A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CLASS PRESIDENT

I hope that most of you know the very sad news about the death of Sheila Sweeney Evans, our Special Gifts Chair, in December 2012. She was a loyal and very devoted classmate and a good friend of mine. When we were students at Smith, I remember seeing her in church with her jeans rolled up under her polo coat (just as mine were) because in those days you were not supposed to wear pants to church. She had a very good sense of humor and was a fun person. As the Special Gift Chair, she was excellent and very enthusiastic about everything. I will certainly miss her along with all our other deceased classmates.

Presidential Notes

Last spring, I sent a letter of congratulations on behalf of our class to our new president Kathleen McCartney. I welcomed her and said we look forward to meeting her at our 65th Reunion in 2015, if not before. I said we wish her happiness, success, and good luck in her new role. In her response to my note, Kathleen said, “With loyal alumnae like you, my job will be a joy.” I also thanked outgoing president Carol Christ for all she’s done for Smith College, not the least of which was keeping the college on an even keel financially during difficult economic times. I wrote that she also maintained Smith’s academic excellence and encouraged and welcomed students of all ethnicities. On behalf of our class, I wished her happiness and good health as she moves into her new role. In her response to my note, Kathleen said, “With loyal alumnae like you, my job will be a joy.” I also thanked outgoing president Carol Christ for all she’s done for Smith College, not the least of which was keeping the college on an even keel financially during difficult economic times. I wrote that she also maintained Smith’s academic excellence and encouraged and welcomed students of all ethnicities. On behalf of our class, I wished her happiness and good health as she moves into the next phase of her life. In her reply, she said the years at Smith were good and she has many precious memories.

Medals of Honor

Speaking of presidents, I hope you all have heard that Jill Ker Conway, our seventh president, and historian Natalie Zemon Davis, class of 1949, received the 2012 National Humanities Medal from President Barack Obama at the White House on July 10, 2013. A month later, Gloria Steinem, class of 1956, was one of 16 to receive the Presidential Medal of Honor, the country’s highest civilian honor. What a thrill for Jill, Natalie, and Gloria, and our alma mater!

Looking Ahead

As always, my fond regards to everyone and my love to our exceptional Smith class, which will reunite in 2015 for our 65th Reunion. (For more details, see the report from Peggy Tomlinson on page 5.)
**Smith’s 11th President**

Come October, it’s every undergraduate’s dilemma: What to be for Halloween? In the mid-1970s when she was a student at Tufts College, Kathleen McCartney knew exactly who she wanted to be: Gloria Steinem, founder of *Ms* magazine and a 1956 graduate of Smith College. Now, almost forty years later, Ms. McCartney became the 11th president of Steinem’s alma mater. Her idol would be proud, as would several other of McCartney’s Steinem-like mentors, including Brenda Steinberg, a professor of child development at Tufts, and Sandra Scarr, a professor at Yale, where McCartney completed a doctorate in psychology.

Thanks to these mentors and McCartney’s intelligence, passion, hard work, and superior listening skills, a generation of Smith students will now have the gift of McCartney’s mentoring. As she said in an interview for the *Smith Alumnae Quarterly*, McCartney is excited to lead an institution that has “played a prominent role in the lives of women who want to make a difference in the world.”

She also told the *Quarterly* that she’s eager to expand on the work of her predecessor, Carol Christ, by continuing to attract diverse students, keeping it affordable for those in need, making sure the curriculum stays current, and increasing Smith’s international profile.

Those goals sync well with “Women for the World,” Smith’s $450 million fundraising campaign that celebrates the Smith woman, who, by the way, sounds exactly like our new president: “Crazy smart, ambitious, the first person to offer a solution to a problem, filled with big ideas, a listener because she knows it makes her smarter.”

Maybe last October 30, the day before Halloween, when Smith hosted a welcome reception at the Yale Club in New York City for McCartney, some female undergraduate somewhere was assembling her Kathleen McCartney costume.

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**Pioneer Power**

On October 20, 2012, for the first time in its history, Smith inducted a class of honorees into the Smith College Pioneers Hall of Fame. The two criteria for the first class of inductees were to represent the history of sports at Smith and to include women whose accomplishments won regional, national, or international acclaim. Out of 76 nominations, the Hall of Fame selected twelve individuals and one team, the 1988 volleyball team, coached by Bonnie May. Among the inductees were Victoria Murden McClure, class of 1985, who rowed a boat across the Atlantic Ocean; swimmers Monique Fischer, class of 1986, and Maureen McMahon, class of 1984; field hockey player Paolo Prins, class of 1986; and squash player Jane Slocum Deland, class of 1969.

