work has particular urgency now.

Her scholarship has long sought not only to recover lives and experiences from different moments in history, but also to use a fuller understanding of the past to illuminate the present. In her courses, she similarly asks students to make connections across time, including connections between historical and contemporary forms of anti-Blackness.

At a moment when Black history is being removed from textbooks and public spaces, Pryor finds real meaning in the act of teaching it. Inclusive, historically grounded information, she believes, is not merely intellectually important. It is necessary.

The students in Richard Pryor's America experienced firsthand how history can become more immediate when the distance between subject and scholar begins to narrow. Richard Pryor could be simultaneously a celebrated comedian and a figure situated within a much longer tradition of Black humor and American racial history. A great-grandmother can become more than a name in a family tree when her experiences are considered within the world in which she lived. And a historian can turn her scholarly methods toward her own family—discovering that the past she had spent years studying was also deeply personal.

One of Pryor's students recently summed up the importance of her class by saying, "Doing Black history right now is radical."

Pryor couldn't agree more.

"I feel really grateful," she says, "that I get to be a part of it." ●

A dedicated space for alums to share news about life after Smith. Major milestones and everyday moments equally welcome.

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: February 15 (summer issue), May 15 (fall issue), August 15 (winter issue), and November 15 (spring issue). You may also submit news or photos online at smith.edu/submit-class-note or by emailing classnotes@smith.edu. By submitting a class note, you agree that the *Smith Quarterly* may publish your note in print and in the digital editions. Although the digital *Quarterly* is publicly available, class notes can only be accessed through a secure site by a computer or mobile device, and are not indexed by Google or other search engines. Alums will receive a custom link by email to access each issue of the *Quarterly*.

Class Notes

1945

● *Sec., Enid Griswold Hyde, enidghyde@aol.com*

1946–1949

● Smith Quarterly *office, 30 Belmont Ave., Northampton, MA 01063, classnotes@smith.edu*

1950

Ginny Forte Alfano writes, "I can hardly believe I'm still here at 97. My health hasn't changed much, except that I am increasingly dependent on my rollator." Ginny says she lives comfortably in a retirement community and has a big family that includes six great-grandchildren. "I send love to all."

● Smith Quarterly *office, 30 Belmont Ave., Northampton, MA 01063, classnotes@smith.edu*

1951

Jocelyn France Deprez lives in a vibrant community in Orlando, Florida, and says she is "happy as a clam" in a two-bedroom, two-bathroom, living–dining room apartment with a full kitchen on the fifth floor above an ocean of treetops that she can look out on. "What I love most is that the front door opens onto an outdoor covered walkway, where I have a patio table and chair and oodles of space for many plants. I can hang my three flower boxes with geraniums and other colorful flowers over the rail as they do in Europe, and no worries about maintenance! And, of course, the weather here helps."

Esther Berkowitz Gruber, who was in our class for two years and transferred to the University of Chicago, is wondering if anyone remembers her.

And I, Stevie, your class secretary, continue to live in my home in Anna Maria, Florida. Like others our age, my husband, John, and I are traveling less but still enjoy visits from our kids, grands, and great-grands. I desperately need news from classmates for future columns in our *Quarterly*!

● *Sec., Agnes (Stevie) Stephenson Coppin, steviefiles@gmail.com*

1952

● Smith Quarterly *office, 30 Belmont Ave., Northampton, MA 01063, classnotes@smith.edu*

1945



From left are class of 1948 alums **Lois Quick Whitman**, **Alice Bach Marcus**, and **Hope Handler Punnett** enjoying a mini-reunion. Alice was Hope's roommate in Gillett House at Smith.

1953

Judy Plesser Targan writes, "At 94 years old, I am still living in my big old house. Every day, I go into my studio at home and paint my 'fantasy landscapes' using oil on wood. I go into New York City to see the latest exhibitions and art fairs. I highly recommend the new Princeton University Art Museum for both its architectural design and its collection. In addition, my life is enriched by the broadcast of the Metropolitan operas in HD at my local cinema, plus I enjoy classical music at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, as well as lectures in art history. Each week, I exercise with my trainer using 4-pound weights. My focus remains on art. My wonderful and supportive family includes two grown children, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. My husband, Ronnie, passed away six years ago, just short of our 67th anniversary."

You can see that Judy continues to have a full and busy life. To see her current paintings, try judytargan.com. Judy's sister is **Debby Plesser Pinkus '55**, and her roommate was **Tish deKanter**, who lives in Switzerland.

Since I receive little mail from other classmates, I will tell you about a recent Smith College Club of Greenwich-Stamford event. Smith Professor Michael Thurston spoke on "Why Novels Still Matter" in response to David Brooks's *New York Times* opinion piece "When Novels Mattered." And in answer to requests of books to read, he recommended *Waverley* by Walter Scott, *Harlem Shuffle* and *Crook Manifesto* by Colson Whitehead, *The Vaster Wilds* by Lauren Groff, *James* by Percival Everett, *The Overstory* by Richard Powers, and *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver. I hope you will share with us in this column—along with some news—your thoughts on one of these novels!

● *Sec., Ann Safford Mandel, annsmandel@gmail.com*

1954

Our April Zoom meeting was attended by me, **Mimi Bruce Young**, **Mardy Reker Durham**, **Nina Victor Taylor**, **Carol Traylor Henderson**, **Barbee Lease Crutcher**, **Ann Pearce Roberts**, **Robin Hansen Withington**, **Georgianna Bray Erskine**, **Natalie Stearns Wilson**, **Jeanne Dewey Kennedy**, and **Terry Williams Webb**. Zooms are scheduled every three months on the last Saturday of the month at 1 p.m. If you send me your email address, I'll give you the link to join.

Joan Friedman Green writes, "Greetings from a safe room in Shoresh, Israel. By the time you read this, the war will be long over, I hope. Life is relatively the same in my retirement community and there is a safe room on each floor of every building. I'm relatively healthy and happy, still enjoying family, teaching English, and learning Hebrew!"

Jeanne Dewey Kennedy has been thinking a lot about Dewey House. She recently found out that her great-great-grandfather, Charles Augustus Dewey, built the house from 1825 to 1827 and lived in it until it was bought for Smith at the time of its founding in 1875. She writes, "It was Smith's first residency house. I have a painting of his son Francis Henshaw Dewey, who, I realize, played in that house as a little boy. [It's nice] to think that it's my family that shelters Smith girls and has for many years. I certainly plan to be there on our next Zoom meeting. I'm so proud that so many of us are still alive and enjoying life." She and Dick play backgammon after dinner and have a new tree—a dogwood—by the mailbox.

Terry Williams Webb shares that after three years of research, her book *Christian Citizenship: Endangered in America* is now in print and available through Amazon and Wipf and Stock Publishers under her full name, Mary Theresa Webb. She writes, "My theme is faith, freedom,

1950s

and the threat of the fall of American democracy. In addition to a brief synopsis of Christianity, a recap of church and state issues throughout history sets the stage for why extreme forms of Christian nationalism and eschatology now impact presidential decisions. In conclusion, I challenge each of us to see how we might make a difference. Contact me if you want signed copies for spreading the word."

Nancy Crawford Thornley recommends a fantastic book, *Isola*, by Allegra Goodman. Set in 16th-century France, it tells the story of a noblewoman who is abandoned on a Canadian island in the St. Lawrence River. Nancy writes, "Brought up to be waited on, she must change into survival mode. The writer provides us with a detailed and fascinating journey. The great excitement is to find that this is a real story about a real person, with records to prove it. I have not been so impressed by a book for a long time."

Roo Herty Brown shares that her a cappella group, Mixed Blessings, sang at National Train Day in Lewes, Delaware. "We now boast a vintage steam engine, Engine #60, which was brought to town and connected to a coal tender and a caboose that we already have." Roo says that a ton of people turned out and it was so much fun. The audience sang "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" with her group. She adds, "I'm fine and having a great time going to classes at the local lifelong learning school, and leading another singing group—The Elder Moments. Then there's choir at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, so my music calendar is full. Only the administration's behavior is the fly in my ointment. Happy summer to '54ers."

● *Sec., Nancy Becklean Tobin, becklean@gmail.com*

1955

Ann Harrington Archer, your class secretary, is busy arranging music outings for residents at her retirement community, coordinating a series of writing workshops there. She's also eager to hear more news from classmates after the gratifying response to the class questionnaire last year!

● *Sec., Ann Harrington Archer, aha4252@gmail.com*

1956

Nancy Boden Pearsall writes, "My husband, Otis, and I love living in our now 200-year-old landmark house in Brooklyn Heights and spending time in our Bridgehampton, Long Island, house. Our daughter, son-in-law, and two daughters live in Manhattan, so it is easy to get together. We're not very mobile. Thank you to our home health aides, our regular driver to Bridgehampton, and various other drivers! Sorry to miss our 70th Reunion—it just seemed too far and too long for me now."

Muriel Du Brow Wolf reports that she has finally retired from practicing and teaching in both pediatrics and pediatric cardiology. "I left Smith after three years and went on to Yale Medical School, and Smith granted me a degree after completing two years in medical school."

Beth Saidel, daughter of **Alice Levitt Saidel**, writes to let us know that Alice missed Reunion because she was caring for her husband, Burt. Alice has been a strong supporter of Smith. It's been wonderful to work with her as an officer of the class. I know she and her daughter were looking forward to this time together in Northampton. We wish the family well.

I spoke with **Mary Stoll**, who, after one year at Smith, was told by doctors she had to be in California, where she could eat more fruits and vegetables. Look how far we've come.

I had a wonderful conversation with **Merle Mandell Shapiro** and her daughter, Felicia. They had just come from the doctor's office after getting clearance to attend Reunion. It was only weeks before that Merle had fallen and broken several bones. Felicia went with Merle to our 50th Reunion.

I, myself, missed Reunion. My son who lives in Toronto was coming to visit for Memorial Day, and I didn't think I could just disappear as he arrived. I have you all in my thoughts and prayers. I just hope you send me what you liked best and what changes you noticed. Any and all thoughts will be welcome and will appear in a future *Quarterly*.

Since you will be reading this in the fall, I'm letting you know some timely news that you may have missed. On March 25—the day that **Gloria Steinem '56** turned 92—Random House announced the forthcoming publication of her book, *An Unexpected Life: A Memoir*, published on September 22, 2026.

In trying to make contact with classmates for this issue, I found more phones "not in service." If you know of members of the class who are moving or just giving up their phones, please let me know so I can follow up. The college doesn't always get the information concerning our friends who have transitioned. For this issue, I don't have the usual list of classmates we've lost. I do, however, have word through the grapevine to share with you: For friends and families of those we've lost, we send our condolences. They are **Patricia Pride Eaton** (Talbot House), **Carolyn Kaplan Golding** (Jordan House), **Janet Wright Jones** (Lamont House), and **Marianne Uyterhoeven Manny** (Dewey House).

Thank you for the wonderful conversations we've had. If you would like the fun of sharing this job or taking it over, let me know. If not, please send updated contact information and notes about your life.

● *Sec., Judie Crosse Fouchaux, jfouchaux@comcast.net*

● *Sec., Carol Whalen, cjtw56@gmail.com*

1957

Sarah (Shane) Lane Crabtree has composed and sent a letter in support of Smith's long policy of welcoming transgender women, which has been signed by 29 classmates—nearly all in their 90s.

Fran Churchill Hart turned 92 on July 1 and says she is "walking and talking, but not hopping and jumping! Just back from a month's cruise with my daughter!"

Yona Donner Hermann's grandchildren are getting married and having babies. "So much happiness to celebrate!"

Carol Herselle Krinsky writes, "I think of the refugees as like many others: eager to be Americans, working when they can find jobs, and subject to expulsion, including in the middle of the night. What happened to our country? Our civil service? Our integrity in the world? My European friends are too polite to tell me what they are thinking now, but it's clear that for all of them, the USA has lost its luster, not to mention its moral standing." Carol recently published a free online book, *Building 42nd Street: A Chronicle*. It's a history of one of the three great streets in Manhattan, from colonial times to 2024, covering every type of building and all kinds of other places.

Judy Jacobi Levine's husband, Sydney, died on January 3, 2026, after almost 66 years of marriage. His dementia had been progressing fairly slowly until about a year ago.

"Even though we weren't living together, I could always see him. Now I can't, and it's really different. I wonder if I will ever get over it." Judy volunteers at the New York Philharmonic and takes chamber music classes. "That at least keeps me playing the piano, which I have done since I was 5 years old." Besides her New York apartment, she has a house near Tanglewood. Her sons are in Flagstaff, Arizona, and Los Angeles. She still wants to go to Greece and the Greek islands.

Mary McAvoy Johnstone says, "The Chicago Pope Leo is the best! I'm not happy about changes to names on passports, dollar bills, arches, hotels, the Kennedy Center, the Smithsonian, and all other sorts of things."

Rosemary Pollack Mild received third prize for her short story "Two Overheated Engines" in the 2026 Biennial Letters Awards sponsored by the National League of American Pen Women. In her story, emotions rev up between a newly divorced young mom and her garage mechanic.

Wilhelmine Robertson Frankenburg welcomes news of classmates, especially at the age when friends of many years are gone. "I spend the winter months in Tucson, [Arizona,] where newer friends and the Humanities Seminar Program enrich my life and challenge those little gray cells to keep doing their job." Although the Southwest is in a 30-year drought and states are embroiled in a debate over who will get what of a dwindling resource, water still comes out of the spigot. "The unique Sonoran Desert, even without the usual precipitation, is showing off its spring displays. The city was aglow with the golden blossoms of the palo verde and continues with the surprising delicate blossoms of the prickly cactuses. I have a house here, the same age as me, which, although not human, needs care." Two of her three children have retired; one has moved to Munich. "The news is horrifying, but I do become curious and read it. ICE is picking up locally. Jets from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base are training overhead."



Clark House alums **Sue Lubowitz Cohen '58**, left, and **Sue Riemer Sacks '58**, have lunch in Westport, CT, to celebrate Sacks's retirement from Barnard College and their 72 years of friendship, "a gift from Smith that keeps on giving."

Judy Snow Denison organizes the marshals for No Kings demonstrations in Golden, Colorado. "The Ecuadorian refugees are still with me—cute baby 8 months old; dining room taken over by play yard. They are paying rent so it is sustainable, and who knows, they might save my life again. It's surprising how smoothly we all live together in my small house with one bathroom. Our immigration lawyer needed more retainer money, so I asked for help from my church friends and got enough so we can finally take Bryan to the dentist." Recently, her sweet 18-year-old cat stopped eating. "I hoped that the cat would recover, as I did two years ago—but finally I lost her." So much love per pound.

Ann Wales's daughter, **Solace Kirkland Southwick '84**, threw a fabulous party for Ann's 90th. Besides playing a lot of bridge, Ann always has two books going—usually novels—one in Spanish and the other in English. She has a language partner in Mexico with whom she speaks via Zoom for an hour a week.

● *Sec., Judy Snow Denison, jdenison0328@gmail.com*

1958

Sue Safford Andrews, our class president, writes, "Nothing much new with me. Thank goodness for tennis and outdoor activities. I have been very fortunate. I've been to several family weddings, which are fun for me because my family members are all Northeasterners so far. I hope all is well with our classmates. I look forward to the *Quarterly*."

Glenn Shannon Whipple shares that all is well in Fort Worth, Texas. She writes, "Our move to a lovely retirement community here on a tributary of the Trinity River has been wonderful! I already knew several people who were living here, and the food is excellent. Oggie and I are still in amazingly good health for being 90-year-olds. We are very blessed and grateful!"

Ann Flaster Loeb shares, "I cannot believe that I am 90—I know that the calendar says so, but I do not feel any differently. I am fortunate that I can still walk three miles daily, and I still lead tours as a docent in the winter at the Palm Springs Art Museum and in the summer at the Katonah Museum of Art. At the moment, my body still works and my brain works too. Jim and I are blessed to still have each other." At the time of writing, Glenn and Jim were looking forward to celebrating their 67th anniversary in September.

Nancy Berman Brown shares the news that "my husband, Rudy Zeidler, and I have recently moved into a continuing care retirement community in Bridgeport, Connecticut, called 3030 Park. We are very pleased that we made this move. Both of us are still quite active, but realized that the time had come to make this transition. We have a lovely independent apartment and are quite thrilled with all the many activities, lectures, concerts, and day trips that are offered. We've discovered many interesting and talented people, which gives the community a nice mix of residents. I am also still enjoying Zoom calls with Martha Wilson friends **Laurie Smits Staud**, **Susan Steiger**, **Mary Maier Walker**, **Noel Stark White**, **Janet McAdam Tyler**, and **Istar (Sis) Haupt Mudge**, which keeps us all up to date with each other."

Betty Cadman Calvin exclaims, "Life is good!" She has two sons, two grandchildren, and three great-grands living nearby in Toronto and has a daughter and two grandchildren in Stamford, Connecticut. She's been home since COVID and is still doing her four hours on the Distress Centres phone line weekly. Betty enjoys many concerts, monthly Live From the Metropolitan Opera performances, book lectures with friends, and is still active at the church that has been home all her life.

Virginia (Gingie) Stein Greene says she "visited Naples in March and enjoyed my annual dinner and then afternoon with **Peggy Yoelson Garson**. We have done this for over 30 years and love to pick up as if it was yesterday. Also spent a few nights at **Aubin Zabriskie Ames**'s apartment. Such fun to catch up with her again. We were roommates in New York City right after college. I stay in touch with **Dee Walker Davis** and **Sue Bartleson Hewitt**. Lucky we are still here as we turn 90. [I'm also] in touch with **Jo Freyberg Blatz** who is suffering from Parkinson's but never complains—wonderful attitude. I am in good health and can still play tennis and paddle in season. I love to garden and swim; anything outdoors makes me happy. I have wonderful memories of our years together in Franklin King. We were lucky to grow up in the 1950s. Our country is in such a mess now; just hoping we get through it okay."

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

1959

Marion Allen Kaufmann writes with "enormous gratitude to our classmate **Olivia Ames Hoblitzelle** for her jewel of a book, *Aging With Wisdom*, based on her Buddhist teachings. I discovered it by taking a six-week workshop titled "Aging Together" about how preparing and reflecting on our own eventual death can help us live more fully now. This

precious book has opened up a whole new positive and compassionate perspective for me—a way of bringing family together and better preparing for my own inevitable death, not to be feared. Having recently turned 89, I have suddenly become aware of how old I am getting. Last March, I was lucky to ride with a friend (Smith '76) to the Boston Public Library to hear President Sarah Willie-LeBreton speak. I think I was the oldest person there. How heartening to know that Smith is in especially good hands with her at the helm. What a powerful speech!"

And from **Delight Wing Dodyk**, who also went to the Boston Public Library event: "The library is a treat in itself, with its monumental allegorical bronze doors by Daniel Chester French. President Sarah Willie-LeBreton was her marvelous, candid, timely, deeply informed self and got lots of applause from a very large—mostly under 50—group of alums. The food was creative and delicious! And it was good fun to socialize around one of those stand-up cocktails with gals my daughter's and granddaughter's ages!"

