

# Class of 1953

Fall 2013



## 1953 CLASS OFFICERS

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Greetings!!

I would like to thank all 74 of you who came back for our 60th Reunion. There was such enthusiasm and happy feedback!

Our Reunion chairs, **Jane Pafford** and **Betsy Hayes**, deserve praise and great appreciation for all of the thought, skill, and effort they put into making our time at Smith inspiring, warm, and enlightening! Not only were they highly skilled but, best of all, they were fun to work with! All phone calls over the past 6 years were dotted with laughter! Jane and Betsy, you were SPECIAL! Thank-you!!

Our Reunion group was also special! Recognizing old friends, catching up on their news, sharing fun times - all combined to warm our hearts. I have to share this bit of humor. At the conclusion of Reunion, I heard our classmates described as follows: a very few came back with varying degrees of handicaps. They were good sports manipulating their walkers, wheel chairs and crutches. The vast majority of our class were amazingly energetic and in pretty good health ... all enthusiastic and warmly responsive. Then there was the last group - about 20 -who looked like they just stepped out of Vogue!! They were inspiring! It was hard not to be a little jealous!?

In Jane's report on Reunion, she gave a detailed report of our schedule throughout the weekend. I would like to give special recognition to our two speakers, Marilyn Schuster, Provost and Dean of the Faculty and Professor Stan Scordilis, who gave us a tour of Ford Hall, the new engineering and science building.

Both speakers were most enlightening. I must confess I wanted to go back to college again - minus exams! In Dr. Scordilis' talk, he described the initial dream of Ford Hall, its challenges, its architecture and purposes. Later he took us on a tour of the building which excited us all. Imagine having a lab where you have a cubicle all your own - enclosed in glass -with turn knobs where you could control what gasses you wanted to release and mix at any given time. The labs were awesome! When our tour was over, Dr. Scordilis quietly confessed - with a grin -that Harvard and Yale and other Ivy League colleges often sent reps to view Ford Hall. It was not unusual for the Director to receive a call of appreciation - and then a quiet "By the way, if and when you have a vacancy, I'm interested!!"

The speaker for our class dinner was Marilyn Schuster. She "serves as the chief academic officer and works closely with the President of the College. She is responsible for the curriculum and for support for Faculty teaching and research."

In her speech, she very cleverly compared education in 1953 under President Benjamin Wright, to education presently presented at Smith under President Carol Christ in 2013. She listed twelve areas of concentrations of study at Smith today - brilliantly outlined and presented. A few of these areas of concentration are: Biomathematical Sciences (Ford Hall), Environmental Concentration, Global Financial Institutions, Museums, Poetry, South Asia, and Women's Education etc.

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*Greetings cont'd*

Think of all that has transpired since we graduated in the fields of art, music, world history, computer science, space, literature, etc. Just updating curriculum would pose a tremendous challenge.

Dr. Schuster's talk was an inspiration to all of us. We appreciated the gift of her time and insight.

And now let me express my deep appreciation for allowing me to be your President these past five years. Thank you !

**Ginnie McNaughton**

*'53 Class President, 60th Reunion*

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## 60<sup>TH</sup> REUNION REPORT

Some 74 classmates, and their guests, gathered in Northrop and Gillett, May 23- 26, for our 60th Reunion. Headquarters committee, chaired by **Myrna Brody Butler** and assisted by **Betsy Hayes Jones** and **Lynn Stein Leavitt** enlisted the help of these undergraduates to prepare headquarters in Northrop. As they checked in, classmates received a schedule of class activities, a booklist of titles from classmates and compiled by **Bets McCray Newman**, and a class directory.

The class made good use of headquarters both Friday and Saturday evenings. There were snacks, coffee and tea available at all times. Comfortable furniture arranged in conversation groupings provided comfortable places to gather and facilitated visiting and casual conversations late into the night.

The class was housed in both Northrop and Gillett. These houses have been renovated with elevators and a ramp to the entrance.

Reunion "officially" began with lunch on Friday, served in the Campus Center. At 2 o'clock, there was a tour of Ford Hall, conducted by Stan Scordilis. He told us about the many energy efficient features of the building as well as the educational programs provided. The flexibility of the building allows for various teaching approaches in the classrooms and laboratories. He then led a tour of these various features.

