The Many Routes of

From the Class President

It is hard to believe that it is 2013. It seems to me the year went by very quickly, but then they all do. Remember when 1984 seemed a long way off?

While Reunion is still three years away, your officers are staying in touch with the college. In the fall I attended the Women’s Global Leadership Celebration at Smith. The purpose of the conference was to celebrate Smith’s role in the education and advancement of women throughout the world and to announce a major new $450 million campaign that will make Smith “the destination college for women in the 21st century.” Seven members of the class of ’66 were in Northampton for the weekend: Nealie Mendenhall Small, Judy Bronstein milestone, Elsa Pottala Pauley, Caroline Soleliac Carbaugh, Sarah Cross Mills, Jane Lakes Harman, Lois Hoffman Thompson and me. We enjoyed seeing each other and catching up. The timing was quite poignant for us as it was exactly fifty years ago that we began our freshman year at Smith.

It was a weekend packed with seminars and lectures. Smith alumnae gave the lectures and Smith students and professors ran the seminars. I was seriously impressed by the quality of the students and faculty. The young women I met were outstanding with double majors like Engineering and Economics, Art History and Pre-med. The faculty and alumnae speakers were equally impressive.

For me, the highlight of the weekend was listening to Jill Conway. When asked by a Smith senior what the purpose of a women’s college was in the 21st century, she responded that feminism runs in cycles, and we are currently living in an anti-feminist cycle. Women’s colleges, like Smith, provide a supportive environment free from hostility to women’s achievements.

President Christ announced the $450 million dollar campaign titled Women for the World: The Campaign for Smith. One of the main goals of the campaign is to increase access to a Smith education through financial aid.

This July Smith will have a new president, Kathleen McCartney. She comes to Smith from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. During her time at HGSE, the school raised $162 million, which included two $10 million gifts, to support programs to prepare the next generation of education leaders. Ms. McCartney’s specialty is child development and early education. She will become president on July 1, 2013 and will take over from President Carol Christ, who has been president since 2002. While it is sad to see President Christ depart, it is exciting to have a new president to lead Smith in the second decade of the 21st century. I look forward to meeting her while working on our fiftieth Reunion.

REUNION NEWS: Sally Beck Baker has agreed to be in charge of mini-reunions, and we are very fortunate to have her take on that job! You will be hearing more from Sally in the coming months.

Congratulations to Lois Hoffman Thompson! In June 2012 she was elected to the Smith Board of Trustees for a four-year term. She is serving on three committees: the Board of Governance, the Academic Affairs Committee, and the committee that deals with campus life. In her note to me, Lois said that she feels very committed to being a voice for alumnae on the board and that any classmates should feel free to contact her if they have any questions or concerns that she might be able to help with.

Our class has been well represented on the Board of Trustees. Nealie Mendenhall Small retired from the board in June of 2012. Her work on the Investment Committee and her...
From the President (cont’d)

leadership during the tumultuous years since the financial crisis in 2007-08 was invaluable. While Nealie was on the Board, the College had more applicants than any time in its history and produced more Fulbrights than any other liberal arts college. She was a great partner to President Christ in pioneering increased internationalism at Smith – in students and curriculum. I know the entire class thanks her for her hard work on behalf of Smith.

It is very exciting to report that our classmate Gail Kern Paster has been awarded a Smith College Medal. The medal is awarded on Rally Day, which this year is February 21st. The college sent out the following piece about Gail.

Recently described as a “rock star of the world of Shakespeare,” Gail Paster first gained recognition for her scholarship while at George Washington University. In 2002 Paster was appointed to the prestigious post of director of the Folger Shakespeare Library, where she served for nine years. As director, Paster strengthened the Folger’s educational outreach to scholars of all ages, particularly through digital initiatives. She oversaw the acquisition of rare documents of the Elizabethan era and raised more than $28 million for collections and renovation of the library’s historic building. During her tenure, the audience for public programs grew by more than 25 percent. Paster’s scholarly work has won her fellowships from the Woodrow Wilson, Andrew W. Mellon and John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundations and the National Endowment for the Humanities. At her retirement, the Folger’s Board of Governors renamed the Old Reading Room in her honor. She was also recognized by Queen Elizabeth II for her distinguished service to the arts.