And last, I'll add a bit about the informative, educational, and emotional trip I, your secretary, took with Road Scholar last January to visit the major civil rights sites in Atlanta and in Montgomery, Selma, and Birmingham, Alabama. I was amazed at what Bryan Stevenson has accomplished in Montgomery. Walking across the Edmund Pettus Bridge was memorable.

● *Sec., Carol Parodneck Stern, cstern@his.com*



From left, **Frances Griffiths**, **Carolyn Grinnell Kirkpatrick**, and **Susanne Smith Tomlinson** enjoy a 1963 Lawrence House mini-reunion at Frances's continuing care retirement community in Alexandria, Virginia.

1960

Is it not true that with our shared experience at Smith, the connections we've made with each other in the past and continue to create are valued all the more with time? If we can, we try to stay in touch with classmates nearby. Particularly fun was **Lee Baldwin Dalzell** and **Kathleen Dunn Lyman** joining **Linda Fisher Smith** several months ago for a day's excursion to Wiscasset, Maine. More often, though, we are scattered geographically, and we read our class news in the *Quarterly* to catch up a bit. Your secretaries are grateful to those who take a few moments of their time to write about what they are up to. We would love to hear from more of you. In last summer's issue, we enjoyed **Karen Barner Anderson**'s news about her life on Lone Eagle Ranch in Nebraska and her career as a commercial pilot. She is still "loving life" there.

She writes, "I lost my dear husband a few years ago but plan to stay put here, since this ranch holds so many wonderful family memories. Our three daughters live in Texas, Chicago, and Florida, so I don't see them as often as I'd like, but I manage to keep in touch with everyone just the same via phone and email. Keep the news coming. I love reading about my classmates, where they live, and what they're doing." **Lyn Gillespie Brakeman** writes, "I graduated from Smith in 1960 feeling proudly stuffed with diverse ambitions. My oldest daughter graduated from Smith in 1985. We both wanted children, preferably accompanied by good marriages. Both of us failed at the marriage part yet birthed amazing children. I pursued religion—specifically women's ordination, against odds—and was ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Church in 1988. I continue in retirement to lobby for gender justice in the ordination process and in all religious language. My daughter is a professional lobbyist in the world of politics—justice and dignity for all. We both still have dark-brown hair. Hers glistens, mine does too, despite strands of white." She adds, "We're not Smithies, and yet of course we are, in a soul kind of way."

Betsy Beidler Cussler's reflections on Smith today (sent in a letter to '60 donors) are well worth including here. She writes, "I remember being told in one of the earliest assemblies of our freshman class that we were the first class in Smith's history to have more students from public high schools than from private preparatory schools. Having graduated from one of the former, I felt a little more comfortable, yet Smith was still clearly a place of privilege." Today, Smith students are "drawn from all levels of society, from nearly all 50 states and from around the globe. Today's Smithies can learn about other cultures in the dining room as well as in the classroom." Due to the new Wurtele Center for Collaborative Leadership, they are "learning leadership intentionally! I think many of us are and were leaders, learning through involvement in community organizations and sometimes by the seat of our pants, but we weren't given even the vocabulary, let alone the skills, for this kind of leadership before we even turned 20! And these Smithies are still having fun—did you see the Rally Day hats some of them sported in photos?!" Well said.

Susan Dworski Nusbaum reports, "I continue to enjoy the many exciting surprises in my life, including the new adulthood of seven grandchildren; the birth of a great-grand-

daughter, Lucy; and, of course, the accomplishments and attentions of my three fabulous children!" Joining those in our class who have published books in recent years, Susan's 50th poetry collection, *Sign Language*, is being published by Finishing Line Press.

And finally, do you remember **Carol Cross**, better known to us as Corky Cross? She did not graduate with our class, but upon coming across our class column, she wrote a note to **Lee Baldwin Dalzell** last winter. She is now back in America and lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts, trying to organize her future life and trying to simplify: "My hobby is reading and studying. I graduated with a [bachelor's degree] from Wellesley in 2002. I've never stopped." She sends us her warmest wishes.

Please remember to let us know what you are doing when you next get "the call." It's a lovely way of connecting.

- *Sec., Lee Baldwin Dalzell, ldalzell@williams.edu*
- *Sec., Kathleen Dunn Lyman, dunn@simmons.edu*

1961

Edie Smith sent her news shortly after returning to New York from her 65th Reunion. She writes, "It was wonderful to see classmates and to catch up on old and new friends' lives and views of the world. We hope as many come to our 70th Reunion. When planning, please remember that for future Reunions we are required to bring a companion."

- Smith Quarterly *office, 30 Belmont Ave., Northampton, MA 01063, classnotes@smith.edu*

1962

Cynthia Moss attended a mini-reunion in Florida last year with good friends **Barbara Sudler Maltby** and **Penelope (Penny) Naylor**.

Sandra Laird Curran writes, "Can one believe how long we have survived!? My life is full of [seven] grandchildren now marrying or in college, but my travel keeps me moving. Portugal, the Netherlands, and Tunisia in the last year with hopes for many more excursions to come in between volunteering. I miss the skiing and biking nixed by body arguments, but walking still works! May it be true for us all."

Holley Wall Flagg says she was honored and delighted to be showing her art in the Smith Alumnae House Gallery from February 2 until August 3, 2026. Holley adds, "The fall was consumed by getting ready for the show. But life goes on. Sadly, I lost my husband of 58 years, Russ, 90, in December. My family was a tremendous support, and art was a welcome diversion."

Anitra Thorhaug returned from her project with Sri Lanka coastlines for climate change abatement by seagrass restoration just in the nick of time. The Abu Dhabi airports closed several days later due to Iran. The project went well, and much-anticipated blue carbon data was sent to the Yale Center for Natural Carbon Capture. Anitra's work with partner Ted Manning and with Mamphela Ramphele and John Gilmour—Education for Hope—launched in Rome in October and is continuing in African conferences and Latin American meetings. It is about educating the underprivileged in science, math, and useful subjects for creating survival livelihoods in the poorest nations of Africa and Latin America. There is room for partners in this, should Smithies want to help.

Carolyn Gardner Manrique writes, "After 29 years in the Tucson [Arizona] area, Daniel and I have moved to a retirement community near Phoenix. Loving the proximity of absolutely everything! The nearest rec center is a short drive, and we can walk to the library."

- Smith Quarterly *office, 30 Belmont Ave., Northampton, MA 01063, classnotes@smith.edu*

1963

- *Sec., Mary Trexler Funsch, funschs42@gmail.com*
- *Sec., Susan Lampman Hill, susanartlover0@gmail.com*

1964

Caroline Brown worked at Pan Am after Smith and lived in Chile, Italy, and Spain. "After returning to the States, I got a degree in film production at the Brooks Institute in California and later started a landscape business in Houston, which I ran for 10 years. Now retired, I am in good health despite tricky knees. I hope everyone from Jordan House is doing fine."

Deborah Ladd Shearer writes, "Two of my four granddaughters are starting the college admission process. I wonder whether either might continue the Smith tradition of my grandmother, **Rachel Whidden Merchant 1913**; my mother, **Esther Merchant Ramsdell '38**; and me."

Margie Barclay has lived almost a quarter of her life in Oaxaca, Mexico. "A few classmates have visited, and I hope to welcome more of you. I have been traveling with one of my sons, and we have dined in spectacular restaurants, most recently in Lima, Peru."

Kathy Kehoe Ruhl and her daughters visited Nesbø Farm in Norway. "I read several Jo Nesbø mysteries but no family ties were discovered. I've been enjoying life at a retirement community in northern Illinois. Recently marked my 20th year traveling back and forth to Australia. I am still acting. One grandchild finished college, two are in college, and three are in high school."

Sally Hancock Wallace writes, "Despite the expected aches and pains, I'm busy. I celebrated my 82nd birthday by going to the theater in New York City with my daughter. Then, I attended my 65th high school reunion in Maine; it was great seeing old friends and still having so much to talk about. I have Baltimore Symphony Orchestra season tickets and several theater subscriptions. I still sing with the Hershey Community Chorus, although some high notes aren't there anymore!"

Judith Tick says, "These days, work saves me from thinking about the present." She spoke about her paper on the late composer Charles Ives—"The Housatonic at Stockbridge: Following the Feminine"—during an American Musicological Society conference in the fall. Her nonfiction book *Becoming Ella Fitzgerald: The Jazz Singer Who Transformed American Song* was published in 2023. "I moved from the Boston area to Los Angeles with my husband, Steve Oleskey, whom I met at Smith in 1960 and married 22 years later. In L.A., I joined a Smith book club led by my Morris House friend **Lois Hoffman Thompson '66**."

Sandy Breil Danu reports, "I spent nine months visiting a daughter who is developing an ecovillage in Costa Rica. Sunrises and a variety of exotic animals, birds, and flowers made it magical. I spent four months in Boulder, Colorado, with another daughter. Now, I am living in the south of France. I sympathize with other immigrants as I negotiate with the French bureaucracy. I soothe myself by eating in bistros and brasseries."

1960

1960s

Dottie MacColl Woodcock writes, "These times have been challenging for the Washington National Opera, where I have served on the board since 1992. Our company, with its independent board and renowned staff leadership, operates under an agreement with the Kennedy Center, and with the U.S. president's takeover, we are experiencing a deep decline in patron and donor support, threatening our 70th anniversary season. On a brighter note, The Garden Club of America presented me with a Creative Leadership Award, and during an evensong service at the Washington National Cathedral, I was installed as an honorary canon in recognition of my volunteer leadership."

Alice Schwedock Small says, "Life continues, 52 years later in our New Jersey 'starter house.' Our children, Adlai and Emily, live an hour away with their respective families. Joe and I have been retired for 16 years and stay active by taking daily walks, reading many books, and auditing courses at Princeton. We go to New York City often to see plays, the recently renovated Frick Collection, and the Rockefeller Wing at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. In 2024, we took a wonderful Williams College–sponsored trip to Turkey."

The college received news of **Anne Palms Chalmers**'s death in September 2025. Anne was a strong supporter of our class, present at every Reunion and the creator of many parade signs. She was creative, upbeat, and always fun to be with. Others we lost in 2025 are **Beth Falor Carducci**, **Christie O'Loughlin**, and **Leslie Smith**. Condolences to their Smith friends.

As for me, I enjoyed two weeks in Morocco with **Toni Grotta Wolfman**. We visited Moroccan homes, tiled palaces, and medinas. It was a wonderful adventure.

● *Sec., Jinny Cohen, vhcints@icloud.com*

1965

Jona Burgess Hammer and her husband, Carl, spent January and February at their place in the snow in Easthampton, Massachusetts. They had a lovely time seeing their daughter **Johanna Hammer, M.S.W. '99**, and friends. Jona enjoyed a nice visit with Baldwin housemate and classmate **Lynne Vietor Parsons**. March found them back in Pittsburgh, where Jona was busy with medical stuff—"Goes with age, they say!"

Laura Goodman Jacobs was sorry to miss our 60th Reunion. Fortunately, it was for the happy occasion of the high school graduation of their two oldest grandchildren, Marissa and Ari. To the total delight of Laura and her husband, Jerry, Marissa, Ari, and their cousin Isabel are all attending college near them. Marissa and Ari are at George Washington University, where their dad is an adjunct professor. Isabel chose to stay close to them at the University of Maryland. Their youngest grandchild, Avi, brought them pride and joy on his bar mitzvah day in September 2025. His sister Emuna is beginning her college hunt, and Aviva is in her first year of high school. Laura and Jerry's travel centers around family visits to Florida and California. At home, Laura does a lot of knitting and participates regularly in mahjong games and book club meetings. She also enjoys entertaining and having company frequently. If reasonably good health continues, Laura looks forward to our 65th Reunion.

Carol Morrison's life in Nice, France, is full with more activities than she has time for. She loves being able to walk everywhere. Recently, she went horseback riding on a rocky mountainside just above Vence, France. It was the first time she had ridden in five years. Carol said the expat bubble is growing, and she has to seek opportunities to speak French. "I still have to pinch myself to remind myself that I'm living on the French Riviera."

Susie Page Trotman was lucky to have 60 wonderful years of marriage to Stanley, whom she met while at Smith; sadly, he died in December 2025 after 50 years with multiple sclerosis and six years with cancer. He never let his health define him, and they enjoyed many family adventures, their work, sports, travels, lectures, music, and time with family and friends. "Thank you, Smith, for my interesting years and special friendships! Carpe diem!"

Meg Pearson is in the stages of a transition that may or may not work out: She is trying to sing alto in her church choir, which she has not done for 65 years. She has a new keyboard and has found a voice coach to help her.

In January, **Diane Rader O'Connor** celebrated 24 years of remission from advanced-stage ovarian cancer. March marked the 21st anniversary of the founding of their local Ovarian Cancer Alliance of Oregon and Southwest Washington, which is a community partner of the Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance of New York City. They are very proud of the work they do, because no one should have to face ovarian cancer alone.

Sadly, our class lost **Sarah (Sally) Sanford Conn** (Gillett House) on February 21, 2026; **Janet McLeod** (Lamont House) on August 15, 2025; **Brenda McSweeney** (Baldwin House) on March 11, 2026; **Meridith Daniels Wesby** (Park House) on January 7, 2024; and **Myrtis Stanislaus White** (Dawes House) on February 13, 2026.

● *Sec., Marcia Schofield, marcia@alumnae.smith.edu*

1966

Updates, memories, reflections, and more from classmates unable to be at our May Reunion:

Jane Lakes Harman writes, "I remember marching in the parade at our 50th and thinking how we had been transplanted from young idealistic Smithies to 'old' ladies. Now, another decade later, I worry that our country has been transplanted from the democracy we knew into something unrecognizable. Into our ninth decade now, my passions are three: First, I will stay 'in the arena' to do what I can to save our democracy. Second, I am chasing after nine grandchildren who are the joy of my life. Third, I celebrate 11 years of a lovely partnership with a man who came into my life three years after my husband died. My travel these days is between D.C. and Boston (where he is), and New York City and Los Angeles, where the children are."

Julie Haenel Friedman says she hopes everyone had a festive and rewarding Reunion. "My news: My husband and I are still in Evanston, Illinois, but retired from practicing law, and I also retired from being a docent at the Art Institute of Chicago. I am in two book clubs and take acrylic painting classes as well as continuing education at Northwestern on Zoom. Our children and grandchildren are in the Chicago area and attentive: Interacting with them is fun and joyful."

Katherine Taylor shares, "I support eight environmental organizations. Now, instead of writing political action letters to Congress, I am asking [congresspeople] what they each are doing now to protect our planet. Too many people remain uninformed!"

Patricia Hoffman Bernstein writes, "Travel obligations kept me from Reunion: a writers' conference

and then visiting our 'surrogate' grandchildren. Two years ago, I closed my PR business after 40 years and now devote my energy to writing books: four are out currently, with more in the pipeline. Among them, *Ten Dollars to Hate* about the 1920s Klu Klux Klan and the 29-year-old [district attorney] who convicted them; *A Noble Cunning: The Countess and the Tower*, inspired by the story of a Scottish woman who in 1716 rescued her husband from the Tower of London before his execution with the help of her women friends! And now I am working on a retelling of the Walter Scott classic *Ivanhoe*; its heroine is Rebecca of York, who is called by scholars the first positive Jewish character in English literature."

Alison Teal says she still feels 30 years old—"until I catch my reflection in a window! Life has been full and peripatetic. My husband and I both served in Democratic administrations over the years but moved often in between. Since college I've lived in Berkeley, Oakland, Denver, D.C., New York, Boston, Vienna (Austria), and now we're in Key West, Deer River [Minnesota] in summers, and Aspen. Our six grandchildren are all under 8, so our homes contain equal parts joy, chaos, sticky fingerprints, endless infections and colds, and lost shoes. Although I look at the political state of our country with horror and disbelief, I remain stubbornly hopeful and active politically. After all, we have lived through assassinations, wars, upheaval, terrible fashions, and decades of predictions that civilization was ending any minute now. And still—here we are. Older, perhaps wiser, creakier, but still laughing, still caring deeply, and still believing that kindness, intelligence, humor, and courage matter. What a lucky thing it is to have shared the beginning of the story with all of you. I really mean that!"

● *Sec., Leslie Judd Graitcer, lesliegraitcer@me.com*

1967

Last year was a milestone one for our class, as most of us were born in 1945.

To celebrate her 80th birthday, **Suzanne Schettler** wanted to go somewhere where she wouldn't have to get dressed and go out to eat in the morning. "Chose a friend's bed-and-breakfast overlooking Monterey Bay. I also wanted to indulge my fantasy of falling asleep outdoors at twilight with a long view down to the ocean. Her patio was the perfect place. During the day, I compiled a list of 80 favorite things." At the time of writing, Suzanne was on the waiting list for a nice retirement community in west-central California. "I'm discovering that downsizing from a longtime home to a small apartment is a multistage project. Three meals a day and housekeeping would be provided, so I'm considering how to use my time besides reading, which I love. Learn to draw or sculpt? Learn a new language? It feels like I might be going away to year-round summer camp."

Betty Jones Dabney quips that she spent her 80th birthday in denial.

Daphne Gemmill always tries to do something fun for her birthday. "I celebrated my 80th at a Michelin-starred steakhouse in Buenos Aires, Argentina. For my 81st, I celebrated by standing next to the tallest bromeliad (a tropical flowering plant) in the world, which grows high in the Andes mountains of Bolivia and Peru." **Morley Marshall Knoll** spent her 80th birthday with her children Julie and Jessica on a Princess Cruise to Alaska. Morley recently moved to the Seattle area to be closer to Julie's family.

Veronica Tao says it was truly awesome to reach age 80 "pretty much intact." "I have learned to respect my body and appreciate how much it has served me for eight long decades! I was so grateful and delighted to celebrate my milestone birthday with my loving family in Los Angeles."

Susie Morey Harries describes herself as a lifelong learner, and she continues to consider the difficult questions posed by her outstanding Smith professors—"We were in the presence of greatness almost daily." Having ignored most of her birthdays, she celebrated her 80th by inviting immediate family over to converse with a few close friends over a small dinner, preceded by chess and a neighborhood treasure hunt. "No TV, Netflix, Facebook, or Instagram, which pretty much sums up the choice my husband and I have made to read and inquire as we age and contribute to the public good."

Elaine Sussman Belvin celebrated her 80th birthday by spending five weeks in Africa with her husband. Both avid photographers, they started in Nairobi, Kenya, and met up with their daughters. After 2.5 weeks in Namibia, they returned to Kenya for another safari. "The photographic opportunities were amazing," Elaine says.

Elizabeth Bartelink Lane celebrated her 80th at the Balloon Fiesta in Albuquerque, New Mexico, with son Edward and daughter-in-law **Vanessa Svihla '97**.

Diane Diamond Collier had a glorious birthday. "My husband, Bob, and my two oldest children's families rented a stunning château near Antibes in the south of France, a country I have loved since junior year abroad. Days were spent touring homes of some of the many artists who had studios there—Picasso, Renoir, Chagall, Matisse—wandering the ancient hill towns, swimming, and boating. We also spent an afternoon creating our own colognes in Grasse. I hope all of you had an equally happy milestone."

