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## Class of 1994

### MESSAGE FROM THE CLASS PRESIDENTS

What a difference a few months makes! As we continue to adjust to an ever-evolving new normal, we hope you are finding moments of joy and peace. To see the latest regarding Smith's COVID-19 response, please visit the [Smith COVID-19](#) page.

We are thrilled to announce our own Class of 1994 “response” to COVID-19: the Class of 1994 Tea Cup Brigade! If you are interested in reaching out to your classmates — by writing a handwritten note, making a phone call, hosting a video conference — for no other reason than to say “hi” and let our classmates know we are holding each other up in thoughts of unity and strength, please let your Madame Presidents, [Holly](#) and [Liz](#) know, and we will give you a list of as many classmates as you can handle. Would you be willing to commit to contacting one, two, ten of your fellow Smith 94ers? The Tea Cup Brigade needs YOU!

Connections are critical now more than ever, and in that vein we encourage you also to please make sure your contact information is current in the [Alumnae Directory](#). The class does not keep a separate list

with contact information; if you move and do not tell the college, we may lose you and we don't want that to happen! You can also use the Alumnae Directory to search for alums in your area, by class, by major - it's very helpful!

Also, we would love for you to receive email updates from the college - we find them to be very informative. One email newsletter was sent out recently called "Stay At Home With Smith," which listed tons of resources — written or otherwise produced by Smithies — for reading, listening, and watching! Such as our own Lori Tharps' podcast My American Melting Pot, a biweekly podcast about the ways race influences and impacts daily life ("From technology to fried chicken, from music to motherhood, every aspect of modern society is ripe for discussion.") You can change your email preferences anytime by sending an email to: [alumnaerecords@smith.edu](mailto:alumnaerecords@smith.edu).

We are working on the three goals announced in our last class newsletter. Chris Acas is behind the scenes getting our Class of 1994 website up and running with information so we can connect with and without Facebook. This is our second newsletter of the year, so we have accomplished goal #2 of getting out a class newsletter at least twice a year! Lastly, we have been posting on our FB page some of the many resources provided by the College, including free webinars and opportunities for networking. Once we get our website up and running, we will try to put all this stuff in one place for easy reference, similar to the document we created for Reunion.

With love,  
Your Madame Presidents,  
Liz Wohlken Rugaber and Holly Nydegger

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## REUNION

We can hardly believe that about this time last year, we were screaming at the top of our lungs sporting red umbrellas and Scout bags, proclaiming our class pride and reveling in our friendships new and old. Here are ways you can stay connected with your classmates now:

- Join one or both of our class Facebook pages. Both are closed groups and can be found by FB search: “Smith College Class of 1994” and “Not What I Expected” (which builds on our panel discussions of the same name).
- Mini-Reunions. Are you interested in connecting with local class of 1994 alums in your area? We still need state/area chairs—please contact [Anne Horton](#), our new chair for mini-Reunions.
- House Reps. Do you miss those friends you made in your House back in 1990—1994? Become a House Rep and reach out. Interested? Please contact [Rachel Day Velarde](#), our new chair for House Reps.

## SUBMIT YOUR CLASS NOTES

We love reading your news! Send your class notes for the SAQ to our class secretary Alexa Kontes at [smith1994notes@gmail.com](mailto:smith1994notes@gmail.com). You can also use the new [online submission form](#). Submissions go directly to class secretary.

## CLASS OF '94 IN THE NEWS

This is the section of our class newsletter where we are going to highlight something cool about our class or a classmate. For this issue, we thought we would be broader and highlight actions many alumnae are taking to help out in these extraordinary times, like our own Shira Doran '94, who is an infectious disease doctor at Tufts University, on the front lines fighting for her patients every day. [These stories](#) are inspirational and uplifting, and we hope you enjoy them. If you would like to be featured in this column in future editions, or if there is something about our class you would like to highlight, please contact your Class Co-Presidents, [Holly Nydegger](#) and [Liz Rugaber](#).

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### NEILSON LIBRARY UPDATE

Check out the amazing progress on the Neilson Library webcams - there are views from the [north](#), [south](#), and [Burton Lawn](#).