As Carol Christ explained at the ceremony, “Women’s athletics (at Smith) fostered teamwork, self sacrifice, the awareness in each woman of a world broader than her own, and an ideal that guides us even today – that women helping each other gain greatness is a victory we all share.” Amen to that! For a full list of the inductees, go to www.smithpioneers.com.
Tribute to Sheila Sweeney Evans

Two months before she died on December 15, 2012, Sheila sent a group e-mail informing friends and family of her diagnosis: Stage 3 ovarian cancer. Her e-mail was positive, energetic, and astonishingly free of self-pity. Whatever happened, she wrote, she knew she was in good hands with the doctors at Massachusetts General Hospital and had plenty of help and support from her husband Don and her three children and their families. To those who knew her, the e-mail was classic Sheila. The only thing missing was a sly witticism.

Lucky in life

For the 50th Reunion yearbook, Sheila described her life as one of incredible luck – lucky that she couldn’t type and so avoided “the secretarial slot in business”; lucky that she met her wonderful husband; lucky to have three healthy children whom she and Don “thoroughly enjoyed”; lucky to have led the Campaign for Smith in the 1980s (for which, she was, in part, presented with the John M. Greene award for service to the college); lucky to have socialized with world famous honorary degree recipients (“It was pretty terrific. On one occasion, I introduced Gloria Steinem and Mary McCarthy to each other!”); and lucky to be given two new knees at the age of 69 so she could continue golfing and sailing. With so much luck, she wrote, “I feel that life owes me nothing, and, whatever is coming, I will still be in its debt.”

Our debt

We at Smith are much in Sheila’s debt for her enthusiasm, hard work, energy, optimism, and signature sense of humor. As leader of The Campaign for Smith, Sheila raised $163 million. She chaired reunions and was president of the Smith College Club of the South Shore and a trustee of the college from 1983 to 1990, as well as Special Gift Chair for our class from 2010 until her death.

Class wit

In her last meeting with the class officers, Sheila’s sense of fun and humor were on full display as she had a ready quip at choice moments. Her diligence was also evident when she gave her Special Gift Chair report, which was thorough, comprehensive, lively, and instructive. (See her report on page 5.)

Heavy hearts

We miss Sheila greatly and send our thoughts to her husband, Don, her son Daniel, daughters Betsy and Martha, her daughter-in-law Grace, her sons-in-law Randy and Geoffrey, and her nine grandchildren.

The Smith Fund

Smith’s $450 million fundraising campaign known as “Women for the World” is fully underway after being launched in October 2012. The highest priority of the campaign is financial aid. (In 2013, the college gave almost $60 million in financial aid to 64 percent of its students.) To that end, Smith is asking every single alumna to make a gift to The Smith Fund each year. That allows our alma mater to put our dollars where they are needed most. If you want to support financial aid specifically, include a note that you would like your donation to go to The Smith Fund for General Financial Aid Support, The Smith Fund for International Scholarships, or The Smith Fund for Ada Comstock Scholarships. If you want to make a larger donation for an endowed scholarship, call Barbara Rejniak at 800-241-2056 and she’ll put a gift officer in touch with you.
**Welcome to Mary Liz Scott**

“I have very big shoes to fill,” says Mary Liz Klumpp Scott, when thinking about taking over the Special Gift Chair from Sheila Sweeney Evans. Still, she’s no stranger to this kind of volunteering. She was Class Treasurer from 1975 until 1980, Special Gift Agent from 1995 to 2000, and Class Fund Agent from July 2005 through October 2005. Her other volunteer experience – raising six children (five girls and one boy in seven years) – will also come in handy as will her years of teaching physics at Bryn Mawr.

**Woman of many talents**

After graduating from Smith with a degree in physics, Mary got her Masters in 1982 and started teaching soon after. She and Bucky, her husband of 61 years, live in Wynnewood, PA, where she gardens, plays tennis, sews, and sees as much as possible of her nine grandchildren and one great grandchild. (“I adore her. She has made me 20 years younger.”)

**Cheers for Chapin House**

Mary says she has many fond memories of her time at Chapin House (“our group was very close, still is”), including regular meals with the housemother, stealing the dinner chimes, and “long discussions at night.” It was home, she says. An avid field hockey player, Mary remembers being told she would never play after college. “I played hockey until I was 50,” she laughs.

**Oppenheimer anecdote**

She also remembers people asking her why she majored in physics. “I found it terribly interesting” and she liked the way it incorporated astronomy and biology and “everything else.” It also provided her with a brush with fame when Robert Oppenheimer came to Smith to lecture on particle physics. At the lecture, Mary says, the professors were falling all over themselves asking questions and trying to impress their guest who kept “cutting them down to size.” After the lecture, Oppenheimer attended a more intimate meeting with the faculty and on his way there happened upon a room where Mary was studying. “I looked up at him and he winked at me and I turned every color under the sun, and he smiled. Of course, I winked right back.”

**Continuing Education**

Smith’s legacy for Mary has been a lifelong curiosity and quest for learning – and becoming our new Special Gift Chair will help her continue to do that.