June Friedman Entman went to Vienna to explore the 18th-century buildings where her ancestors once lived, owned businesses, and in one case hid for the duration of WWII. In October 2025, she enjoyed a group 80th birthday party with friends from high school. "It was extraordinary to celebrate with people I shared a largely idyllic childhood and adolescence with over 70 years ago!"

Roommates at Smith, **Jerri Pantages Long** and **Paula Gardiner Roberts** celebrated their 80th birthdays with a weeklong mini-reunion in California. They enjoyed each other's company and being pampered at their boutique hotel.

Joanie Carter Martin had a nearly perfect 80th birthday, except for the fact that her two children couldn't make the celebration. "I am done with big parties, so I devised a simple day of my choosing. Visiting my sister, **Betsy Carter '61**, at her home in Maine, we began the day with cinnamon rolls, went fishing (and caught a 31-inch striped bass!), and concluded the day with lobster rolls and ice cream. Perfect!"

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● *Sec., Peggy Printz, peggyjprintz@gmail.com*

1968

Caren Byrd Borland, Donna Larson Day, Nancy Hertz Ellis, Timi Anyon Hallem, Sarah Wiley Henriksen, Ann Berlinger Kirtman, Diane Link, and Jan Cohan Mottinger gathered in Los Angeles at the Walt Disney Concert Hall for a February performance by the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra featuring the talented **Elim Chan '09** as guest conductor. Sarah reports that the venue was "stunning" and that, to honor Smith's 150th anniversary, the L.A. Smith club hosted a reception on the terrace, "where President Sarah and Elim shared affectionate and informative comments about Smith and Elim's career path." Our attending classmates were delighted to have the opportunity to meet there with both speakers. They were also delighted to see one another. As Timi describes it, "The event was great. Caren organized a preconcert lunch, which included each of us talking some about ourselves. Amazing how you can still learn a lot about the people you have known for over 50 years."

Marcia Sollek Lenard, **Linda Levitt Grayman**, and **Ruth MacNaughton** enjoy an ongoing mini-reunion. In March 2020, Linda, Ruth, their husbands, and several friends formed a Pandemic Movie Club—members take turns selecting a movie to stream. Each week, they watch the selected film and then discuss it via Zoom. This process was so successful at relieving some of the pandemic gloom and so enjoyable that it continues today. The club now has additional members, including Marcia. She says, "It's a bright spot in my week, with films I never would have otherwise watched and with stimulating and often hilarious discussions. And it brings in new friends from Maine, New York, Ohio, British Columbia, Canada, and all around the Bay Area. I rarely miss a session. If I'm in



Members of the class of 1968 enjoy gathering with Smith President Sarah Willie-LeBreton, center, at a celebration of Smith's 150th anniversary at the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles. From left are **Nancy Hertz Ellis**, **Mary Adams O'Connell**, **Donna Larson Day**, **Ann Berlinger Kirtman**, **Diane Link**, and **Caren Byrd Borland**.

Spain for a few months, I Zoom in at 2 a.m.!" Recently, Marcia chose *Circus Kid*, which is about San Francisco's Pickle Family Circus, formed in 1975 and the forerunner of modern no-animal circuses, such as Cirque du Soleil. Marcia has known the circus group since 1975, and she invited founder Larry Pisoni to join the club's Zoom. He brought wit, enlightenment, history, and reflections about the state of circus today. "The kind of circus that entertains instead of legislating."

Susan Dunn LaPine and **Ebets Wesson Judson** took advantage of a theater trip to London last January organized by London Arts Discovery. They roomed together at the Montague Hotel next door to the British Museum and enjoyed 10 plays, the London Symphony Orchestra, a football game, and side trips to a country home for a luncheon and to Bletchley Park to learn how the Enigma code was cracked. On their own, they took long walks through London to visit museums, bookstores, and a fish and chips restaurant reputed to be the best. It was so delightful that "we are hoping to do it again next year."

Lorna Grindlay Moore is a tenured OB-GYN professor at the University of Colorado Anschutz medical campus and has undertaken years of research relating to several pregnancy complications, such as fetal growth restriction and preeclampsia. She reports that these complications are three times more common at altitudes above 8,000 feet. She and her team have studied populations in high altitude areas of Colorado, Peru, Tibet, and now Bolivia. They perform genetic research in these populations to identify gene locations that provide protection against pregnancy complications and then try to find drugs that mimic the protective genes along their pathways. They have generated nearly 300 scientific publications in this effort. "We've not yet reached our final destination, but it's been (and still is) a very fun road." Lorna's husband of 52 years died three years ago from pancreatic cancer, and she continues to try to recover from this loss. "I've moved to a smaller house and have a new garden to plan—so I have decided to retire at the end of this year; 80 seems a good age to do so!"

We were sorry to learn of the deaths of the following classmates: **Pamela Hatchfield Sanborn** on April 4, 2025; **Meredith Eaton Walsh** on July 28, 2025; **Mimi Farelly-Hansen** on October 7, 2025; and **Esther Scholtz Pyrczak** on November 20, 2025. The class Memorial Committee provides us with more detailed information on deceased classmates by way of our class website and class emails. To expedite the committee's reporting, please provide instructions to next of kin to send a notice of death to smithierecords@smith.edu.

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● *Sec., Margie Sargent, smith68notes@gmail.com*

1969

Ellyn Paul Weiss writes, "It's getting increasingly difficult to separate my individual experience of daily life from the public mayhem around us. I am deeply troubled by this. I pray that by the time you read this, things may have improved. My studio is a quiet refuge." She was preparing for an August show of new work in Wellfleet, Massachusetts, and "hoping that we all keep our spirits and our energy up and make good trouble."

In California, **Linda Frank Sicher** escaped the New York City blizzards and enjoyed the company of her son, granddaughter, and grandson. "I have been deeply involved in creating collages, and I am hanging a show in my dentist's office as we speak," she writes. "It makes the activity at the dentist a lot more enjoyable." Having lost her basement studio, she is creating a workspace in her apartment.

Peggy Elman Gillespie continues to work more than full time for social justice.

Family Diversity Projects has eight photo-text exhibits (notably *Authentic Selves: Celebrating Trans and Nonbinary People and Their Families* and *Building Bridges: Portraits of Immigrants and Refugees*) traveling all over the United States. Interested classmates can bring the exhibits (and books) to houses of worship, schools, colleges, libraries, workplaces, and museums; for more information, email Peggy through the website familydiversityprojects.org. "Keep fighting for equality, diversity, and inclusion wherever you can," she writes. "We are not too old to keep this work going."

Sharon Smith Burlingame writes that in addition to grandparenting, swimming, gardening, and the "volunteer delights" of mentoring and her League of Women Voters local work, she was delighted to join the class of '69 Road Scholar Civil Rights Trail trip, where she was able to renew friendships and make new classmate friends. She adds, "Our experts on the trip softened the emotional strains of what we learned about the past, and witnessed a strength of hope that we could carry away. The importance of speaking up, though remaining nonviolent, is a lifelong pursuit."

That March trip was arranged with the invaluable help of **Frania Monarski '82**, director of group sales for Road Scholar. She would be happy to help other classes with similar adventures. Sharon was one of 15 participants, along with **Louise Armstrong**, **Julia Bent**, **April Hoxie Foley**, **Bonnie Franklin**, **Janet Williams Harrison**, **Margot Levy**, **Susan Bangs Munro**, **Jane Abramson O'Connor**, **Barbara Wyper Pettus**, **Nancy Rubenstein**, **Judy Bertolet Shipman**, **Linda Frank Sicher**, **Marguerite Smith**, and **Linda Sosnowitz**. They started in Janet's hometown of Atlanta, where early arrivers spent time in the botanic gardens or worshipped at the Ebenezer Baptist Church before the group visited the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historical Park, the National Center for Civil and Human Rights, and the Carter Center. Several classmates took a side trip to The Temple—bombed in 1958, probably because of Rabbi Jacob Rothschild's opposition to segregation. In Montgomery, they visited the Rosa Parks Museum, the Freedom Rides Museum, and the three stunning projects of The Legacy Foundation: Freedom Monument Sculpture Park, The Legacy Museum, and The National Memorial for Peace and Justice. Bonnie described the sculpture park's monumental bronzes as showing "the humanity and dignity of enslaved and oppressed African American human beings in a way no words could convey." Susan spoke of light filtering among huge hanging sandstone plaques in The National Memorial, remembering those who were lynched and renewing our commitment to justice. In Selma, the group walked across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. In Birmingham, they visited the 16th Street Baptist Church, where a 1963 Klan bombing killed four African American girls. Marguerite, as "the only Road Scholar Smithie of color on this trip," felt keenly the erasures of Native Americans from the Southeast as well as the "excruciating exclusion, cultural destruction, emotional and physical harm, and degradation imposed upon people of color with roots in Africa" and elsewhere. Civil rights still need to be protected, she reminds us, and group members continue to bring new or renewed knowledge of the past to their discussions of current events. Some of them capped off their trip with a nonviolent protest at the No Kings III rally in Birmingham. "The class trip was amazing," writes Linda Sicher, "and I hope we will plan another class adventure soon."

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At the Civil Rights Memorial Center in Montgomery, Alabama, are 15 members of the class of 1969 on a Road Scholar Civil Rights Tour. From left are **Marguerite Smith**, **Nancy Rubenstein**, **Julia Bent**, **Margot Levy**, **Bonnie Franklin**, **April Hoxie Foley**, **Linda Frank Sicher**, **Sharon Smith Burlingame**, **Linda Sosnowitz**, **Janet Williams Harrison**, **Susan Bangs Munro**, **Louise Armstrong**, **Barbara Wyper Pettus**, **Judy Bertolet Shipman**, and **Jane Abramson O'Connor**.

1970

1970

Laura Ross Blumenfeld writes that her granddaughter Emily Anne Blumenfeld, daughter of her son, Josh, and his wife, Diana, celebrated her bat mitzvah on January 17 at Adas Israel Synagogue in Washington, D.C. She says that it was an unusually memorable celebration because it occurred on Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, and a local African American church choir participated and melded their spirituals with Hebrew melodies. Emily's younger brother, Daniel, participated in the ceremony, as did her aunt and uncle, Jennifer and Graham Schwarz (Laura's daughter and son-in-law), and Emily's cousins Zach and Ryder Schwarz. Particularly heartwarming was that the ceremony took place in the same synagogue to which Laura and husband Jeff have belonged for many years and where Emily's father celebrated his own bar mitzvah.

Paula Neely Sinclair is still traveling the world but is now based in Rancho Mirage, California. She had a lovely trip to Turkey with **Nancy Rauch Douzinas**, had a visit from **Betsy Smith Eismeier '71**, and, at the time of writing, was about to visit Crystal Bridges with **Stephanie Smith Toothman '71**.

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1971

Sayonara from Suzy and Mimi—we're handing over the baton for our class column. Your next correspondent will be **Betsy Gardner Johnson**. It has been a pleasure!

I, Mimi, start with a look back at the Winter 2026 *Quarterly* in which the "Generosity" article featured classmate **Lynn Sharp Pain**. Inspiring!

More sound bites than soliloquies, we do hear from some of you about your ailments or operations, but the preponderance still lies with action—traveling, skiing, protesting, etc.

In her note, **Liz Seymour** references a 1975 article in which Jill Ker Conway apparently had to include her love of gardening in her official announcement as president in order to ease the fears of older alumnae when she writes, "I think we're doing 'older alumnae' a lot better than that! My last year was full of travel: Mexico, Thailand, Italy, and a wonderful weekend in New Jersey with **Mara Connolly Taft**. Older alumnae are not what they used to be."

Susie Price Dutcher does comment on a knee replacement and hip arthritis, but then moves right into taking a two-week British Isles cruise, seeing the Scottish Highlands, and planning an upcoming summer trip to Alaska. She remains in close contact with **Carolyn Engel Comfort** and **Dale Ungerleider Kaufman**.

At the time of writing, **Karen Rubin Schudson** and Charlie were looking forward to celebrating their 55-year anniversary. When asked how they stayed together so long, the reply was "We didn't have the time or money to divorce, so we just pushed through!" They retired to Sedona, Arizona, years ago, and are still volunteering, hiking, traveling, and painting watercolors. Karen has worked with Sedona's only transitional home with comprehensive social services for unhoused moms and kids—with a 100% record of graduating them to affordable housing last year.

Similarly active are **Kathy Kelly Spear** and Brian, who retired to Boulder, Colorado; support civic and cultural groups; and also travel, fish, garden, and spend time with their kids (Matt and Olivia) and their families.

Marianne Ruscito and her husband of 42 years, Jeff Head, live in Fairfield, Connecticut, near the families of their daughter and eldest son (including two grandchildren), while two younger sons are located in Pittsburgh and Boulder, Colorado. All are doing well and sometimes vacation together, most recently in Nantucket.

Also in Fairfield and close to their elder son, **Gaby Hack Hall** and husband John are celebrating their 50th anniversary. Post-stroke and "with a sense of humor and the support of our large extended family, [John] has made progress and we have a happy life."

Tori Merritt reports on a recent Dawes House Zoom meeting. "**Annabelle Davis Imber Tuck**, **Anne Burnham Thistle**, **Julie Arnold '72**, and I all joined the conversation and caught up on more than 50 years' worth of news. We have reached out to other contacts from other classes who lived in Dawes House back in the day. A deficiency in alumnae Reunion is that there has never been a way to reconnect with others who lived in the same house but graduated in different years. We hope to expand the Zoom meetings to others who were our contemporaries at Dawes House. At the time of writing, Annabelle, Anne, and I were planning to be at Reunion. Annabelle and I were looking forward to seeing Junior Year Abroad Geneva friends and hope that any JYA Geneva '69/'70s who couldn't attend can join the Zoom. I personally am doing well. Never better. Husband needs some caregiving. Trying to ski my age—got close this year, but the ski season was cut short due to drought."

Tori makes two very important points in her note: The utility of Zoom to stay in touch easily and quickly by house, and the need for a mechanism to do "true" house-based communications. Those of us from Baldwin have been Zoom-orchestrated by **Pril Dorman Hall** every quarter or so, and we often talk about doing something "three-up and three-down." Keep this in mind as you move forward—the house system is a precious hallmark of the Smith experience.

Regarding the two of us, Suzy is in the throes of moving with husband Bobby into a new home, and Mimi (with husband David) continues to hop the globe between the United States and Australia, with occasional "vacations." As mentioned, we're turning over the column and sailing into the sunset—best wishes to all!

- *Written by Suzanne (Suzy) Ross McDowell and Ana-Maria (Mimi) Zaugg*
- *Sec., Betsy Gardner Johnson, betsy@bgjohnson.com*

1972

Your class secretary, **Stefanie Solnick Cargill**, writes, "Most of my Smith '72 classmates have been too busy enjoying the beautiful spring to send news to share. Since I have the space, here are a few lines concerning my one-year-later recovery from a car-pedestrian accident in May 2025. Along with 28,000 other participants, I recently completed the 22nd staging of Pat's Run—a 4.2-mile fun run/walk in honor of local hero and professional football star Pat Tillman, who left a successful pro football career to volunteer for the U.S. Army Rangers and was then killed by friendly fire. This scholarship fundraiser benefits ROTC students, military veterans, and spouses through the Pat Tillman Foundation at Arizona State University in Tempe. Pat's Run is 4.2 miles in memory of Tillman's football jersey at Arizona State—number 42. There were runners, walkers, people in wheelchairs, and kids in baby buggies and wagons. Lots of fun."

A highlight for **Susan Hunter** was taking all her chil-

dren and grandchildren on safari in August 2025. For her, "the magic was watching the five grandchildren, ages 7 to 15, experience the majesty of Africa. They were like a baboon troop of their own, and it was an utter delight to experience their excitement and awe. Hoping to have a similar experience in February 2027, when we go to Patagonia with my middle daughter and her family, who will be spending the year in Santiago, Chile."

Nancy Ammon Jianakoplos writes that she benefited from a Smith connection when she had the pleasure of meeting Colleen Mesec, sister of **Susan Termohlen**. Susan made the long-distance introduction when she realized that her sister and Nancy both lived in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Ann Lemon is living in an assisted living apartment in New York City these days. She's mostly recovered from her health issues of the past few years, is having a good time now, and is looking forward to the next chapter. She's currently making jewelry, with an emphasis on necklaces and bracelets. Ann particularly enjoyed watching the recent 20th Film Festival in Bethesda, Maryland. It has been staged over the years by **O. Funmilayo Makarah**; the most recent festival included a retrospective of many of her past film festivals.

Robin Rainie-Lobacz is enjoying retirement from her physician assistant practice with the United States Marine Corps at Camp Pendleton. Since retiring in 2018, "Kenzie and I have moved back to New London, New Hampshire, and settled into the rural life again. Busy owning apartment buildings, doing bookkeeping at home for four entities, exercising, RVing, and playing music again. I gratefully connect often with Smith alums in New Hampshire for lunch."

A reminder that a complete list of '72 class notes and more can be found by visiting smithcollege72.org. Access to our '72 Facebook may be requested by sending an email to bsobiloff@comcast.net. See you at Reunion 55 in May 2027!

● *Sec., Stefanie Solnick Cargill, sacrhpt70@yahoo.com*

1973

Last winter was the coldest winter in Virginia in a long time. If you have never experienced "snowcrete," just ask northern Virginia residents about snowfall followed by 2 inches of solid ice. Sledgehammers were in evidence in many neighborhoods, and many shrubs succumbed to the icy coating. Of course, the arrival of August heat and humidity gave us more to complain about.

I escaped the icy blasts by flying to Florida to join **Roxanne Beardsley Niles** for a road trip from Winter Park, Florida, to Underhill, Vermont. The two of us and 8-year-old dog Shadow made the 1,400-mile trip in four days, with three nights on the road. We shopped at Buc-ee's in Florence, South Carolina, and walked some of the battlefields in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on a beautiful sunny day. It was a great time to catch up on the doings of our families and the friends that we have accumulated over 57 years of friendship.

Our class survey mavens **Debbie Ferro Burke** and **Diane Okrent** have continued to gather us together via Zoom meetings once or twice a month. They send out surveys ahead of time and compile the results before we gather. The March survey focused on books—what we are reading, how we prefer to read, and our many book clubs. We talked about reading, our families, our travels, and health concerns, but it is national politics that always dominates the Zoom conversations. This weighs heavily on us and motivates various forms of activism in our communities. The conversations always touch back to our early time at Smith, protesting the Vietnam War. If you have not yet participated in one of the Zoom conversations, please email me for instructions. It is fun to reconnect with old friends and make new connections with women you did not know at Smith. Thank you, Debbie and Diane, for your dedication and your labor.

Ellen Goblirsch Young traveled to Spain on a concert tour with a singing group.

In April, **Anne Pidano**, **Margaret Hunt**, **Joyce Krawiec Dickey**, and **Debbie Ferro Burke** were among the 100-plus attendees at the annual Three-College Luncheon in Hartford, Connecticut, which included alumnae of Smith, Mount Holyoke, and Wellesley. The speaker was Elisabeth Griffith, a Wellesley alum and historian and author of *Formidable: American Women and the Fight for Equality, 1920–2020*. She was entertaining and extremely informative as she fielded a range of questions about what led her to write the book, what she discovered along the way, and how essential women's contributions have been not just in the fight for equality but in so many other arenas. Importantly, this is the first book to explore how both white and Black activists fought for women's rights. In addition, Elisabeth explained that the door was opened for feminist historians when the draft rules changed in 1968. The end of graduate school deferments for men provided opportunities for women to attend graduate school and study what interested them: women's history.