I know we are all proud to have such an accomplished scholar in the class of 1966.

I hope everyone is having a good winter staying healthy and warm. Remember if you have any questions or concerns about Smith 66 issues and/or Reunion, please feel free to contact me at ksirkin@comcast.net or on my cell phone which I have in my possession. I am particularly touched by the contributions from those of you who have not submitted in the past, but now suddenly find your name in the class reunion book. Some of you are regular contributors, some of you I didn’t know , but passed on campus, sharing the same snow, the same assemblies in John M. Greene, the same menus on Thursday nights, the same Smith experience. Reading your emails as I put together a class column for the Smith Alumnae Quarterly is like opening a stack of letters from old and dear friends. Keep them coming. From my very first Quarterly after graduation, the first thing I have read when it arrives is the Alumnae Lives column for the Class of 1966. I bet you have done the same. Some of you are regular contributors, which is much appreciated. I am particularly touched by the contributions from those of you who have not submitted in the past, but now do so, often because of some major life change. When I agreed to be Class Secretary, I thought I was doing something for Smith. It turns out that Smith was doing something for me.

Karen Sargent Sirkin

From the Planned Giving Chair

I thought a comparison of gift annuity options might be useful. A charitable gift annuity is a simple agreement between the donor and Smith College and is backed by the full assets of the college. The donor (or designated beneficiary) receives quarterly payments from Smith throughout her lifetime at a fixed rate established when the gift is made.

A deferred payment gift annuity is also a simple agreement backed by the full assets of the college. However, it is managed as part of Smith’s endowment, and the college agrees to return annual payments to the donor or designated beneficiary for his or her lifetime at a fixed rate based on her or his age at the time of the gift and the date of the first payment.

Hence, you could donate now, but elect to receive payments beginning at age 75 for example. Or you could elect to have someone else like your adult child or someone who was a caregiver for example, receive payments when they are retirement age. The longer you delay the first payment, the higher it will be.

PS. Please see www.smith.edu/future/planned or call 415-585-2035.

Susan Werner Thoreson

From the Class Secretary

We each have a cluster of friends that we keep close with emails, and, for some of us, (gasp) handwritten letters. Even if they don’t live nearby and we don’t see them often, sharing bits and pieces of our lives keeps us in each others’ thoughts and makes getting together, when we can, more seamless. Taking on the role of Class Secretary increased explosively the number of people that I think about and communicate with. Some of you I knew at Smith. Some of you were friends of friends. Some of you I didn’t know, but passed on campus, sharing the same snow, the same assemblies in John M. Greene, the same menus on Thursday nights, the same Smith experience. Reading your emails as I put together a class column for the Smith Alumnae Quarterly is like opening a stack of letters from old and dear friends. Keep them coming. From my very first Quarterly after graduation, the first thing I have read when it arrives is the Alumnae Lives column for the Class of 1966. I bet you have done the same. Some of you are regular contributors, which is much appreciated. I am particularly touched by the contributions from those of you who have not submitted in the past, but now do so, often because of some major life change. When I agreed to be Class Secretary, I thought I was doing something for Smith. It turns out that Smith was doing something for me.

Susan Froehly Teich

From the Webmaster

I have been working with other officers to ensure that information on the class website is current and accurate. I believe the website could be a valuable means of communication but it is underused. There have been very few submissions for the Books page (created as a result of a suggestion made in the class meeting at our 45th reunion) but the ones that have come in have been interesting and thoughtful.

The URL is smith66.org. You may email me any suggestions for improvements or additions to the website at bftetting@yahoo.com and I will be delighted to hear from you.

Barbara Tuggle Fetting
From the Smith Fund

The big news, fundraising-wise, has been the October 2012 launch of the $450 million campaign – **Women for the World: The Campaign for Smith.** What makes the campaign so special is both what it’s about and what it’s not about. It’s about expanding and strengthening our financial aid program, not about buildings of bricks and mortar. It’s about profoundly touching and empowering all our current and future students through new programs and opportunities for meaningful faculty interaction which impact them tangibly and immediately. And it’s about Smith becoming the destination college for women from around the globe committed to leadership throughout the world.