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**Scholarship Update**

**Smith Supporters**

The generosity of our class isn’t limited to yearly donations. Several classmates have established individual scholarship funds or have had them established in their memory.

**Eleanor Lewis**

The Eleanor Lewis Campbell 1950 Scholarship Fund was established by Eleanor and her husband the Honorable Levin H. Campbell. Annual income from the fund gives financial aid to an undergraduate who studies vocal performance and or/participates in choral music.

**Jane Grossman**

Jane Grossman Cecil and her husband Donald established a current-use fund to support community service internships through the Praxis Program with a preference for organizations that serve underprivileged youth in the greater Springfield area.

**In Memoriam Funds**

Three funds established in the memory of classmates are the Teddy (Marie) Bergeron Hart scholarship, which is awarded annually to a student majoring in English, preferably from New York State; the Jill Cummins MacLean Prize Fund, which is awarded on Ivy Day to a drama major for “outstanding dramatic achievement, preferably with a comic touch, in writing, acting, or dance;” and the H. Adel Shabshelowitz Savitz Endowed Scholarship Fund, which assists graduates of Durfee High School in Fall River, Massachusetts, “with high financial need.”
NOTES FROM CLASS OFFICERS

Thank you to all class members who made a gift to Smith College in fiscal year 2011-2012. With 58% participation, we helped raise a total of $279,500. It is my personal wish for the Class of 1950 to break the five-year participation record at Reunion 2015. To do so, we must maintain a minimum of 61% participation for each of the next three years. So, now is the time. Please make a gift that will help maintain a top-ranked global education. In 2010-11, 35% of Smith applicants were awarded Fulbright Fellowships – more than 2.5 times the national average. Last summer, the college launched a new interdisciplinary concentration on Global Financial Institutions, which combines academic courses and research and fieldwork to provide a rigorous study of financial markets and institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, central banks, and the financial regulations that apply to them. All this costs money, of course, and the price tag for a Smith education now exceeds $64,000. By supporting the Smith Fund, we help the college provide financial aid where it is needed and prepare all the students to make a better tomorrow. Our generous donations allow our alma mater to maintain a diverse group from many nationalities and backgrounds to form an extraordinary intellectual community. Your generosity now will be a welcome treat for all, particularly our new President.

JANE T. MACCOLL, Class Fund Agent

Members of the Class of 1950 are in their 80s, with great disparity among them regarding health and wealth. History has proved their loyalty and generosity! In 2010, we had 69% participation and secured $891,296 in comprehensive gifts. In 2011, participation dropped to 60% and we raised $126,752. Last year, 58% of the class donated and we raised $279,500, which included a $25,000 bequest, a $100,000 annuity and completion of a $50,000 pledge, establishing an Educational Research Fund. I have no doubt that members of the class will give the Smith Fund as much as they are able, given their circumstances.

SHEILA SWEENEY EVANS, Special Gift Chair (2010-2012)

I always welcome news for our class column in the Smith Quarterly but keep in mind the long lead time of at least four months. For example, I need info for the Summer issue by Feb. 15. For the Fall issue, May 15; Aug. 15 for the Winter issue and Nov. 15 for the Spring issue. And you can’t put things that haven’t happened yet. In other words, you can’t say your granddaughter is expecting a baby in five months.

BETTY THOMAS SWEITZER, Secretary

It is less than two years until our 65th, so all, please stay well. We hope to do much better at our 65th Reunion than the class of 1945 did at their 65th when only 35 classmates returned. The good news is that we will likely be in Lamont (behind Northrop), which is light years ahead of our digs for the last two Reunions. It does, of course, have an elevator. Our Reunion theme will be Belles Lettres, which we started on so many years ago, but now it isn’t Jane Austen, but Belles Lettres of our eighties – AARP, IRA, MRI, etc. The college will provide greater support to us in planning our 65th Reunion. Meanwhile keep sending news, and best wishes to all.

PEGGY LYNCH TOMLINSON, Vice President

As of August 2013, the 1950 Scholarship Fund is at $206,826.00. When I acquired the bank account, we had $27,000. I put $22,000 in a 13th month CD and we earned $315 interest. (We had earned no interest previous to that). I gave $10,000 in 2012 to our 1950 Scholarship Fund and invested the other $10,000 in a CD, which will mature on June 14th, 2014. In our checking account, we have $5,199, which reflects paying for the newsletter. By the time of our Reunion, we’ll have $15,000 in the bank account so we can live it up or make donations or buy another case of wine (or several). Other expenses we expect to incur include additional newsletters and items for our Reunion (parade signs, centerpieces, HQ decorations and refreshments, name tags, and/or souvenirs, a list of deceased colleagues). For the Reunion itself, we pay a blanket amount that includes meals.

BETTY JACOBSEN, Treasurer