I look forward to hearing from you. Please send your news updates.

● *Sec., Lolly Olena Mixter, lollymix@gmail.com*

1974

Hello, class of '74! It's hard to believe that two years have already passed since our wonderful 50th Reunion. By the time you receive this *Quarterly*, we'll be more than halfway to our 55th. We can't wait to see all of you and experience the campus again.

We continue to receive food memories. Keep them coming! But watch for additional prompts in class newsletters and other communications. If you have a prompt you'd like us to consider, please send your suggestions to your class secretaries.

Ruth Eliel has great food memories involving her first- and second-year roommates, **Jane Spinak** and the late **Anna Shubik Sweeney**. She writes, "Unlike me, both women had a sweet tooth. We were regularly served meringues with vanilla ice cream and homemade hot fudge sauce. Jane and Anna would nab a few extra desserts (including mine) to share. Jane, who to this day loves ice cream, would take the ice cream with hot fudge, while Anna would take the meringues. During the cold months, the meringues were stored on the Morris House windowsill of Anna's room, to be consumed over the next several days."

Your co-secretaries have their food memories too. **Marsha Shaines**'s favorite is a variation on the theme of Yorkshire pudding: popovers with chicken salad. Nothing could beat that crispy popover exterior and the custardy, eggy interior.

Wing Hamilton's memories relate to her decision to work at Friendly's her sophomore year: "I was feeling that the campus was too 'otherworldly' and hoping to earn money to use during junior year abroad. Unfortunately, the job took time away from my classwork and precious sleep. Some of the Smith women I served made comments such as, 'Gee, I'm stressed. Wish I had your job.' I rarely told them that I was a Smithie too. I'm not sure why. In the end, I spent most of my tips buying ice cream for Capen House, which I indulged in nightly! Despite the negatives, I remember this as a good, but odd, 'town and gown' experience."

We continue to receive memories of roast beef and Yorkshire pudding, this time memorialized in **Deeny McGaughey Bennett**'s Smith '74 poem "Comestible Memories" (February 2026):

"The 'Freshman 15' dogged our thighs till jogging caught our fancy; / though Smith's roast beef and Yorkshire pud made any weight loss chancy. / And then, of course, our Friday teas enticed us all with cookies, / including brownies magical for marijuana rookies. / Perhaps the best came every day, remaindered from the fall: / red apples, crisp within a bowl—comfort paying a house call!" Keep the news coming!

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● *Sec., Marsha Shaines, marsha.shaines@gmail.com*

1975

1975

Seven members of the class of ’75—**Patricia Connor**, **Shelby Hayden Miller**, **Jeanne Loughlin Dockery**, **Karen Koumjian**, **Mary Glaser**, **Jody Angevin**, and **Ellen Watts**—attended the meet and greet with President Sarah Willie-LeBreton at the Boston Public Library in March. President Sarah highlighted the strengths of the college, including the alumnae, and presented her future vision for Smith.

Joyce Young writes, “I spent my first real spring break on an ‘on the road’ trip with Road Scholar to the Chihuahuan Desert and Trans-Pecos region of the United States. We traversed Big Bend national and state parks, toured the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Center, got up close and personal with two large and powerful telescopes at McDonald Observatory, and toured Fort Davis, where the Buffalo Soldiers were stationed. There is a mind-boggling array of plant life, including cactus varieties I had no idea existed. One of our group members was an avid birder, so we all joined in the fun of learning to identify birds by their calls and appearance. Since this area is considered the Greater Big Bend International Dark Sky Reserve, we enjoyed an evening of stargazing with several telescopes and a passionate stargazing expert. As a lifelong learner, I thoroughly enjoyed the trip!”

Janie Eldred Goodin has lived in beautiful San Diego for the past 40-plus years. She and her daughter enjoy vacationing in national parks together. Most recently they have been to Denali, Death Valley, Sequoia and Kings Canyon, Redwood, and Great Smoky Mountains! Janie and **Katie Stephenson** spent a wonderful afternoon catching up and exploring a lagoon in nearby Carlsbad while Katie was in the area.

Leslie Hobbs Satin shares, “Both kids got married. Finally.” At the time of writing, she and Ken were planning a three-week May trip to Portugal and Spain and “a teeny bit of France.” Leslie says she is still very active with adult literacy, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, and the local library.

Ellen Prentiss Campbell relays, “My good news is the publication of my new novel, *Vanishing Point*, last May. A historical family epic, inspired by late 19th-century landscape painter George Hetzel’s complicated family, it features the struggles of his daughter, a painter, and his granddaughter, a writer, to achieve their creative aspirations as women.” Ellen proudly created a new website with a woman web designer: ellencampbellbooks.com.

Katie Stephenson recently enjoyed a memorable trip to northern Italy. “At the museum of Teatro alla Scala, built in 1774, I saw the original score for Puccini’s final opera, *Turandot*, as well as the baton Arturo Toscanini used to conduct its first performance 100 years ago. The season’s opening-night performance of *Turandot* was magnificent. It was amazing to realize that the theater has no sound amplification. After the opera, we had a late dinner and were basking in the afterglow of the evening’s performance when the lead tenor, who sang Calaf, walked in to applause from the waitstaff and other diners, soon followed by the star sopranos who sang the roles of Turandot and Liù. They were each seated at tables near ours, making the night even more special. As we left, each of the singers graciously signed my program. I only wished I could have shared the moment with Miss Stahl and Mrs. Finardi, my Smith voice teachers!”

Please send us any updates, news, and photos of Smithies connecting to include in future issues. Your life interests and experiences are always newsworthy to our classmates!

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

1976

Hello, everyone! As I write this, I am almost recovered from the wonderful 50th Reunion in Northampton. Dorm living was fine, but nothing matches my own bed and bath at home!

Many thanks to **Anne Terhune** and **Judy Knowlton Wright** for leading our class, and to **Deb Davis**, **Mary Ann Bruce Denton**, and **Niki Ingram** for organizing volunteers, house connectors, and headquarters. And, of course, to **Isla Grant**, **Kaarina Salovaara**, and **Lib Butler** for their work in corralling dollars for the class of 1976 Endowed Scholarship Fund, The Smith Fund, and planned-giving participation. The 200-plus classmates who appeared in Northampton looked great (though name tags were a must) and were a formidable force in the Ivy Day parade!

Our BrightCrowd digital book was a great hit, and I hope you all had a chance to look it over and bookmark it for later reference. Thanks to **Karen Booth Apple** for organizing that! And to **Gretchen Bank** for her work on our class website.

We also appreciated the memorial event organized by **Donna McKenzie** and others, which brought back fond remembrances of the several dozen classmates we have lost. Thanks to Glee Club members and other musicians for their voices and musical performances.

I hope I have not forgotten any of the many helpers!

I know you all have good intentions of writing to me with your news, although our class Facebook page and digital Reunion book provide plenty of updates. Don’t forget that we have many who appreciate hearing about classmates in this column, so drop me a line anytime with your news.

Sue Adelson is still adjusting to life without her husband and to living in a new place. Last fall, she joined her son and his L.A.-based dodgeball team in New Zealand, where they were playing in the Asia Pacific Dodgeball Invitational, and loved the refreshing change from her 55-plus community in western Massachusetts.

Olivet Benbow Jones attended her first Reunion since the 25th and had a good time catching up with old friends from Cutter and Duckett, including **Jenny Gold Levy**, **Nancy Orvis**, and **Neila Woodward Brownstein**.

Irene Bortolussi thought retirement would be full of traveling, pickleball, and playing with grandchildren. Instead, she and husband David have embarked on a new role as directors of an organization called Resource Center for a Better Life in South Arlington, Virginia, helping immigrants learn English and work on computer and sewing skills. The all-volunteer organization includes providing rides so students can attend classes. No boredom in their lives, and they are thankful that good health allows them to build a better world around them!

Mary Bickerton traveled to Berlin this spring with daughter Lucy and grandchildren to visit their father, Cedric Vara, a film director working on the TV series *Wild Things*. Five years’ study of German on Duolingo came in handy. She has been inspired to restart her quilting hobby, and continues

with her piano and gardening hobbies. Daughter Lucy lives in Queens; daughter Annie lives in Portland, Oregon; and Mary lives in Medford, Massachusetts.

At Reunion, **Niki Ingram** was thrilled to see her Penn Law classmates **Edith Ho** (and husband Garrett Wong) from San Francisco and **Sally Duggin** from D.C.

I spent some time talking with **Louellyn Lambros** at Reunion, and she was happy to report the birth of her first grandchild, Athena, born May 7, 2026, to son Ben and his wife, Pamela.

Nearby was **Wendy Reilly Harris**, who told us of her life in Brookline, Massachusetts. Wendy works with executives and their families who have moved to the United States and helps them with learning English and adapting to cultural changes.

So many stories were told at Reunion, and I am afraid I can't remember them all here. I hope that you will find it in your hearts to help me with class notes by emailing me anytime! I always love to hear from classmates: A Smithie a day keeps the doctor away!

● *Sec., Sally Scott Moser, sallymoser@gmail.com*

1977

We are getting very excited about our upcoming 50th Reunion plans. Whether you have been to every Reunion or this will be your first time, you are in for a treat! Please be sure your current email is on file with the college so you won't miss out on any part of the 50th Reunion reservations and events. Some of us have already been getting together for mini-reunions. Why not reach out to friends from your house, from your major, or from other extracurricular activities and celebrate ahead of time? And please continue to send notes to bring us up to date.

Ellen Cornell Culp writes that she became a grandmother the day she retired from her career in technology. This year, she and husband Steve celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary! "Granddaughter Zoey has brought so much joy to our lives." Ellen mentions that she is still working as a church cantor and playing the violin in local amateur groups.

Diana Hamilton has had an exciting 2026 to date. In addition to attending the Winter Olympics in Milan and Cortina, she went on a whirlwind Asian tour beginning in Singapore, where her son lives. En route to Singapore, Diana visited with **Tyra Roelandt**. Diana keeps in touch with **Lee Fox**, **Deborah Skelly**, and **Lesli Rice**. Lee continues to work as a nurse practitioner, plays paddle tennis, and summers on Mount Desert Island, Maine, when she is not running after her grandchildren in Rochester, New York. Tyra lives in Seattle



Carol Judy Cronin '77

Putting Patients at the Center of Healthcare

By Elizabeth Galewski

Carol Judy Cronin '77 was a government major with a focus on China when an anthropology course on aging changed her life.

"It was my senior year, and it may have been the first time that course was even offered," she says. "I remember thinking the professor and his students were learning about this new field together. I also interned at a day care center for the elderly in Amherst, a very new concept at the time. These experiences changed everything."

Walking away from her previous studies, she went on to work in the early field of gerontology, and eventually, health policy.

"Healthcare researchers were publishing studies on unexplained variations in care: Why are similar women in one state getting hysterectomies at several times the rate as those in other states?" Cronin explains. "There were also large studies indicating the number of medical errors occurring anywhere you looked in healthcare."

Her desire to minimize this harm launched her career in patient safety and healthcare advocacy. After roles in nonprofits, government, and an internet startup, she founded the Informed Patient Institute in 2007, which helped Americans navigate healthcare systems. She served as its executive director until 2025.

Cronin has acted as chair of the Medical Board Roundtable at the Patient Safety Action Network since 2015. Her work with the network has led to changes in what is required of doctors by the state medical boards that oversee them; for example, mandating doctors to tell patients if they are on probation. "Our work increases the amount, type, and accessibility of information provided about doctors on board websites. We also help the media tell stories about how a small number of doctors can create great harm—sometimes across multiple states," she explains.

Cronin also focuses on understanding how next-generation technology will affect patients. "Right now, I'm thinking about the benefits and harms associated with AI taking over some physician functions," she says. "What are the issues from a regulatory and patient standpoint?"

She attributes her success to the mindset she developed at Smith.

"I don't think I realized until later how much a women's education instilled a sense of 'of course you can,'" she says. "Being surrounded by really smart women who were comfortable being smart and with making their own choices was just the way things were at Smith. 'Of course you can' is a good way to face obstacles and get through adversity—and having a network of women friends that have your back."



At a Smith gathering hosted by the Boston Public Library and attended by President Sarah Willie-LeBreton are, from left, class of 1975 alums **Patricia Connor**, **Shelby Hayden Miller**, **Jeanne Loughlin Dockery**, **Karen Koumjian**, **Mary Glaser**, **Jody Angevin**, and **Ellen Watts**.

following a career at Microsoft, while Lesli lives in New York City, manages real estate, and travels to Jamaica as often as possible. Deborah has served as counsel for the Screen Actors Guild and continues to entertain Diana with tales of Hollywood.

Dana Herko came from Los Angeles for a weekend visit to **Renee Mock Sidman**'s family cabin on Bainbridge Island, Washington, where **Linda Mallin** has lived for 20 years. They had a wonderful Emerson House '77 mini-reunion.

Christy Hoffman says, "Hi, all, this is my first entry to a class note, so I will need to skip a few decades!" Christy has been steadily working in the trade union community since leaving Smith—first as a local union leader and organizer, then as an attorney. She writes, "For the past 25 years, I have been working in the international arena, and since 2018 I've been the leader of a global union federation, UNI Global Union. We have members all over the world, so I do loads of traveling." Christy has two grown children—one in Switzerland and the other in the United States. She has never been to Reunion, but she looks forward to attending next year.

Joan Lehmann and her husband—along with their son—were in New York City in May for their daughter's graduation from Parsons School of Design. Joan regrets missing a visit with Washburn housemate **Ellen Weinstock Weldon '76**, who was attending her 50th Reunion. Happily, she adds, "We did get a chance to catch up in March when Ellen and husband Keith were in town to visit her sister-in-law, **Pam Weldon '75** (another Washburn housemate). The four of us enjoyed a terrific French dinner during Boston's Restaurant Week."

Jan Vachule Sheehan writes about a Smith Junior Year Abroad Paris 50th reunion that took place at her home in March in Fort Worth, Texas. Jan and 10 Smith classmates came together to celebrate the years 1975–76. In attendance were **Charlotte Alexander Marpurgo**, **Paulette Castillo**, **Julie Dolan Smith**, **Kathy Falkenberg See**, **Mary Haines**, **Melissa Mann Holland**, **Lisa Ruffin Harrison**, **Susan Sivard**, **Corinne Smith**, and **Ann Wilson Forsyth-Smith**. Furthermore, notes Jan, "Students from other colleges on the program became our lifelong friends and honorary Smithies; we were delighted that two of them—Mary Berquist Quinton and Jim Raporte—could join us for the weekend." In addition, Jan reflects, "We reminisced over an exquisite French dinner created for us by a private chef, enjoyed a special tour of the Kimbell Art Museum with our own art historian Susie Sivard, and indulged in many other cowtown escapades. It was a wonderful weekend of nostalgia, reconnection, and anticipation for our Smith class of '77 50th Reunion."

Thank you all for writing. Please keep the notes coming and remember to dig out any remnants of 1970s fashion for our show and Reunion swag to amplify our celebration!

- *Sec., Harriet Madoff Parker, h.parker9@icloud.com*
- *Sec., Marjorie Meiman Robinowitz, mmeiman@icloud.com*

1978

Kathrine Lehmann writes that this year has been very challenging in Minnesota. Now 70, she has retired from business-related work and turned her energy toward volunteer service in response to the current federal climate. She is active with the League of Women Voters and serves as an immigration court observer for The Advocates for Human Rights. She balances this meaningful work with travel and time at her summer home on the St. Croix River, with recent trips to Southeast Alaska and Morocco—the latter with **Ranu Samantrai '84**. She adds that it was great fun to travel with a fellow Smith alumna.

Deborah Pilgrim-Graham shares that she and her husband, Ken, attended a family wedding in June 2025, where they discovered a number of Smith alumnae connections on the groom's side. The two families reflect long-standing traditions across generations—the bride, notably, is the eighth member of her family over three consecutive generations to become a physician. One of her aunts, a Smith alumna, officiated the nuptials—a detail that underscores the family's deep Smith ties. Deborah was especially pleased to welcome a new nephew—and a few more Smith connections—into the family through the marriage.

Diane Vatne retired from her role as communications manager at an engineering company in January 2026 and notes that had she known how rewarding retirement would be, she might have made the transition sooner. At the time of writing, her husband, Marty Yates, was planning to retire after 40 years at the University of Maine. Together, they look forward to more international travel and time at their off-the-grid cabin in the Maine woods.

Katharine O'Meara writes that she reunited in fall 2025 with classmates **Sachiko Matsumoto Aoki**, **Paula Schwerdtfeger Montenieri**, and **Beth Alpert** when Sachiko was visiting from Japan to see her daughter in New York City. The group spent time together visiting Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty and reminiscing about their days at Jordan House.

Kerry Dolan '78, M.Ed. '82, shares that at 69, she has discovered a new passion for drawing and painting, inspired by her love of birds. After taking a class through the Cornell Ornithology Lab, she continues with online art study and spends much of her time painting birds. She and her wife are also embracing the "go-go" years of retirement with riverboat cruises in Europe, birding trips to Costa Rica, and the occasional golf outing.

Phyllis Egan Beals reports that she enjoyed a recent visit to Smith with **Liz Hill Elser** and **Andrea Burnap '79**, including a tour of the Lyman Plant House and Conservatory during the spring bulb show. She describes her life as a blend of travel with her spouse, Mike, of 39 years and ongoing advocacy work in New Jersey, particularly in support of the responsible use of opioid settlement funds and in environmental and social justice efforts.

Susan Whitenack shares that her filly, Counting Stars, owned in partnership with West Point Thoroughbreds, finished third in the Kentucky Oaks. She also highlights a historic moment in racing: Trainer Cherie DeVaux's Golden Tempo won the Kentucky Derby, making DeVaux the first woman trainer to do so. Susan visited the backstretch the next morning to see Counting Stars and to meet both DeVaux and Golden Tempo at their barn. Susan remains actively involved in racehorse ownership through her partnerships.

Dale Gordon writes that she is now retired and, while she misses her work as a family and emergency nurse practitioner, she is enjoying time with her family. She is currently visiting her two granddaughters in Charlotte, North Carolina, and recently had lunch at school with her oldest granddaughter, who is in kindergarten.

Tina Nack Woods shares that she retired in February 2023 from her work as a clinical scientist in oncology research and has since focused on maintaining a healthy and active lifestyle, particularly through year-round outdoor swimming. She celebrated her retirement with a trip to Churchill, Manitoba, where she witnessed the migration of beluga whales and saw polar bears. More recently, she explored Yellowstone National Park with her adult son following the completion of his doctorate in mathematics. She looks forward to continuing her wildlife-focused travels in the years ahead.

The voices of our class continue to bring our shared story to life—each note filled with joy, purpose, and connection. Thanks to all who sent news so generously. Wherever life takes you, let us carry our shared history forward with gratitude for all we have accomplished and for all that lies ahead.