Social hour and dinner Friday evening was held in Comstock House. The Smithereens entertained the class. They recognized all the class members who also were members of the group. The College provided transportation to and from dinner.

Saturday morning found the class decked out in scarves, hats and bags in yellow, the class color. **Joanne Nelson Moyler** "marshalled" us for the parade. **Nancy (Knobby) Knobloch Helmig** and **Lysbeth Kaye Stone** "composed"

our signs. The hats were all yellow, which helped 1953 stand out from the other classes who wore straw hats with a class ribbon. Our signs were printed in black on a yellow background which helped distinguish them from the others that were printed in black on a white background.

The annual meeting of the Alumnae Association immediately followed. Two classmates received awards: **Betsy Hayes Jones**, was given the Class Volunteer Award, and **Chris Janson Eldridge**, The Smith Fund Award for Distinguished Service. We were introduced to the new Executive Director of the Alumnae Association, Jennifer Chrisler '92. President Carol T. Christ spoke about the State of the College.

At lunch that day, President Christ greeted the class, spoke briefly, and answered questions. Immediately following lunch, the class met in Gillett living room for the Class Meeting, chaired by **Ginny Davidson McNaughton**, Class President. **Ann Safford Mandel**, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate of officers for 2018. The following were elected:

President: **Jane Cowen Pafford**

Reunion Chairs-Triumvirate: **Judy Hill Kittredge**, **Lynn Stein Leavitt**, and **Jid Whitney Sprague**

Co-Secretaries: **Barbara Dodds McSpadden** and **Ann Safford Mandell**

Class Fund Agent: **Christine von Wedemeyer Beshar**

Special Gift Chair: **Chris Janson Eldridge**

Planned Giving: **Molly Duff Woehrlin**

Immediately following the meeting **Barbara Nielsen** presented a program on the "Gifts of Aging". Using humor and cartoons; Barbara spoke about the aging process. She identified the gifts: gaining in wisdom, emotional regulation, nurturance to the community, and moving assets to the next generation. Those attending found they were able to discuss in depth some of their concerns about getting older. Barbara

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*Reunion Report cont'd*

followed the presentation with a discussion and demonstration of meditation.

Saturday evening the class dinner was held at the Conference Center - we knew it as the Faculty Club. Dinner co-chairs were **Lynn Stein Leavitt** and **Blossom Willinger Miller**. **Mary Hagar Hafner** graciously provided the wine from her family's vineyard. There was a sufficient supply for both Friday and Saturday dinners. The class is very grateful.

Marilyn Schuster, Provost, was our speaker. She began by drawing a comparison between our undergraduate years with Benjamin Wright as president and today with Carol

Christ as president. She then spoke about several new and different academic programs available to today's Smith students, the role of internships, and several new concentrations of study. (Please refer to **Ginny Davidson McNaughton**'s article for more information.)

Classmates attended the Service of Remembrance Sunday morning. This was followed by the final event: Brunch at the Alumnae House.

Although the main feature of the weather was rain, classmates seemed to enjoy themselves and appreciated time to explore the campus. Many renewed friendships and also found opportunities to make new friends.

**CLASS OFFICERS  
2013-2018**

- President* ..... **Jane Cowen Pafford**
- Reunion Chairs .- Triumvirate* ..... **Judy Hill Kittredge**  
**Lynn Stein Leavitt**  
**Jid Whitney Sprague**
- Co-Secretaries* ..... **Barbara Dodds McSpadden**  
**Ann Spafford Mandell**
- Class Fund Agent* ..... **Christine von Wedemeyer Beshar**
- Special Gift Chair* ..... **Chris Jansen Eldridge**
- Planned Giving* ..... **Molly Duff Woehrlin**

What an inspiring list!!!  
They will do an outstanding job leading us through the next five years!!

It is with great regret that we share the names of our classmates who have died since our last newsletter:

- Jane Harris Mellon ..... August 7, 2011
- Mereth Mueller Meade ..... May 25, 2013



# Smith College Class of 1953

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