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## FUNDRAISING UPDATE & APPEAL: STUDENT AID EMERGENCY FUND

When Smith women see a problem, we usually step right in to solve it. This could not have been truer when Smith abruptly (and prudently) closed for the remainder of the academic year in response to COVID-19. Alums have been eager to help, notably through philanthropic support of the Student Emergency Aid Fund, which has raised in excess of \$116,800 from 607 donors. These funds will help students defray the costs associated with continuing their studies off campus. To date, more than 250 domestic and international students have been helped with funds for travel as well as computer and technology assistance.

Even though the students are not able to come together at this time, the work of the college continues. Smith remains grateful for your financial support making it possible to fulfill its mission of educating the next generation of women who will use their voices to lift communities, change policies, disrupt convention and create a more just and equitable

world.

We are now getting to the age of being THE alumnae who sustain Smith and who will keep it strong for generations. We hope you will support Smith in your annual charitable giving plans. And remember, NO gift is too small, ALL gifts matter, and Smith would not be able to work towards its goal of ensuring that cost is never an obstacle for any Smithie without YOUR support. A few facts for your consideration:

- Smith's fiscal year is July 1 - June 30 every year. If you aren't sure whether you have made a gift this fiscal year, contact [Jen Beachell](#), our Class Fund Team Coordinator, or [Samantha Pleasant](#) at Smith.
- 67% of current Smith students receive financial aid from Smith. The average need-based grant is \$48,117. The majority of dollars raised through annual giving to Smith supports student financial aid.
- Gifts are a great way to honor the memory of a beloved classmate, friend, or professor. You can make your gift in honor or memory of anyone! The family of the memorialized individual will be notified about your thoughtful gift. Contact our Class Memorial Gifts Chair [Karla Baldikoski Long](#) if you have any questions about gifts in memoriam.
- A giving reflection: "My relationship with Smith is not transactional, it is aspirational. Even though I did not have a perfect experience while I was at Smith, my connection to the community is lifelong. I give to make what I did not enjoy at Smith better, and I give in thanks for the friendships and confidence Smith gave me, which are invaluable."

We are looking for more class volunteers for class fundraising in preparation for our 30th Class Reunion. If you are interested please contact our Class Fund Team Chair [Jen Beachell](#) (or one of our class presidents, [Holly](#) and [Liz](#)).

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### Here are a few ways to keep in touch and stay informed:

- [Alumnae Directory](#) (password protected) - find alumnae and update your profile.
- [Update your address](#)
- Follow Smith on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#)

- Access every issue of the *Smith Alumnae Quarterly*, going back to 1909, on the SAQ digital archive
- View past issues of [Notes from Paradise](#)
- [Calendar of Smith events](#)
- [Be A Friend](#) (of the Libraries, Botanic Garden, Athletics, or Museum of Art)
- [Volunteer for Admissions](#)
- Join a [Smith Club](#) in your area
- [Travel with Smith](#)

### Class of 1994 Volunteers

**Holly Nydegger**  
Co-President

**Liz Rugaber**  
Co-President

**Jen McNally**  
Reunion Chair

**Vigie Ramos Rios**  
Treasurer

**Alexa Kontes**  
Secretary

**Christine Acas**  
Web and Technology

**Jen Beachell**  
Fund Team Chair

**Karla Baldikoski Long**  
Memorial Gifts Chair

**Elizabeth Foley**  
Planned Giving Chair

### Fund Team Agents

Amy Elmore

Erinn McGurn

Katha Washburn

Liz Rugaber

Ali Hawthorne

Cindy Stack Kardos

Judy Kim

### 30th Reunion Volunteers

**Marissa Walsh**  
Programming Chair

**Kira Mellups**  
Programming Chair

**Naomi Graychase**  
Programming Chair

**Rachel Day Velarde**  
House Reps Chair

**Anne Horton**  
Mini Reunion Chair

**Britt Neff**  
Seattle Mini Reunion

Chair

**Erica Thomas**  
Northern California Mini Reunion  
Chair

**Kirse Granat May**  
Parade Chair

**Brooke Teller**  
Reunion Headquarters Chair

### Connect with Us

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Class of 1994 Facebook pages  
**Smith College Class of 1994**  
**Not What I Expected**

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