● *Sec., Leota Boensen, leotaboesen@hotmail.com*

1979

Mickey Revenaugh brings together her dual career passions—journalism and education—in *School's Out: Why Families Are Choosing Unconventional Education*, published in August by Johns Hopkins University Press. Through 100-plus interviews and 100,000 miles of travel, Mickey explores the newly flourishing post-pandemic worlds of homeschooling, microschooling, virtual learning, roadschooling, and more.

Adrienne Torf co-created an award-winning theater piece, *Poetry for the People: The June Jordan Experience*, which recently closed at The Fountain Theatre in Los Angeles after two successful runs in Washington, D.C. Her piece *For Women Serving Time*—composed for IN Series opera and produced in D.C. and Baltimore in the spring—also received rave reviews. Adrienne happily reports that "life after retiring from nonprofit finance work is a joy!"

It's hard to believe that our own Commencement took place years ago rather than just this past spring. Time has truly flown by, and in that span, each of us has taken unique paths filled with milestones, challenges, and growth. So much has happened in our lives since graduation—new careers, further studies, moves to new places, families started, goals achieved, and lessons learned. It would be wonderful to hear about your journeys. Please share what you've been up to since graduation—whether big or small, every story matters. Looking forward to catching up and celebrating how far we've all come!

● *Sec., Eatroff McConnell, ebmcconnell@gmail.com*

1980

Stacie Foster writes, "My husband and I welcomed our first grandchild (a girl!) in October 2025, so we've been spending lots of time in New York City, where she lives with her parents. It's given me the chance to catch up with my East Coast Smith friends, including classmates **Alison Overseth**, **Liza Levine**, **Kate O'Brian**, **Laura Mullally**, **Susie Bauer**, and **Karel Littman '79**. Amazing!"

Kathy McDonald shares that Smith pals **Alicia Primer '81** and **Laura Sharpless Myran '82** joined her in Palm Springs, California, in early May for her son Colin's wedding. Postnuptial, they visited the high desert and Joshua Tree National Park, another in a series of road trips the friends have taken together since 1979.

Cha Rosenbaum Hajian is quite the adventurer! A few years ago, she and some girlfriends hiked a leg of the Camino de Santiago in Spain. And just this May, Cha, **Annie Collins Potash '84**, and another friend trekked the Dingle Way in Ireland. Cha adds, "I'm so grateful for this time together—the camaraderie, the laughs, and always the encouragement and support."

Joy Rowland Rosenthal recently moved to Nyack, New York. She wrapped up her 12-year tenure as trustee of Count Basie's estate and is reflecting on what she learned. She is teaching divorce mediation, singing in the Rockland Pride Chorus, and taking care of her 100-year-old mom.

Abigail Slater writes that "2025 was a year of both joy and sorrow for our family. In April, our second granddaughter was born to our younger daughter, making her aunt, **Maya Guttman-Slater '09**, very happy! In September, my mother, **Elaine Wechsler Slater '47**, died via a medically assisted death at the age of 100. The date chosen would have been her 81st wedding anniversary (we lost my father in 2022). We were grateful she was able to meet her 13th great-grandchild before her death in Toronto."

Many thanks to those who sent news this time. Please keep it coming!

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

1981

Almost 100 classmates gathered on campus for our 45th Reunion, and it was lovely weather in spite of some rain and clouds. The weekend was full of joy, laughter, and great conversations. Thank you to **Catherine Sanders Hibbert** and the Reunion team, including **Maryellen de Mars Culotta**, **Meredith Lewis Degen**, **Kyle Tevlin**, **Janet Chandler DuBois**, **Amy Griffiths Burnett**, **Sally Shull Judd**, **Kathleen Kernan Littleton**, **Ellen Harrington**, **Sarah Ross Caruso**, **Rachel Freedman**, **Susie Goodman Novick**, **Cathy Kay**, and **Sally Brickell**. "I felt inspired, energized, and most of all—loved," writes **Maddy Sanchez McGinley**. "But I was struck by our order in the parade as we move toward the front," she says, adding, "Now the younger alums are applauding us for walking!" "Reunion was an emotional experience for me, and I am glad I had a chance to meet some of you again," writes **Susan Chan**, adding that she had some trepidations about going, dogged like so many of us by those internal questions of who we are and what we have accomplished. But being back at Smith brings that comfortable feeling of being known. "Isn't that what we all want? To be seen? To be heard? To be believed?" says Susan. "One of the most powerful things about Ivy Day for me has been the living snapshot of ourselves in five years, in

1980

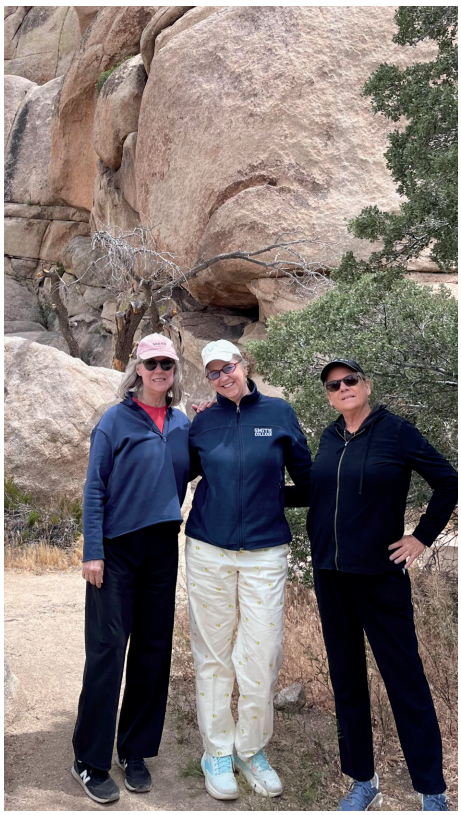
10 years," writes **Margot Riley**. "For the first time, the number of younger alums was greater than those who are older than our class. This reality put me in more of a reflective state than previous Reunions," says Margot. She continues, "**Gwen Ricks-Spencer** and I reflected on a particularly powerful moment during the parade. It was not until our class that a group of Black women walked together in visible community. They were met with enthusiastic applause from younger alums of color. Gwen said she had not seen herself as a trailblazer as a student, but marching among generations of Smithies gave her experience new meaning. As part of an early cohort of students of color during a period of expanding access, our class helped shape the diversity that followed."

Carrie Stewart writes that while starting out "cranky from the packing, the traffic, the weather, the beds, and the weird check-in process," she ended the weekend on a joyous cloud. "How lucky are we to be connected to this incredible place and fabulous women?!?" says Carrie. Following the Reunion, she and her husband, Fred Ditmars, visited Jordanites **Jennifer McGowan Kinsman** in Ashfield, Massachusetts, **Debbie Hart-Klein '80** in Woodstock, Vermont, **Karen McDermott Kothe '80** in Paris, Maine, and **Jane Leonard '80** in Wellesley, Massachusetts. "After almost 30 years in Texas, it is great to be closer to Smith friends," says Carrie. She and Fred moved to Philadelphia in 2025.

Serena Williams missed the 45th Reunion because of a trip to the Galápagos Islands, which she said was an amazing experience. Serena is adjusting to her status as a retired professor, teaching one class each semester as an adjunct law professor and spending time taking studio art classes, volunteering, reading, and traveling to see family and friends.

Kit Wang shares that "there was just way too much on my calendar to fit in the Reunion." Kit serves a small parish in the Lakes Region of New Hampshire—the Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist in Sanbornville. She describes the town as a sweet community with a mix of longtime residents, retirees, and summer folks. "And it is a reasonable commute for a half-time gig, perfect for me," says Kit.

Ruth Axtell Mapleton missed Reunion for her daughter's wedding, which was in a beautiful villa-like venue in rural Netherlands. "She was the last of my three children to tie the knot, and I feel blessed," says Ruth. **Jeannine Perrot** also reports "too much going on at home" in Houston to make it to Reunion. She traveled to Paris in June with her 10-year-old grandson "for a two-week language adventure in France," building on his experience in a French-English dual-language elementary school since first grade.



Alicia Primer '81, left, **Laura Sharpless Myran '82**, center, and **Kathy McDonald '80** visit the California desert.

Jeannine adds that after family, her main focus since retiring in 2024 is local politics. Please continue to write and share your news. Meanwhile, be well and stay safe.

● *Sec., Margot Riley, dieselatticus@gmail.com*

● *Sec., Mary Louise Wagner, marylouisewagner@gmail.com*

1982

Fall greetings! As I write, we are three class notes columns away from our 45th Reunion in May 2027—this column, the winter 2026 column, and the spring 2027 column. Please keep eyes out for information relating to Reunion registration and volunteer opportunities, and know that your class officers are hard at work with Reunion planning. I thank all classmates who submit news for our class column and look forward to catching up with folks in person next spring! Now, on to the news.

Katherine Weissfeld McGrady writes, "I haven't submitted anything for my class notes but felt compelled to do so when **Megan Kibogo '23** and I went to the Navy–Marine Corps Relief Society Ball in March 2025. Megan and I attended the ball on behalf of the Center for Naval Analyses (CNA), where we both work; Megan is on the CNA's analytic staff, and I am the CNA's CEO. I am so proud that, of the CNA's 650 employees, three of us are Smithies—**Mary Ellen Naylor Connell '64**, Megan, and me. We wish each other a hearty Mountain Day every year. I can say with confidence that none of the three of us expected to be at a place like CNA when we were at Smith!"

Mary Wallace Strizek shares, "The death of my husband, Dan, in December 2025 was a low point for sure, and I'm grateful for the many notes and calls from my Smithie sisters. On a happier note, I traveled to Spain with the Smith College Alumnae Chorus this past spring, which was wonderful! It was a great celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Chamber Singers first European tour. So much fun to be with student singers this time! The strong choral music tradition of Smith lives on!"

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

1983

I'm remembering lots of apple cider and doughnut runs and hope the current students are feasting on the wonderful fall traditions in New England. No reminiscing asked of you this time; just asked you to check in, and you did. See our fun updates here.

Cecilia Thompkins Render met up with **Deirdre Paone Cohen** and **AnnaMarie Gannon '85** in Florence, Italy, last February. She was there as part of a European train trip with her husband, while Deirdre was staying there for a few weeks. She said it was great to see familiar faces and friends. They had their photo taken at the Statue of Neptune in the Piazza della Signoria, the location of Anna's graduation photo.

Tina Chapman Lingham and her husband, Brad, have newly settled full time in the Monadnock region of New Hampshire. Two out of three daughters have moved to the state, and they're busy with five grandchildren. Earlier in the year, Tina had dinner with **Toni Troop '85**, fellow Gardiner house alum, and the late **Ilene Perlman, M.S.W. '94**. She is still working full time, staying active and traveling, and spending time helping with grandkids. If anyone is in the area, please reach out and let her know. She would love to host a Smithies get-together at their house.

Arlene Wszalek transitioned into selective advisory work in 2025. She's also been writing, speaking at industry conferences—including the Women in Hospitality Leadership Conference—and judging, most recently for the ThinkLA Idea Awards. She also took her first cruise!

Lia Bischoff Brassord shares that her 3-year-old grandson is severely autistic and nonverbal and lives with her. Every day is a challenge, and she would love to connect with other Smithies who have raised an autistic child.

Busy Burr is currently a fellow in the Distinguished Careers Institute at Stanford

University and loves being back on a college campus. The students and faculty are amazing, and she's taking classes—so much reading! Busy is studying AI, democracy, and polarization. She delights in seeing more of **Stephanie Leider** who lives nearby!

Jill Sprung Alexander recently became a grandmother. Her daughter married in Colorado and lives an hour away, and Jill rented a place in Denver to help her out and to be closer to her youngest daughter and her boyfriend, who also live there. Summer was enjoyed by the entire family, new members included.

Kate West Walles shares that 2026 has been quite the year so far for her and her husband. They have moved to Maine to be closer to their son, their daughter-in-law, and two granddaughters; now they live only 15 minutes from them. "Yikes, there is a lot to do when you move from state to state! We got our Maine driver's licenses in the mail today, so we definitely feel like Mainers."

● *Sec., Kim Vange Boestam, kimboestam@yahoo.com*

1984

In late January, **Margaret Carlson Nikoleit** started a Substack to publish a series of theatrical monologues from her play *Career Girls: Tales of the Great Recession*. Her subscribers include **Constance Adler** and **Shaun Hunter**, with whom she worked on *The Grécourt Review*. She's often in touch with Northrop friends **Chris Huang Lignac** and **Patty Czepiel Hayes**. She's still working full time for a global ad agency, volunteering for community theater, and relaxing with her husband, Joe—often on their deck overlooking the pool and small lagoon behind their house. **Yvette Malcioln** concluded almost 30 years with the U.S. Agency for International Development as an education officer working in various countries to improve their educational systems. Following the reduction in force, she moved to Thailand, where she continued to work on her doctorate in education, which she completed in March. She is now starting a new phase and looking for remote work in philanthropy, which she considers to be similar to her foreign assistance work.

Linda Achey Kidwell writes to remind us that women's heart conditions present differently from men's, which we tend to hear more about. In January, she sought medical care for severe back pain and two days later she had a pacemaker! Initially, she was feeling nauseated whenever her heart rate got above 132 when exercising. A cardiologist gave her a stress test, which she easily passed, but trouble was brewing. When she sought urgent care for her back, she almost fainted. When the ER doctor asked if she was short of breath, she said no, since she thought that meant gasping for breath; in retrospect, she had also noticed that her breath capacity when blowing into her practice chanter (for bagpiping) was getting lower and lower. She thought this was the result of the unending allergy seasons characteristic of Florida. She didn't even think to mention her breathing capacity loss when they asked about shortness of breath, but she should have said yes!

Both nausea when exercising and reduced breathing capacity are red flags for heart trouble. She is once again exercising, playing the bagpipes, and grateful for the care she received.

● *Sec., Katharine Baker-Carr, kbakercarr@gmail.com*

1985

● *Sec., Rachel Howe, smith85news@gmail.com*

1986

Hello '86ers! Happy fall. Are you in an area with lovely fall colors? I miss the fall foliage at Smith but am enjoying the one red maple on my block. In this edition, we have updates from a variety of classmates.

Andrea Thompson sends greetings from Florida. "Hello, fellow Smithies, and especially my classmates from Duckett, where I lived and loved for two years at Smith. I am currently in Boca Raton, Florida. Not retired, but working on my new business as an interior decorator. After 20 years in corporate America, I made the transition to doing what I love almost three years ago. It's been an amazing and scary ride, but I'm happy I took the risk and now have several clients I'm working with. I also travel when I can, recently visiting Boston, New Hampshire, and Maine with my sister, who is on a mission to visit all 50 states. I keep in touch with fellow classmate, **Lee Taylor-Nelms**, and other alums who are not in our year."

Speaking of having a mission to visit all 50 states, **Jenn Mason** retired in 2025 from NASA so she could focus on community organizing in her corner of Texas. She has been traveling and just hit her 50th state—Alaska!

Chris Scordato is living in Boston and loving this chapter of life. She writes, "Run my own firm, travel a ton. Happy family, awesome granddaughter, who will be going to Smith."

Ophelia Chang has become a "professional quilter." She retired from radiology and is building a supportive quilting community.

Michele Beasley Maloney is a working artist who retired to Martha's Vineyard in 2020. Her kids are now in—or through—college.

Don't forget to check out our Facebook page or website for more class information.

● *Written by Sue Kellom*

● *Sec., Anna Broskie, annabroskie@hotmail.com*

1987

Kamala Miller moved to the city of Seixal in Portugal last year with her dog, Osiris. This fall she'll be performing a blues and comedy show at various locations in Lisbon.

Kathleen Marthaler officially retired after many years of practicing law and began a new chapter abroad. In January, she relocated to the Loire Valley in France, where she's embracing a slower pace of life, immersing herself in the language, and enjoying the rich culture, food, and history that surround her each day. Kathleen would love to meet up with fellow Smithies in France and in her travels around Europe.

Jean Kruger Batty has been splitting her year between Fort Worth, Texas, and Tomahawk, Wisconsin. She has restored two 1921 homes—a bungalow in Texas and a Dutch Colonial in Wisconsin. She and her husband, Scott, celebrated their 38th wedding anniversary this past June.

Our class of 1987 co-presidents, **Sheila Donovan** and **Suzanne Kim Doud Galli**, had mini-reunions recently via Zoom and have enjoyed catching up about their lives and travels. Both have been working with our class Reunion committee and other class officers to get everyone excited about our 40th Reunion in May of 2027—it's less than a year away, everyone! Please check our social media pages for announcements about class webinars and other



Kimie Matsudo Kester '88

Connection, Community, and Compassion

By Elizabeth Galewski

When Kimie Matsudo Kester '88 was a first-year at Smith, she and one of her friends arranged two chairs and a table decorated with a doily in the elevator of Lamont House.

"It was a permanent installation," she remembers. "It stayed there for quite a bit in 1984."

Kester credits her studio art major for teaching her about layout and design. These skills laid the groundwork for her 30-year career at EBSCO Information Services, where she now serves as a senior UI/UX designer.

"I'm so lucky I found this job because it's perfectly suited for me," she says. "It almost doesn't feel like work. It's not just about making a pretty design. Ultimately, it's about making people's lives better."

The friends Kester made during her first year at Smith are still her lifelong friends. Yet as president of the Smith College Club of the North Shore in Massachusetts, she has also made dozens of new connections over the past year alone.

To commemorate the college's 150th year in 2025, Kester spearheaded an ambitious goal of growing the club's membership by 150. The club eclipsed this goal, adding 155 members.

"I wasn't obsessed with reaching a certain number," Kester explains. "The reason why we were counting members is because each member counts. It all comes down to each and every person."

Members of the club not only enjoy an autumn harvest supper and spring luncheon, but also a book club, walking group, informal meetups in cafés, and "Communi-Tea" events.

"The club is all about community and connection," Kester says.

Ultimately, Kester's impact comes down to one simple thing: She cares about people. Perhaps the best example of this came after the 2023 wildfire that devastated Maui. Kester flew to the island, where her father and extended family live. She sifted through the debris, helping property owners recover valuables and keepsakes. In one case, she reunited a woman with the ceramic container that held the ashes of her beloved dog who had passed away years before. In another, she was working alongside a homeowner when she found the wedding rings he was searching for.

"They were so happy," she says.

In February, Kester returned to Maui for two weeks to help rebuild homes. To date, the disaster recovery organization she works with has built 41 residences for people who lacked insurance or were underinsured.

For Kester, that instinct to build community extends far beyond Smith—she plans to return to Maui soon to help rebuild more homes.

happenings—we are planning a series of online events to give classmates a chance to reconnect with old friends and maybe make some new ones. We can't wait to see you in Northampton next year!

In other news, your Smith class of 1987 board is seeking classmates to participate in online panels on various topics that we will be holding throughout the year. To date, we have had panels on financial planning, health and wellness, sleep, and travel. Are there topics you'd like to see us cover? Do you have wisdom, experience, and expertise in an area that you'd be willing to share with your classmates? If so, or if you'd like to be added to a class of 1987 email list to be informed of upcoming events, please email us at 1987smithsecretary@gmail.com. Also, follow us on social media: Facebook at facebook.com/smithcollege1987, Instagram at instagram.com/smithclassof1987, BlueSky at bsky.app/profile/smithclassof1987.bsky.social, and LinkedIn at linkedin.com/groups/14636176/.

