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Smith College Class of 1994

Spring 2021 Newsletter

A Message From the Class Presidents

Hello to 2021! We are missing all of you and hoping you are safe and healthy.

Website, website, website! We have a Smith College Class of 1994 Website! Have you checked it out yet? Please do and we'd love to hear what you think. Thank you, Chris Acas for all of your time and efforts working with us to put this together. We would love to hear your feedback, our email is SmithClassof94@gmail.com.



Feeling nostalgic? Click on the Mood Music tab and you'll find a link to some of the music from our past reunions. Or if you'd rather listen to WOZQ, you can still access WOZQ 91.9 FM music live on our website via the Wix app. Groove is in the Heart!

Keeping in touch is more important than ever during this pandemic. Please keep your information updated with Smith (see the Keeping in Touch section below) as our class has an ongoing Teacup Brigade program where we can send each other notes via the mail. It's so lovely receiving mail. Stamps! Ink! LOVE! Interested in sending some notes to our 1994 classmates, contact us at SmithClassof94@gmail.com and we will set you up! Shout out to Carla Fantini-Cespedes Lineback, who sent handwritten notes to ALL of her Junior Year Abroad in Florence classmates!

Reunion Update



The people pictured in this photo, left to right: Elizabeth Russell Clayton, Monserrat Coughlin Kim, Liz Wohlken Ruggaber, Michelle Jackson, Karla Long, Anne Kierzkowski, President Ruth Simmons.

2024 is just another three times around the sun and so is our next Reunion!!



Is it too early to be thinking of themes for our Reunion?

Our 2019 theme was Wonderful (just ask Joy Lapsertis) and we're excited for the next one, you Wonderful Women! If you have 30th Reunion theme ideas, send them to SmithClassof1994@gmail.com.

House Reps and Mini Reunion Reps

People are connecting virtually more than ever right now, and maybe setting up a virtual meet up for your local 1994 classmates or your housemates would be more your style! No travel required. If you are interested in helping to connect with your housemates or local classmates, send us an email! It is so much fun to reconnect with fellow 94ers, even the ones you think live in your city or state that you haven't had a chance to get to know well yet! We would love to have more people involved AND more people at Reunion 2024!

Call for Class Notes

News from you for the Class Notes section of the Alumnae Quarterly is always welcome! Submit by sending to class secretary Alexandra "Alexa" Kontes. Alternatively, you can also use the Smith Alumnae Quarterly Class Notes form.

Class Spotlight



We are looking for Class of 1994 Alums who have businesses, books, blogs, etc. and would like to share their accomplishments with our classmates. Some of you are connecting on our Facebook page and we'd like to support you here too. We are considering a page dedicated to spotlighting the accomplishments on our Smith College Class of 1994 website. Is this something you'd like to have consolidated in one place? Please contact SmithClassof94@gmail.com.

Fundraising Update

Our class did an excellent job fundraising in the December campaign. So far, our class has raised \$69,337 for the Smith Fund, with 23% participation. The fiscal year ends June 30th, so you still have time to help us bring up those numbers and bring in some more dough for student scholarships and financial aid! FYI – Wellesley's annual giving participation rate is more like 40% - 50%.

Many of you have donated in honor of our classmate, Amy Turcotte Elmore, this year. Thank you! We'll have one more campaign for FY21 coming up in June. But you don't have to wait until then to make your annual donation; you can do it at any time right here, and you can always designate your gift to be in honor of anyone you like. To those of you who have yet to make your annual donation, mark your calendars to remind yourself about annual giving before the close of the year on June 30. I find it helpful to put an annual giving reminder in my Google calendar so I don't forget.

Your giving means a lot to the students and faculty at Smith College. In addition to being the primary contributor to scholarship funds and financial aid for students, our annual giving participation rate is factored into college national rankings.

There are two ways you can contribute to our class' success before the 30th reunion: First, one easy way to budget for your annual giving and ensure you don't forget to make your annual gift is to make a monthly donation on your credit card. For example, over time, a gift of about two Starbucks lattes per week equals about \$40 per month for a very respectable annual gift. Pick a value that's right for you and your family and try it out.

Second, we are looking for more volunteers to be part of our class volunteers and fundraising. Getting involved means expanding your friendships within the class, getting to know current students and staff, and helping to leave a lasting legacy for Smith as we all grow older together. Sorry to end it there, but we are almost 50. LOL. Come join us, it's fun!

With gratitude – Jen Beachell



Planned Giving Update



What is the Grecourt Society? Alumnae and friends who have included Smith in their estate plans through a will, trust, retirement plan, life insurance policy or life income gift are eligible to join The Grecourt Society. You don't have to be rich—planned gifts of any amount qualify for membership—including making a beneficiary designation on a life insurance policy, for example. The Grecourt Society was established in 1994, and gives Smith an opportunity to acknowledge your thoughtful planning for Smith's future. Benefits include a lovely lapel pin featuring the Grecourt Gates, an invitation to a Grecourt Society reception held during Reunion, and pride in the knowledge that you will be supporting Smith beyond your lifetime.

We would like to acknowledge the 15 members of our class who have already joined the Grecourt Society, these lovely ladies (including two who wish to remain anonymous and one spouse): Jennifer Beachell, Laura Boydston, Elizabeth Foley, Holly Hartman, Heather Jones, Ariana Csonka Kaleta, Kira Mellups, Holly Amber Nydegger, Virginia Ramos Rios, Roberta Ritvo, Claire Schneeberger, Natasha Wendt. Thank you!

If you have named Smith in your estate plans or made Smith a beneficiary of one of your investments (including insurance policies), or would like to discuss planned giving opportunities, please feel to reach out to our class Planned Giving Chair, Elizabeth Foley. She and college staff member Sam Samuels also made a fantastic video highlighting planned giving opportunities that tend to appeal to folks in their 40s and 50s – watch it on our website here!

Keep in Touch & Stay Informed

- Visit Stay at Home with Smith for the latest campus news
- Alumnae Directory (password protected)—find alumnae and update your profile
- Update your contact information
- 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
- Be A Friend (of the Libraries, Botanic Garden, Athletics, or Museum of Art)
- Volunteer for Admissions
- Join a Smith Club in your area

Class Volunteers

- Co-President: Holly
- Co-President & Fund Team Agent: Liz
- Reunion Chair: Jennifer Pollock McNally
- Secretary: Alexa
- Treasurer: Virginia "Vigie" Ramos Rios
- Web Chair: Christine
- Fund Team Agent: Jen Beachell
- Fund Team Agent: Ali
- Fund Team Agent: Cindy
- Fund Team Agent: Judy
- Fund Team Agent: Erinn
- Fund Team Agent: Katha
- Memorial Chair: Karla Long Baldikoski
- Planned Giving Chair: Elizabeth F.
- Reunion Headquarters Co-Chair: Kira
- Reunion Headquarters Co-Chair: Brooke Teller
- Reunion House Repts Chair: Rachel Day Velarde
- Reunion Programming Co-Chair, Memorial Organizer: Naomi
- Reunion Programming Co-Chair: Marissa

Connect With Us

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