The campaign is designed to end in June 2016, coincidentally the year of our 50th Reunion.

So here’s the good news – everything that we give to The Smith Fund over the next three years will be counted toward this $450 million campaign. And, as we plan ahead to give more substantially in honor of our 50th, the desire to participate as well in this capital campaign may further inspire us to break every record for 50th Reunion giving. That would be quite a goal, wouldn’t it? And we can’t imagine a class better equipped to achieve such a goal than our wonderful class!

So, over the next years you’ll be hearing from the three of us, along with Sue Werner Thoresen (Planned Giving Chair) and Susan Field Mullens (Memorial Giving Chair), about different ways to give, how to maximize the impact of your gift, and, if you would like, how to designate your gift.

We are looking forward during these years before our 50th to building upon our already connected, philanthropic, and visionary ’66 community – surely the best ever!

PS: If this little article gives you immediate inspiration, here’s the link for online giving: [https://www.smith.edu/future/giving/giftform.php](https://www.smith.edu/future/giving/giftform.php).

Elsa Pottala Pauley, Class Fund Agent
Caroline Solelia Carbaugh, Co-Class Fund Agent
Lois Hoffman Thompson, Special Gift Chair

From the Memorial Gift Chair

As Memorial Chair, I have the privilege of getting to know classmates a little better through their memorial gifts. Honoring another person through a gift to the College is a window into the important relationships we each have with Smith.

Many memorial gifts are in honor of relatives. I am fascinated by the number of us who have mothers who preceded us at Smith. Many are from the classes of ’39, ’40 and ’41, but others are from classes as early as ’26. When I see a gift listed in memory of one’s mother, I can imagine the excitement of that acceptance letter and the pride knowing that a daughter had chosen to follow a path that had been walked a generation before.

A few gifts have been in honor of faculty members. How remarkable that the influences faculty had on our lives still resonate after almost 50 years. And what a tribute to Smith as a valued academic institution with a strong faculty.

The most poignant gifts are those in memory of our classmates – those who died young, those who battled difficult illness, those whose lives are a model of strength and inspiration. The young girls we were when we came college at 18 and the women we are today are intertwined with the friendships we made at Smith. And those friendships are not forgotten.

Gifts can be of any size and can be made at any time. You can send them directly to The Smith Fund, P.O. Box 340029, Boston, MA 02241-0429. Be sure to mark the memorial information on your check. The memo line is short, but it also helps to put the class year and/or relationship (e.g., parent) right along with the name. It is also easy to make gifts online at [www.smith.edu/thefund](http://www.smith.edu/). The online gift page has a place for you to indicate whom you want to memorialize.

I hope that you will consider a memorial gift – and that your gift will evoke treasured memories of your time at Smith.

Susan Field Mullens

From the Class Treasurer

Since the last report in our Spring 2012 Newsletter, there has been only a small amount of activity. Expenses included printing and postage costs for our newsletter, which we are required to send annually. On the income side, five more classmates paid their 5-year dues and a small amount of interest accrued in our checking account. The balance in our Class of ’66 account was $22,677.59 as of December 31, 2012.

Nancy Fenn Dietz
Your DUES Help Support Class Activities

Class dues are important. They support class activities and connections such as our annual newsletter, conference calls, and meetings, and they will help pay for reunion planning as we gear up for our 50th!

Dues are tax deductible. $75 covers the five years between reunions, and all of the funds raised stay with our class.

If you have not already paid, please use the tear-off below and mail it to:

Nancy Dietz
821 Oakdale Road
Atlanta, GA 30307

For any questions, including whether or not you’ve paid, email Nancy at ndietz@coexecurry.com

Thank you!

Smith College Class of ’66 Dues

Enclosed is $75 for my 5 year dues.

Name ______________________________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

Email ______________________________________________________________

Please make checks payable to Smith College Class of ’66