● *Sec., Kim Gombieski Brandeau, 1987smithsecretary@gmail.com*

1988

Hello, '88ers, from your co-secretary Samantha Goldstein. So much news this quarter, so I'll get right into it.

Catherine Snyder writes that her daughter, **Elizabeth Besozzi '16**, was married in Oklahoma City in April 2025, with **Anna Carroll '16** and **Emily Kaplan Gammel '16** among her bridesmaids.

Suzanne Gottlieb Calleja writes with news of "a joyful milestone" for **Jill Delacey-Galligani**—her daughter's wedding in Edinburgh. "Making the occasion even more special, Jill was joined by Suzanne, **Heather D'Addario Thieringer**, and **Lori Coveny-Lascombe**. Nearly 40 years after graduation, the friends reunited in Scotland to celebrate love, friendship, and the enduring bonds forged at Smith. The wedding was truly magical—and so was the long-awaited reunion."

Cathy Muldoon shares that she has moved from Palm Springs, California, to Old Town Alexandria, Virginia. "My spouse, Barbara, and I met up with **Kelly McGuire Murphy** for dinner. Looking forward to connecting with other alumnae in the area!"

Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows writes, "I caught up with **Emily Gee '96**, who is the director for cathedral and church buildings for the Church of England. We both attended the historic installation of the first woman as archbishop of Canterbury, Archbishop Sarah Mullally. I was there in my capacity as vice president of the House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church—a post I was elected to in 2024."

Jean Consolla '88, M.Ed. '89, writes, "Last December, I had the pleasure of connecting with **Kecia Brooks-Smith-Lowe** in Grenada,

where she lives with her husband and daughter, **Malaika Brooks-Smith-Lowe '08**. Malaika led an amazing yoga retreat that I highly recommend. We visited Kecia's home and office, where she practices medicine. Grenada is a beautiful place and was a lovely break from my work as an elementary school principal."

Back in 2023, **Kimie Matsudo Kester** joined volunteers in assisting property owners who lost their homes in the wildfire that swept through the town of Lahaina, Maui, by sifting through the ashes and debris for valuables and other keepsakes. She was able to return in February 2026 with other volunteers to help rebuild homes for several local families, including a home for her cousin. She writes, "It was the hardest thing I've ever done but one of the most rewarding and memorable experiences of my life. Maui will always hold a special place in my heart."

Amy Pollack Kemp writes that she recently attended the Smith College Club of Great Britain Winter Dinner in London with **Caitlin Gibbs Shear**. "As ever, it was inspirational to connect with Smith women from many generations. It's been wonderful to spend more time with Caitlin since her recent relocation to London. We were close at Smith, spending much time in the Smithereens together, but lost touch over the decades since my move to the UK in 1992."

Caitlin moved to London last year with her journalist husband, yet continues in her enrollment marketing role at George Mason University, working remotely. Amy adds that thanks to encouragement from Caitlin as well as from **Kristy Gertsen Keteltas**, **Amy Wynne-Derry**, and **Jane Abromowitz**, "I have formally changed my graduation year from '87 to '88 so that we can attend our 40th Reunion together! I transferred to Smith in my sophomore year, so formed most of my closest friendships during orientation and our first year. I'm still living in London, working as a psychotherapist and separately as an executive coach after changing careers after 30-plus years in global sports marketing."

● *Secs., Samantha Goldstein, Raji Pillai, and Heidi Johnson Novaes, 88news@alumnae.smith.edu*

1989

Cynthia Wade returned to Smith in November 2025, spending three days guest teaching, speaking, and screening clips of her films. "The students were amazing," Cynthia shares, "and it was so great to be back on campus!"

● *Sec., Julie Cain Heckscher, 1989SAQ@gmail.com*



Cynthia Wade '89, left, returns to Smith to spend three days guest teaching, speaking, and screening clips of her films. She's pictured with Jennifer Malkowski, associate professor of film and media studies.

1990s

1990

Hey there, everyone! After a little confusion, I am the default secretary for our class. So far, I must admit that I am excited. We don't have a lot of submissions this time around, which is a nice way for me to ease into the position. With that said, the more the merrier, so going forward, don't hold back! Good news, bad news, kid news, pet news—we love it all and want to hear how you are.

Lisa Slavid says, "Hi, folks! Two fun updates—I bought a house in the Berkshires and would love to connect with Smithies there (I'm part time there and part time in California). I'm looking forward to being closer to campus and the amazing activities there. I am also sailing as the executive dean on the fall 2026 voyage with Semester at Sea. If anyone has a student sailing, I'd love to connect with them as well!" Lisa continues to do art and is getting back into oil painting with some help from artist extraordinaire **Liz Carney '93**. She's also doing photo shoots for headshots and engagements. I think western Massachusetts holds a special place in many of our hearts!

Amy Putnam writes that she is now working as the technical director in the theatre department at Smith and loves her job and all the students with whom she interacts. Amy feels very honored to be selected as one of this year's Elizabeth B. Wyandt Gavel Award recipients at Rally Day. Congratulations, Amy, for being back at the mother ship and for the Rally Day recognition.

Karen Mullaney Bridges—yes, that's me—managed to finish up her doctorate after a very long time, and started as assistant dean of STEM at Bunker Hill Community College in Boston in June. At the time of this writing, she was in Maryland surrounded by boxes and package tape, incredibly stressed out but also very excited for a new chapter.

Consider letting us all know what's going on with you.

● *Sec., Karen Mullaney Bridges, 1990secretary@gmail.com*

1991

Fall is in the air! It was fantastic to catch up in real life at our May Reunion.

Rebecca Harwood Driscoll shares the following update: "I am now living back in Aspen, Colorado. Didn't make my dream of medical school in the pre-internet age but managed to get my daughter there, now a medical student at Galway University, Ireland. My mother didn't go to college; I did, then propelled [my] daughter to a PhD—each generation standing on the shoulders of the previous. So happy Smith gave me the confidence and girl power to grow the next generation of women to be fearless, international, and unapologetic for being smart! I wrote for a newspaper for a few years, then became a computer tech and now run my own consulting business, so I guess I'm a computer doctor. Considering that field did not exist when we went to college, it was a handy pivot for my diagnostic mind, and living in Aspen, my clientele are really smart, interesting, and well traveled, so no complaints. My son is an electrical engineer and builds system boards for LiDAR applications, a job that didn't really exist when he was in high school. What a fast-changing world. Happily married for 28 years. Has it really been 35 years since Friday tea?"

Written by Lisa Gallipoli

● *Sec., Maria Maragoudakis-Gregoriou, mmaragoud@gmail.com*

1992

● *Sec., Christine (Chris) El Eris, celeris@alumnae.smith.edu*

1993

Hey, friends! Thanks so much for sharing your news—we went through a dry spell for a minute there. Keep it coming by emailing smith93news@gmail.com.

Elissa Lash, a resident of Martha's Vineyard, recently visited Smith while seeing her parents in Northampton. "I just took my high school daughter (a major baller) to watch the Smith Bears basketball team play a home game. They won! Coach Hersey and her staff have built an incredible culture of positivity and empowerment for these young athletes and do great work reaching out to young girls in the community. My daughter did a basketball clinic at Smith last summer and it was amazing." Elissa—a real estate broker, writer, mom, and activist (not necessarily in that order)—says, "It's been a joy to reconnect with **Frances Anderson** and **Catherine Carr** over the past few years as part of research I'm doing for my current writing project. Smith friendships are deep and enduring."

Elizabeth Brown shares that last winter she met up with **Allison Dean** for lunch in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She writes, "I now live in Lincoln, Massachusetts, next door to Walden Pond, and I drive the 12 minutes back into Cambridge to teach meditation and yoga at Harvard Business School and Harvard Design School. I've been teaching at both graduate schools since 2010." She adds, "Allison recently moved to Rhode Island with her family. During senior year we lived in Tenney House, where I wrote my thesis." In the summer of 2025, Elizabeth also connected with **Elissa Lash**, another Tenney alum, who lives on Martha's Vineyard with her family and teaches writing workshops.

Gabrielle Wagner Mann has some big news about a few of her own writing projects. "After winning the New Jersey State Council on the Arts Screenwriting Fellowship last year (for $17K), a short I wrote was published. Then I lucked into becoming a full-time screenwriter when I pitched and was hired to adapt a novel to screenplay and got a lucrative contract to do so." She's also working on a rewrite of a pilot that won the fellowship for a celebrity who wants to develop it with his team for his own vehicle. "So I guess I'm focusing more on writing than acting these days." Gabrielle was also certified to teach yoga and yin yoga last year. Meanwhile, her first kid started at UCLA and her second kid started high school. On the horizon: "empty nest traveling."

Finally, **Cara Jacobson** writes that she, **Kim Hovey Erwich**, and **Sari Goodfriend** met in Florida for a long-overdue Gillett House senior-year suitemate mini-reunion. "It was the first time all three were together in about 30 years!" Their nearly four-day reunion was spent reminiscing, comparing notes on elder care, and simply enjoying the beach and one another's company. There was much to catch up on: After nearly 20 years in Miami and successfully launching their three daughters, who are now all pursuing advanced degrees, Kim and her husband, Willem, moved to Palm Beach County, where she is adjusting to empty nesting and keeping an eye on her mom, who still lives in the Boston area. Sari has been based in Manhattan and working as a commercial photographer since 1994. She and her partner, Eddie, along with Sari's parents, split their time between New York City and

Cornwall, Connecticut, where they all cook, garden, and enjoy hosting family and friends. For the last 10 years, Cara has spent most of her time in Walla Walla, Washington, with the last five years as the marketing director for the local tourism board, promoting all the things to experience in the area (and yes, there's a lot of wine in Walla Walla!). In August 2024, she married Dublin-born Damien Murphy in her family's home in Seattle, where her mother still lives.

I love hearing about all of your mini-reunions and new life chapters! If you can, please take a moment to share what you're looking forward to in this new year. Send your latest and greatest news, thoughts, and musings with your classmates and keep renewing those Smith connections!

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

1994

On March 12, **Rachel Day** was approved by the Northwest Missouri State University Board of Regents for tenure and rank promotion to associate professor of vocal music for the 2026–27 academic year. Rachel started at Northwest four years ago, seeking a collegiate environment with colleagues who support a wide variety of students in being wholly themselves. She found it, and is excited to continue this journey of teaching students who come from primarily rural areas to be the rural music educators of the future.

Kathryn Roden Grajales is so proud of her daughter, Sophia, who just graduated from Smith. Kathryn thinks it's really special that schools like Smith still exist. She has been a consumer protection lawyer at the Federal Trade Commission for over 20 years and feels lucky in her career. She's thinking a lot about Sophia and where Smith will lead her.

Meagan Healy is an Association Montessori Internationale primary guide in northern Virginia and a weekend animator and artist. She's writing and storyboarding her first draft of a short film. Meagan hopes to connect on LinkedIn with other Smithie Montessorians, Smithie animators, and/or comic and cartoon artists.

Anne Horton has been traveling a lot with her daughter—France, the United Kingdom, Portugal (twice) for fun, and then all over the state of Ohio for her swim team. Her daughter, Bailey, made the state tournament in the 100 backstroke. She just missed regionals in the mile (she was too young to swim it at the tournament). Her response was "No worries, Mom, I'll make it next year." She loves those distances, and Anne is in awe and so proud. At the time of writing, the next season was starting soon; Anne is excited for more travels around Ohio for meets.

Thanks for your news, everyone!

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



Elizabeth Jamieson '94

From Student to College Marshal

By Elizabeth Galewski

Professor Elizabeth Jamieson '94 arrived at Smith knowing she wanted to major in either chemistry or biochemistry and do some kind of medical research. When her CHM 111 instructor mentioned that Smith had a summer undergraduate research program called SURF, she took notice. But she hadn't even completed her first semester yet.

"I summoned up the courage to go to his office hours and ask more about it," she remembers. "I started with something like, 'I know you probably don't take first-years, but I'd like to learn more about how SURF works for the future.' His response was along the lines of, 'What do you mean, we don't take first-years?'"

Jamieson conducted research with him for the next three summers and during senior year for her honors thesis.

"I was really fortunate to have that opportunity to do research early on as an undergraduate," she says. "Having that time to do independent work in the lab grew my confidence in my abilities. I also saw what my professors were doing and decided I wanted to have that type of career. So I went off to grad school knowing I wanted to end up working as a chemistry professor at a place like Smith."

Today, Jamieson serves on Smith's faculty in the chemistry department and biochemistry program, where her lab—run collaboratively with professors Cristina Suarez at Smith and Megan Núñez '96 at Wellesley College—focuses on how the DNA repair machinery in cells identifies damage.

"By understanding more about damage recognition, we can understand more about how cells repair DNA damage and thereby prevent diseases like cancer from occurring," she explains.

Involving undergraduates in this cutting-edge research is one of her top priorities. "The students are the best part of this job," Jamieson says. "I love interacting with them. Seeing their talent and their ambition gives me hope for the future."

Jamieson is also the Head College Marshal, which means she not only helps organize events behind the scenes, but also plays a special role during important ceremonies.

"It does feel pretty awesome to be leading the line, college mace in hand, behind the pipers," she says. "Whether it's in the quad for Commencement or inside [John M. Greene Hall] for Rally Day, having the students cheer for you like they do makes you feel like a rock star."

Jamieson is also currently making her debut as a faculty co-curator of art with *Beyond the Floating World: Viewing Japanese Prints With Smith Faculty*, on display at the Smith College Museum of Art from October through April.

1990s

1995

● *Sec., Francesca Tronchin, tronchin@gmail.com*

1996

First, we have one cool news item that fell between two *Quarterly* deadlines, so we wanted to share it here. **Melissa Barnett Erickson** realized a dream 15 years in the making when she was a TEDx speaker in West Vancouver earlier this year! Her talk was titled "Selective Vision: The Social Cost of Who We See." Melissa also attended Reunion for the first time this year and said she's never going to miss it again.

We are writing this just a day after our amazing 30th Reunion has wrapped! We were so excited to see so many of you on campus, rediscovering your old haunts and exploring new buildings that had sprung up since we stepped through the Grécourt Gates for the last time. We were especially thrilled to welcome back class members who were Reunion newbies. One of the most magical things about Reunion is meeting classmates you never knew back in the '90s and then suddenly connecting with them five, 10, or even 30 years later. Our Reunion theme was "We Come Back Stronger Than a '90s Trend"—a hat tip to the one and only Taylor Swift—and our headquarters at Chapin was filled with bead bracelet–making and karaoke singing (shout out to the class of 2021) and so much chatter and laughter.

But all good things must come to an end, and this column is also to let you know that Jenna and I served as your class secretaries for the past 10 years and it's time for us to pass the quill—OK, the laptop—to someone else. We have tried to make this a space where we can connect as we pass through milestones both big and small and share celebrations, challenges, and moments of sadness and joy. We have celebrated the wins that come with middle age along with the heartbreaks and difficult times. We hope that it has been a column that you looked forward to reading and that it has reminded you that you are not alone in struggling or sailing through life.

By the time you read this, you'll have two new secretaries who will usher us into our mid-50s and beyond, and we know we will be leaving you in good hands. It has been an honor to serve you all, and we will miss hearing from you on a quarterly basis!

● *Written by Jenna Caggiano and Kate Gunnison Reymann*
● *Sec., Jennifer Rhoades Metzger, jennifer@metzgerdesign.net*
● *Sec., Elizabeth (Lib) Peacock Iorio, elizabethiorio444@gmail.com*

1997

Rebecca Culyba is excited to share that she's joining Emory University as vice provost for academic strategy and engagement and chief of staff to the provost. She writes, "After a wonderful time at Carnegie Mellon University as vice provost for strategic initiatives and chief of staff, I'm looking forward to this new chapter and returning to Emory, where I began my career at the School of Medicine."

Anne Hellman White shares that she will be publishing her debut novel in January 2027 with Bantam Books. *The Indecipherables* is a psychological thriller about identical twin sisters on a California road trip who quickly realize they are being pursued by a doppelgänger set of twins. A mix of *Psycho* and *Vertigo*, among other beloved horror-noir tales, *The Indecipherables* comes out on January 19. Check out the Penguin Random House website for details.

● Smith Quarterly *office, 30 Belmont Ave., Northampton, MA 01063, classnotes@smith.edu*

1998

The class of '98 has been turning 50! What fun I've had reading about the various ways that you've all celebrated.

Travel was a big one—sibs celebrated with trips to Morocco; Provincetown, Massachusetts; Berlin; Santa Fe, New Mexico; New York City; Asheville, North Carolina; Rome; Athens, Greece; Napa, California; and the United Kingdom. Multiple classmates, including **Liesl Hargens**, **Sarah Clark Davis**, **Shayne Case**, **Sarah Szwajkos** (along with **Kate Bussard** and **Hannah Nudell**), and **Alison Morris** (along with **Kate Farneth Hirsch** and **Katy Tierney '99**) all went with a *Hawaii Five-O* theme and traveled to our 50th state.

Elizabeth Reiher took a cruise with her sons and has a very fun photo of turning 50 in the Dominican Republic while being covered in monkeys!

Class co-vice president **Hitha Prabhakar Herzog** made a weekend out of her birthday, with Friday dinner at her favorite spot, then running a race on Sunday morning with her adorable twins cheering her on, followed by a mariachi band playing her favorite songs from The Smiths while she marched down Broadway with her favorite people.

Fellow vice president **Thea Massouh** invited a bunch of '98ers to a Mrs. Roper tea in Provincetown and a '90s dance.

Marisa Miller Wolfson had a "Come as You Were" party for her 50th, complete with a tarot reader. Guests came as who they were in a past life—Marisa was a Titanic survivor. Fellow '98ers and New Yorkers **Jessica Taylor** and **Dawn Jordan** came as well.

Ines de las Casas, inspired by **Judy Kim Sewards**, is celebrating her 50th all year long by choosing a special treat each month.

Chelsea Wilkerson got a head start on her celebrations last year with her '97 friends but took her birthday off and got her first official "curly cut" haircut.

Lots of live music for people celebrating this new decade, including Dar Williams, Toto, Brandi Carlile, Suede, Ani DiFranco, Christopher Cross, Noah Kahan, and Salt-N-Pepa. In our class WhatsApp group, you can learn who spent their 50th breaking in a new grill with family; getting their shingles vaccine; ordering everything on the menu at their favorite restaurant; skiing with family; playing board games and watching British TV; doing an escape room set in the world of a 1950s West Village lesbian bar; renting out a big karaoke room in Washington, D.C.; hiking and doing falconry; surfing in Costa Rica; skinny-dipping, dancing, and eating fresh-caught seafood and local produce on the North Fork of Long Island; doing a five-day hut-to-hut cross-country ski trip in Maine; taking 20 friends out for Afghani food; and doing a silent retreat. And, finally, there are the multiple sibs who have joined the AARP.

Sarah Clark Davis writes that she's still teaching art in Fairfax County, Virginia, and has started taking plein air painting classes and painting more in her studio. Her boys are all school age—in seventh, fourth, and first grades.

Kate Bussard shares that she concluded her term as



Now 47, **Zareen Mahmud Hosein '00** keeps a promise she made to herself when she was 18 by completing the Everest Base Camp trek (5,365 m).

co-chair of Photography Network, a global nonprofit, at the start of 2026 and was promoted to senior curator of photography at the Princeton University Art Museum shortly after. She is thrilled to be in a (named) leadership role at her new museum, which opened last October. In honor of her decision to get more Smithies into her life, she has started gathering Princeton-based sibs for lunches and teas. Not exactly the professional networking imagined for The Smith College Network, but it sure is a joyful one!

Laurie Schoeman writes from Washington, D.C., where she is currently leading investments at a community development financial institution, partnering with banks to direct capital toward projects that have a real, positive impact. She's also continuing her climate advisory work with organizations like the World Bank and supporting California's efforts to strengthen its wildfire fund—work that feels especially meaningful right now. On a personal note, she recently faced breast cancer, and she's grateful to share (and we're happy to hear) that she's on the other side of it. Laurie is incredibly thankful for the support from the Smith community—it truly made a difference.

I'll leave you with the lovely thoughts of **Jennifer Bleiker Murphy**, who offered her observations about sharing her 50th birthday with a group of friends: "The whole time I felt like I was traveling with a group of Smithies because of the rich conversations, books, and podcasts we were each into, and the feeling of belonging without needing to fit in." May we all find such joy, fulfillment, and sense of belonging.

● *Sec., Courtney Patterson, patterson.courtneym@gmail.com*

1999

● *Sec., Samantha Miller Bloom, sambloom77@gmail.com*

2000

Hello, classmates! By the time you receive this issue, fall will be underway and summer will be a fading memory for many of us. I would love to hear from more of you with your news. Send along your summer adventures and stay connected!

Anne Duquette has brought the Smith tradition of afternoon tea to guests of Maryhouse—a hospitality house for people in need in Manhattan's East Village. Anne provides a variety of teas for guests; frequently, there are requests for the Smith College Botanic Blend. Anne became a fan of the blend after receiving it with her invitation to President Sarah Willie-LeBreton's inauguration.

Zareen Mahmud Hosein shares that she wrote a note in her 1996 orientation, telling herself she would climb mountains one day. Earlier this year, she completed the Everest Base Camp by hiking 5,365 meters.

Hilary Maler has started a holistic nutrition program through Bauman College in Berkeley, California. This one-year program will prepare Hilary to become a certified nutrition consultant. The training consists of applying nutritional theory to practical whole-food meal preparation to support clients in making healthy food choices. The program also includes business training. Good luck, Hilary!

● *Sec., Hillary Montgomery, hillarymontgomery2000smithie@gmail.com*

2001

Jess Cohen, a partner at Miller Nash LLP, has been appointed to the board of the Mother Attorneys Mentoring Association of Seattle (MAMA Seattle). She will serve as a co-director of the Networking Committee. Her term will run for two years, ending in December 2027. "I'm honored to be appointed to the board of an impactful organization like MAMA Seattle. I'm looking forward to working more closely with [them] in this role and furthering their goal of supporting mother attorneys."

Lea Kinikini shares, "These days I'm in Hawai'i leading research development at the University of Hawai'i—West O'ahu, helping faculty turn good ideas into funded projects and writing a book chapter on the blue humanities—so yes, I spend a suspicious amount of time thinking about the sea."

It's been a pleasure serving as secretary and receiving your updates these past five years. Signing off!

● *Written by Michelle Medvin*

● *Sec., Rachel Gardner Dalton, rachelgardnerdalton@gmail.com*

2002

● *Secs., Louisa Bradtmiller, Soohyun (Soo) Baek, and Jane Sung, smithaq02@gmail.com*

2003

Barbara Basbanes shared a full-circle moment from this past spring. She returned to campus with her 17-year-old daughter for a college tour. The two of them got to experience the vibrant sights and scents of the annual spring bulb show. Barbara noted how incredibly impressed she was by the current students, describing them as ready to stake their claim in the world and make it a better place.

2000



Changxin (Clara) Fang '05

Dismantling Supremacy Culture

By Elizabeth Galewski

"Smith imbued in me a deep longing for justice, equity, inclusion, and belonging," says Clara Fang '05, who was known as Changxin (pronounced Chelsing) Fang while at Smith. "I'm so grateful for the house system and the student leaders that made Smith a wonderful place to live. Living in community at Smith felt deeply human."

Upon graduating from Smith, Fang entered work and academic environments where her ideas were ignored; her assertiveness, criticized.

"Initially it was a shock," she remembers. "I'd always felt comfortable speaking my mind because the small classes and manner of instruction at Smith encouraged us to do so. I'd also gotten practice being a leader through the various extracurriculars at Smith." Indeed, at Smith, Fang helped start one of the college's first student climate organizations.

Fang went on to earn a Master of Environmental Management from Yale University, an MFA in creative writing from the University of Utah, and a doctorate in environmental studies from Antioch University.

In 2023 she founded Green Tara Consulting, which promotes equity, inclusion, and belonging at environmental organizations through tailored research, educational initiatives, strategic planning, and advocacy services.

"We help groups create a more sustainable world," she explains. "These days, that includes helping people build authentic relating skills and intimacy. There's so much division and isolation in society. My work helps people recognize each other's humanity, our connection with the earth, and dismantle supremacy culture through building common ground and relating with more authenticity."

Fang is also currently a research scholar in the environmental studies department at Antioch University New England and a board member for the Green Leadership Trust. As a wellness facilitator, she teaches authentic relating, ecstatic dance, and mindfulness meditation.

If that wasn't already enough, she is writing a book titled *Dismantling Supremacy Culture: Healing Ourselves and the Planet*. It examines Buddhism, Indigenous ecological thought, and racial equity principles as antidotes to supremacy culture and strategies for healing.

"Very few places are as deeply engaged in equity, inclusion, and belonging work as Smith," Fang notes. "The fact that controversies erupt not infrequently on this campus regarding these issues is evidence that they are being grappled with and progress is being made. It's painful and difficult, but I'm proud of this community for doing the work and being an example to others of how to fight against patriarchy, white supremacy, and heteronormativity."

Cynthia (Cyn) Wang sent in an update from San Francisco's Sunset District, where she lives with her wife, Tessa, and their daughter, Sloane—a future Smithie! On the professional front, Cyn has the pleasure of working side-by-side daily with her sister, **Tiffany Wang '09**, at their family business, Wang Insurance, where they specialize in commercial insurance for the hospitality, tech, professional services, and real estate sectors throughout the Bay Area and beyond. Cyn invites any classmates in need of commercial coverage to reach out to her. When she isn't working, Cyn stays deeply involved in her community. She currently serves as the vice president of the San Francisco Entertainment Commission, helping to regulate and promote the city's nightlife, and sits on the board of a local Democratic club. She also manages to keep the Smith spirit alive close to home, regularly catching up with Berkeley neighbors **Kristina Cervantes-Yoshida '02** and **Desiree Dieste**.

Whether you've recently started a new adventure or simply want to share a slice of your everyday life, we want to hear from you! No update is too big or too small, and your classmates love staying connected. Please keep sending your news, updates, and photos our way for the next column.

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

2004

Hello, Smithies! Thank you to those who share your updates. It is exciting and often inspiring to read them.

Emily McDonald writes that **Sara Lewicke Graves**, **Sarah Culver Davis**, and **Katie Marlowe Wright** enjoyed their yearly meetup, this time in Newport, Rhode Island. The visit included a Sakonnet winery, The Breakers trolley tour, and Newport's oyster festival. As always, the best part was just a chance to catch up in person!

Fatima Toor was inducted into the 2026 class of Senior Members for the National Academy of Inventors based on their entrepreneurial and IP generation activities to date. Congratulations, Fatima!

It's been a big year for **Rachel Roy**. In August 2025, her brother moved in with her after spending the past 20 years in the Bay Area, and together they are caring for their aging relatives. In September, they adopted their newest dog, Suki, whom Rachel describes as "an absolutely wonderful Staffordshire terrier who is the light of our lives." In March, Rachel started a new job with The Hanover Insurance Group. She has been settling in well and would love to connect with any other Smithies at Hanover.

In April, **Katie Marlowe Wright** was visiting colleges with her older son, Isaac. The tour brought her through Connecticut, where she met up with **Sarah Culver Davis**. Then on to Princeton, New Jersey, where she saw **Emily McDonald**. Katie says, "It is hard to believe we have kids old enough for college now!"

I agree, Katie! I will be doing the same with my 15-year-old, Annabelle, before I know it. First, we'll tackle driving lessons. Wish me luck!

Please continue to send your updates, and if you don't have one, consider sharing a Smith memory.

● *Sec., Amy Flagg Bloom, smith2004notes@gmail.com*

2005

After the Department of Education announced a baseless investigation against Smith for admitting trans students, **Sarah Winawer-Wetzel** enjoyed watching as Smithies across the gender spectrum came together to support trans students. From ensuring there were trans pride ribbons, stickers, and sashes at Reunion to coordinating a merch campaign and planning for more, she was proud to see Smithies across the years affirm that #transsmithiesbelong! Send in some notes, friends!

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

2006

Zoe Feldman and her wife, Mara, welcomed their daughter, Eleanor (Nell), on December 6, 2025, at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. Zoe calculates that Nell will be the class of 2046, but "no pressure." Both mothers are doing great and are extremely tired.

● Smith Quarterly *office, 30 Belmont Ave., Northampton, MA 01063, classnotes@smith.edu*

2007

Shikha Jain is slowly becoming a voice focused on consumer behavior. She has appeared on CNBC multiple times and in publications such as *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *Forbes*, *USA Today*, and more. Recently, she was named one of The Consulting Report's Top Consumer and Retail Consultants and Leaders of 2026. As head of the consumer sector in North America at Simon-Kucher, a global commercial growth and pricing consultancy, she helps organizations navigate complex market dynamics and build sustainable data-driven growth strategies. Beyond her client work, Shikha is known for championing inclusive workplace cultures and more responsible business practices with the same rigor she brings to everything else.

Kelly Kriz and her husband, Jimmy, welcomed baby girl Katherine in December 2026. Big sister Emily is thrilled, and Kelly's Smith roommate, **Kristen Hokenson**, is a doting auntie to both. Kelly introduced Emily to Smith in November while attending the Smith Athletics Hall of Fame ceremony, where Emily was more interested in hugging Senda the Bear. Future Smithie Bear?

In December, **Kelsey Livingston** turned 40 surrounded by friends. Inspired by the new decade, she decided to take up Roller Derby. After six months of practice, she can skate the length of the gym on one foot—or she could until she fractured her ankle at practice, putting an end to her short-lived Roller Derby career. Perhaps something calmer—like fly-fishing—is next.

Brett (Mathewson) Krogh and her husband welcomed their second daughter, Cascade Jonna, on January 29. Their daughter Juniper is thrilled to be a big sister!

Continue to share your personal and professional accomplishments and stories—big and small. It's great to hear what we're all up to, especially as our 20-year Reunion is less than a year away.

● *Sec., Ali Woodruff, scclassof2007@gmail.com*

2008

Maine Senate President **Matthea Daughtry '09** hosted Maine librarians **Samantha Cote '07** and **Savannah Sessions** at the recent Cultural Advocacy Day at the Maine State House. Leaders and workers from libraries, museums, music, arts, film, and more gathered in Augusta to advocate for policies and funding that help prop up this important sector of Maine's economy. Senator Daughtry let us try our hand at banging the gavel on the dais and showed off some of the gavels she has shattered during her tenure as an effective and enthusiastic leader.

Smithie rabbis and cantors **Sarah Bolts**, **Anna Rosenfield Boswell-Levy '98**, **Ruhi Rubenstein '07**, and **Beth Janus '93** met up at the February 2026 T'ruah convention for Jewish clergy.

After 10 years in federal consulting at Deloitte and Accenture Federal Services, **Ali Maranuk** switched to health and public sector consulting at Accenture. She is currently leading data and AI work focused on transforming rural health care delivery. She is continuing to live happily ever after with her partner, dog, and son on Capitol Hill.

● *Sec., Rachael Cain, rachaelcain@proton.me*

2009

Olivia Wall continues to serve as the director of marketing and communications at the Memphis Botanic Garden, where she recently took on marketing for its signature concert series and largest revenue generator, Live at the Garden, in addition to her other responsibilities. After nearly a decade of advocating for architectural historic preservation in Memphis, she was appointed by Mayor Paul Young and confirmed by the Memphis City Council as a Memphis landmarks commissioner in March 2026. The Memphis Landmarks Commission is responsible for preserving and protecting the historic, architectural, and cultural landmarks in the city of Memphis.

Big news from **Emily Everett**: Her debut novel about a Smithie from Northampton, *All That Life Can Afford*, was selected as a Reese's Book Club pick.

As for me, your class secretary, I'm delighted to share that my husband, Asif Khan, and I welcomed our second child, Zain, in March 2026. Like his big brother, Yousaf, he's a smiley, happy little guy. Please keep sending your updates—your classmates truly enjoy hearing what's new in your lives.

● *Sec., Anne Schmelzer, 2009smithcollege@gmail.com*

2010



Maine State Senate President **Matthea Daughtry '09**, left, hosts Maine librarians **Samantha Cote '07**, center, and **Savannah Sessions** '08 at the Maine State House for Cultural Advocacy Day.

2010

● *Sec., Yael Langer, yaeldlanger@gmail.com*

2011

● *Sec., Elizabeth McDonald-Zwoyer, elizabeth.mcdonald.zwoyer@gmail.com*

2012

Thank you to those of you who submitted notes this quarter—we love to see your updates. The class of 2012 would also like to express our support for Smith's trans students as an important part of our community.

C.A. Johnson's work as a writer and producer on the Netflix television series *The Beast in Me* was nominated for a 2026 NAACP Image Award and 2026 Writers Guild of America Award. Folks might remember her better by the name Kia!

Michelle Marone writes, "I presented at ResilienceCon in Nashville, Tennessee, in April. It is a global conference on resilience, and I was accepted as an individual presenter about my work doing yoga, mindfulness, sound healing, and somatics with youth in both rural environments and urban inner-city schools. My work in doing yoga and movement with youth is dedicated to intervening in adverse childhood experiences to reverse negative outcomes early on, leading to less chronic illness and emotional suppression later in life."

● *Sec., Emma Yourd, smithclassof2012@gmail.com*

2013

Laura Vachula married Landon Labahn in Healy, Alaska, on the summer solstice. They celebrated under the midnight sun with **Kate Trudeau '14**, **Becca Muskat**, and **Lydia Drown**.

At the time of writing, **Naya Bricher** was going to be honored as a local artist by the Provincetown Art Association and Museum (PAAM) at its annual party on October 3, 2026. The event—which would also celebrate fellow artist Derek Macara as well as PAAM legends Chris McCarthy and Steven Roderick—would be accompanied by an exhibition of Naya's and Derek's work, which opened at the museum on September 18 and will run through mid-November.

● Smith Quarterly *office, 30 Belmont Ave., Northampton, MA 01063, classnotes@smith.edu*

2014

This past March, **Jessica Backus** presented at the International Adlerian Psychology Asia Conference in Osaka, Japan, sharing research on supporting Western international students' mental health and academic success through an Adlerian lens. Her work examines how culturally responsive frameworks can address the unique challenges students face when navigating education in nonprimary-language environments. She was joined by her sister Elizabeth, a comic book artist who promotes mental health awareness through her creative work, making it a meaningful trip in more ways than one. Following the conference, Jessica had the opportunity to travel to Kyoto, where she decompressed by practicing Japanese Zen Buddhism with a monk in the geisha district Gion. She is currently wrapping up her doctorate in counselor education and supervision at Adler University, where her dissertation research focuses on professional identity development among counseling students with intersectional identities. Her interest in international students' mental health was first sparked during her time at Smith, where she witnessed firsthand the varied experiences and challenges faced by fellow Smithies studying abroad. She maintains a private practice as a therapist and teaches graduate counseling courses. She is actively interviewing for faculty positions in counselor education and looks forward to continuing to bridge clinical practice, research, and advocacy in her next chapter.

Vestiges, the newest poetry chapbook by **Savannah Grant**, is available from Finishing Line Press!

Gaelle Feliz and her partner welcomed their first child on August 6, 2025. Everyone is doing well, and the family is still on the lookout for late-night lullabies and nursery rhymes.

In March, **Corinne Ducey** and **Rebekah Renfro Stone** had a visit in Baltimore. Corinne, who is a nurse and midwife, just moved there, and Rebekah just moved to Wilmington, Delaware. Corinne attended the birth of Rebekah's fourth child. They are excited to be living only 90 minutes from each other.

● *Sec., Merric Kallfelz, merric.kallfelz@gmail.com*

2015

● *Sec., Jesse Kline, jesseleekline@gmail.com*

2016

● *Sec., Emma Martin, esmartin413@gmail.com*
● *Sec., Sara Lorić, sara.z.loric@gmail.com*

2017

● *Sec., Katharine Cooney, katharine.e.cooney@gmail.com*
● *Sec., Nicole Peer, peernicole94@gmail.com*

2018

In February, **Caroline Lim '17** visited **Hannah Cohen Smith** for several days during a break before she started a great new job. While she was visiting, Hannah's grandmother unexpectedly passed away. Hannah writes, "I was lucky to have Caroline, my best friend and former co-Smiffenpoof, at my side to navigate a hard time."

Nine years after meeting at Smith, **Sylvie Nemeth** and **Miranda Catsambas '19** got married. They credit their connection in large part to hours spent eating brunch at Tyler, kayaking on Paradise Pond, and singing together in the basement of Sage Hall.

I, **Madeline Elwell**, graduated in May from Temple University with a Master of Public Health and was joined by fellow Smith and Temple grad alum **Jules Leitermann Holloway '15** for the ceremony. It was really special having Jules present for my Temple graduation, as I was there for theirs in 2019, when they graduated from Temple's College of Public Health with a master's degree in sports psychology.
● *Sec., Madeline Elwell, madeline.elwell@gmail.com*

2019

Washburnites **Ryleigh Swanson** and **Jenna Gilley** are celebrating their five-year wedding anniversary and 10 years of being together this fall.

Class secretary **Hanne Gaukel** defended her doctorate in economic sociology at the University of Milan in April and continues to enjoy living in Italy.

We would love to hear what you've been up to; send us your news for a future class note.
● *Sec., Ryenne Carpenter, ryenne.p.carpenter@gmail.com*
● *Sec., Hanne Gaukel, hannegaukel@gmail.com*

2020

● *Sec., Whitney Mutalemwa, whitney.mutalemwa@gmail.com*

2021–22

● Smith Quarterly *office, 30 Belmont Ave., Northampton, MA 01063, classnotes@smith.edu*

2023

Shastia Azulay shares that she recently moved to Stamford, Connecticut, for a new job with Food Rescue US.
● *Sec., Haley-December Brown, smithcollegeclassof2023@gmail.com*

2024

When **Mia Eisenberg** moved to San Francisco, she didn't know many people who had gone to Smith. After living in the city for almost a year, she decided to organize a happy hour to meet more Smithies in the Bay Area. Along with **Mary Zhu '12**, Mia hosted a small gathering last December. In early February, Mia and Mary hosted a small business event in collaboration with **Alissa Anderson '00** and **Sarah Green '11** at Alissa's small business, Foggy Notion, in the Inner Richmond neighborhood. The group enjoyed wonderful wine from Sarah's winery, Neely Wine, and were able to purchase beautiful handmade gifts from Alissa's shop. Mia and Mary are looking forward to working with more Smith alums in San Francisco and will be hosting more events in the future.
● Smith Quarterly *office, 30 Belmont Ave., Northampton, MA 01063, classnotes@smith.edu*

2025

Alliyah Logan recently spoke at the Forbes Under 30 Summit in Phoenix, Arizona, on a panel titled "Affecting Change Through Youth Education." She writes, "My remarks focused on the evolving role of education in the age of AI, with particular attention to how AI is reshaping learning systems and expanding access to educational opportunities. I addressed the needed strategies for closing persistent global gaps in educational access, with an emphasis on advancing opportunities for young girls worldwide. I was featured on the Forbes 30 Under 30 Education list in 2024."
● Smith Quarterly *office, 30 Belmont Ave., Northampton, MA 01063, classnotes@smith.edu*

2026

● Smith Quarterly *office, 30 Belmont Ave., Northampton, MA 01063, classnotes@smith.edu*



Jessica Backus '14 practices Zen Buddhism with a monk in the geisha district of Gion after presenting at the International Adlerian Psychology Asia Conference in Osaka, Japan.

2025



Whitney Mutalemwa '20

Building Community at Smith and Beyond

By Elizabeth Galewski

Whitney Mutalemwa '20, vice president of equity research at Wells Fargo, credits Smith with giving her the knowledge and skills she needed to succeed.

"I double-majored in mathematics and statistical and data sciences, which provided a rigorous academic foundation that made me highly adaptable to a very intense work environment," she says. "The faculty's approach to learning at Smith taught me to think outside the box rather than just memorizing formulas or revisiting the same old concepts. Being at a women's college fundamentally taught me to center my own learning. That mindset makes me stand out among my cohort today, as I am often eager to participate, raise my hand, and try new strategies."

Smith also gave Mutalemwa the confidence to assert herself in the finance industry.

"Working in finance means you are frequently walking into rooms and systems that simply were not built for you," she explains. "But my time at Smith taught me not to wait for someone else to offer me a seat at the table. I learned how to seek out allies and mentors who would actively champion me behind closed doors, which has ultimately helped me excel in my field."

While serving as an equity research senior associate at Jefferies, Mutalemwa ranked among the firm's top 10 research associates in weighted institutional broker votes in 2024 and 2025.

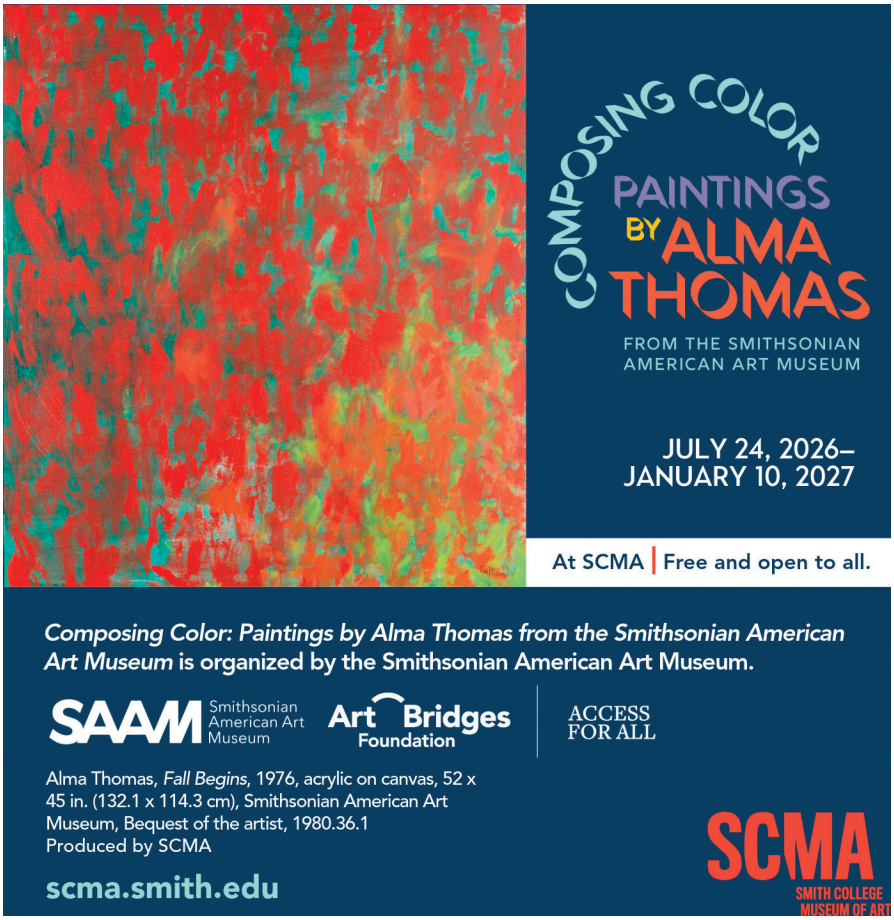
"It's about developing a completely differentiated view from other brokers on the Street," she says. "This requires relentless curiosity and an ability to recognize the opportunities that others miss."

Establishing and nurturing relationships with management teams and key industry contacts has also contributed to Mutalemwa's success. She traces this commitment to community to her time at Smith.

"I loved serving as the Black Students' Alliance treasurer, curating Lavender Pride for LGBTQ+ members, and planning fun, quirky events as the special events chair for the Student Event Committee," she says. "This passion for inclusive community-building translated directly to my career."

Mutalemwa continues to foster belonging in her capacity as secretary for the class of 2020.

"The drive to build community and stay connected doesn't stop after graduation," she advises current students. "Talk to other Smithies. Go out of your way to meet people who solve problems, regardless of their industry, interests, or background. Surrounding yourself with diverse problem solvers will fundamentally shape and expand how you approach your own challenges."



Ada Comstock Scholars

Ada alums continue to make an impact across the arts, public service, and human services sectors, and we are excited to celebrate a few recent Ada accomplishments!

Congratulations to **Kellye Rowland AC '13**, who co-produced and acted in the short film *The Day Elvis Died*. The film has already been selected for five film festivals and received a nomination for best cast at the 2026 Diversity in Cannes Short Film Showcase. In addition to her success as an actor, this marks Kellye's second project as a producer—an exciting milestone in her growing creative career.

Marianne Bullock AC '14 was recently elected to the city council for Greenfield, Massachusetts, and appointed chair of the Greenfield Ways and Means Committee. Congratulations, Marianne, for your leadership and commitment to your community to create meaningful change through public service.

Jessica Odin AC '22 recently earned a Master of Social Work from Columbia University. Congratulations, Jessica, on this important milestone and exciting next chapter!

Please email me at adaclassnotes@gmail.com if you have an update or accomplishment you would like to share!

● *Sec., Dianne Jester AC '16, adaclassnotes@gmail.com*



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Friends of Athletics empower team leaders, honor trailblazers, and nurture student well-being.

Friends of the Botanic Garden foster environmental and social justice through teaching and learning about plants, people and place.

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A Poet's Gift

Her Charitable Annuity Will Pay Her an Income for Life, Then Pass to her Daughter, and Finally to Smith

Joanne Corey '82 has made a gift to Smith College every year without fail for 35 years. Her gifts have supported many things at Smith: poetry, the library, the arts, and The Smith Fund to name a few. When the loss of her father at age 94 brought an inheritance, she did something special for Smith and for her family.

Joanne joined thousands of other Smithies who have funded a charitable gift annuity, which will pay her a reliable fixed income for life starting at a date she'll determine in the future. At the end of her lifetime, the income will pass to her daughter. Eventually, the remainder will pass to Smith. It's truly a gift across the generations.

"The biggest thing that I learned from Smith was how to learn," says Joanne. "How to think. That's something I use all the time in my daily life."

"The biggest thing that I learned from Smith was how to learn."

A music major at Smith, Joanne's concentrations were in composition and organ. When an orthopedic problem and the loss of her beloved parish ended her involvement in church music, "my creativity needed someplace else to go, and it settled in poetry."

Joanne took a risk and attended a poets' workshop at MASS MoCA in 2015 and became a founding member of the Boiler House Poets Collective. In 2023, Kelsay Books published Joanne's chapbook *Hearts*, a collection of poems about caring for her dying mother with heart disease. Her next collection has been accepted for future publication by Atmosphere Press.

While many of Joanne's gifts have gone to specific programs, she chose to leave her annuity unrestricted.

"I appreciate that the college needs the flexibility to respond to whatever is happening at a particular juncture," Joanne says. "I wanted it to be used where it's needed."



Object Lesson

Fearless Girl is mightier
than the Wall Street Bull.
She has a new tiara
like Wonder Woman's.
Ignoring the dog
lifting his leg near hers,
nevertheless, she persists,
stares down her detractors,
encourages her sisters.
Feet planted firmly,
she will not be moved.

Joanne Corey

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In Memoriam

This "In Memoriam" listing contains the names of alums and faculty who were confirmed deceased by the records department between April 28, 2026, and August 24, 2026, although the actual date of death may have occurred outside that period. To report a death, email the records department at smithierecords@smith.edu.

1927
Marion Cowperthwait

1941
Elizabeth Means Ehrgood

1944
Florence Robinson De Lucia
Barbara Krieger Orentzel
Louise Blakeslee Rich

1947
Charlotte Fassen Cook
Marie Watson O'Hara

1948
Barbara McClelland Collins
Eugenie Tyler Copp
Elaine Bloomberg Petschek

1949
Miriam Bloomberg Shutzer
Mary Stevens

1950
Patricia Low Armstrong
Jo Ann Skemp Bullinger
Carol Joyce Gotwals
Eunice Hertzmark Grossman
Betty Blaw Kent
Rose Martin Palmer
Miriam Schoenberger Puder
H. Adel Shabshelowitz Savitz
Joanne Roush Thomas

1951
Mary Blake Bowers
Deborah Perry Clark
Helen Themo Fledderus
Mary Snyder Hamacher
Francine Finck Land
Irene Carroll Gulick Skiles
Sara Miller Wages

1952
Marie-Jeanne Laurent Aguiar
Sue Shaffer Gardner
Henrietta Light
Helen Zaientz Liveten
Alice Dunn Roberts
Joan Church Roberts
Mary Claire Martin White

1953
Natalie Litowitz Fulton
Florence Treadwell Hosbein
Ann Mc Gourty Lagier
Anne Phelan Richardson
M. Jane Morse Saxton
Cecily Branch vonGemmingen

1954
Nancy Grinnell Barnum
Anne Mersereau Byers
Anne Schoellkopf Coke
Nancy Eaton
Ann Erwin Grinnan
Carol Bacon Hyman
Nancy Jones Kist
Gilda Eidelsberg Snyder
T. Beverly Siliciano Starr
Marcia Dines Strickland
Alice Holland Webster

1955
Ann Lerew Agostin
Ruth Tuffley Fassett
Titi Killeen Ferguson
Winifred Hitz Lumsden
Esther Marks Schleifer
Frances Zuromskis Whitney

1956
Marcia van der Voort Bates
Leah Kaplan Farmer
Patricia Wyers Gammon
Ann Zeitfuchs Leatherman
Kathryn Weinberg Levi
Mina Ellis Otis
Deborah Newman Poletti
Margot Copeland Pyle
Judith Davidson Rodriguez

1957
Mary Kearns Burgess
Patricia Eddy Ford
Jane Powell Thomas
Nancy Felman Vincent

1958
Nancy Crawford Condit
Madelaine Jones Hart
Eve Ingalls
Anne Janeway

1959
Esta Smith Busi
Sally Murray Crissman
Harriet Perlysky Fleischer
Patricia Hume Highberg
Ellen Kaplan
Patricia Leonard Louis-Howe
Linda Schwartz Rosenbaum
Nancy Gunther Steger

1960
Rona Copen Eisner
Alden Johnson Finney
Marcia McMillan Hines
Elizabeth Lapovsky Kennedy
Maribeth King Klobuchar
Barbara Howard Muson
Constance Gash Roche
Carol Meyerson Slesinger
Emily Lucille Lehman Smith
Ann Crockett Stever
Jane Yolen

1961
Nina Young Bird
Wallys Weiss Conhaim
Elizabeth Partridge Heald
Sandra Hyde
Sally Ellis Quale
Nancy Arnone Yonge
Marjorie Seiger Zapruder

1962
Susan Woodward Carl
Karin Molander Chamberlain
Marge Lager Coffing
Lile Hammond Deinard
Judith Andrew Himes
Helen Pomeroy Hopkins
Marilyn Misner Kramer
Barbara Gottlieb Schlein

1963
Clare Ritchie Hudspeth
Kathleen Kagel Hutchins
Joanne Brown Travis
Elizabeth Reed Walker

1964
Mary Hanley-Hackenbruck
Rebecca Zucker Hertzman
Ann Godley Hingst

1965
Martha Ensey Carnevale
Lynne Bowie Dillingham
Pamela Warfield Higbie
Lois Wotanowicz Huot
Susan Oxman

1966
Ann Carus Collins
Kathryn Moylan Noonan
Elizabeth Wesman

1967
Ann Barker
Sara Curry Challender
Susan Alexander Michod
Ann White Roe
Catherine Roman

1968
Carolyn Nims McLellan
Pamela Dwyer Stockton

1969
Elsa Slocum Deland
Marguerite Feldman Kiersz
Barbara Lauren

1971
Linda Sroka Chambless
Barbara Hull
Mary Holloway McEntire

1972
Susan Callaway
Mary Robbins

1975
Kate Broome Matista
Kathleen Fitzgerald

1976
Barbara Benz
Patricia Morrissey Kemp
Silvana Brianceschi Rosmarin

1978
Maureen Kelly Barker

1979
Ilisha Helfman

1981
Barbara Horan
Patricia Rucidlo

1983
Cathy Fleming DeSimone
Katrina Martel

1985
Ingeborg Heyer

1997
Adriana Hyun

1998
Alix Kolar

Ada Comstock Scholars
Alexandra Young AC '77
Doris Doyle AC '78
Julia Burrough AC '85
Beverly Fonner AC '85
Jane Noyes AC '85
Joan Pallotta AC '03
Lavenia Medeiros AC '04

Graduate Alumni
Barbara Ayers, M.A.T. '63
Eleanor Boynton Jones, Ed.M. '63
Linda Reilly, S.M. '70
F. Ardyth Elliott, Ed.M. '79
David Steiger, M.F.A. '82
Nancy Brucker, Ed.M. '89
Dorothy Phelps, Ed.M. '89

Faculty
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Generosity

Wan Kim '60: A Gift at the Heart of Neilson Library

An alum's donation is illuminating Smith's central academic hub—and the pathways of international students.

By Megan Tady

When Wan Kim '60 arrived from South Korea in 1955 to begin her academic life, she practically lived at the Neilson Library, painstakingly translating her chemistry and biology textbooks using a small dictionary. "It was a difficult life in the beginning," she says, "but I enjoyed every bit of it."

Kim's appetite for personal challenge has hardly diminished since those early days at Smith. At 90, Kim is studying traditional Korean instruments and taking weekly cello lessons, a testament to her philosophy to learn something new every day—which, she says, helps her keep pace with her grandchildren.

Having grown up in the shadow of war, however, Kim understands that many challenges require outside help to overcome. She herself received a transformational scholarship from Smith, and she has been paying it forward ever since.



Wan and Andrew Kim outside the Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles.

Photo courtesy of Wan Kim

Kim's past donations to the International Students Scholarship Aid Fund and the Smith College Museum of Art (SCMA) reflect both this insight and her enduring passion for the arts. Most recently, her naming gift to Smith—to support a stunning multilevel skylight at the heart of the renovated Neilson—also reinforces her goal of raising the visibility of Smith's international students.

"Whenever a Korean student comes in and sees my name" on a plaque next to the Oculus, says Kim, "they will be inspired to dream big."

Early Challenges

North Korea invaded South Korea when Kim was 14, and the Korean War was the backdrop to her teenage years. The ramifications of political upheaval left her parents unable to pay for her education.

Though Smith was a world away, the scholarship and warm welcome she received on campus helped to bridge the cultural barriers Kim faced. Yet the language barrier remained. After all, not many other science students had to spend their time translating textbooks.

Kim acknowledges this formidable challenge with gratitude, crediting her professors at Smith for extra assistance. "My professors went out of their way to help me if I didn't understand something because of the language," she says. "It's hard for me to express how great Smith was to me."

A Life of Science and Art

After receiving a degree in physical chemistry and working as a research fellow at Rockefeller University, Kim spent 15 years as a chemist helping to develop methadone as a cure for heroin addiction. This path was partly influenced by her family's earliest teachings: that all people have inherent worth and dignity, regardless of circumstance.

In this belief she was matched by her husband, Andrew, whose business successes made it so the couple could protect and uplift that dignity through the Andrew and Wan Kim Family Foundation. The foundation has supported more than 120 organizations since its inception—and "we will keep helping," says Kim.

Kim's understanding of the arts as a vehicle for human uplift informs her family's philanthropy. The couple has preserved and repatriated Korean art and artifacts and collected works from Chinese artists, many of whom have lived through political repression and what Kim describes as "heartbreaking challenges." Kim wrote about several of these artists in *Art of the Chinese Cultural Revolution and Beyond*, published in 1997, which explores the interplay of politics, aesthetics, and individual expression in works created during a tumultuous period of Asian history.

Kim is also an artist herself, with several paintings in the Los Angeles County Museum of Art's permanent collection. She shared her expertise with Smith when she served on the SCMA Asian Art Task Force from 2006 to 2016.

Supporting the Bold

It was Maya Lin's involvement in the Neilson Library renovation that first attracted Kim and her husband to the project. As Kim recalls, "When my husband and I read about the library renovation, we were impressed by the designer, and that it was a woman." They were also thrilled to learn that Lin's mother had been a Smith alum.

But it was Lin's bold vision that cemented the couple's support. This vision included what Lin termed a "contemporary sundial at the library's historic core"—the Oculus. The feature consists of a round central skylight in the building's roof and a sweeping, curved wall that reflects and magnifies natural light. Its curves were calculated to relate to the position of the sun, reducing the demand for artificial light and creating a sense of warmth throughout the building.

It is a fitting gift for Kim to make. She wishes to increase the sense of belonging Korean students feel at Smith, and she believes seeing her name on the Oculus will help future generations imagine themselves on campus. She also wants to set an example of philanthropic activism, encouraging others to support the places and people they care about. "Smith taught me that I could do anything I wanted to do," she says. "I hope other international students can enjoy Smith as much as I did." ●



The Oculus in the Neilson Library, named in honor of **Wan Kyun Rha Kim '60** and Andrew Byong Soo Kim.

Photograph by Jim Gipe

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- Create an endowed scholarship that provides aid in perpetuity. Alums can contribute to existing class scholarship funds or participate in giving circles to combine their resources and meet gift matching thresholds. Learn more about class funds, giving circles, and the impact of scholarship aid at **smith.edu/access**.

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Project for Peace[09] Plath Rediscovered[17]



FALL 2026

Vol. 117, Issue 1