

Class of 1953

Spring 2014



1953 CLASS OFFICERS

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Greetings!

It's hard to believe that it is a year since our 60th Reunion last May. Those who came seemed to enjoy the weekend – despite the absolutely terrible weather – rain, rain and more rain! We hope to see many of you back in May 2018! At the class meeting held Saturday during Reunion, the following were elected Class Officers 2013-2018:

President

Jane Cowen Pafford

Reunion Chairs – Triumvirate

Judy Hill Kittredge

Lynn Stein Leavitt

Jid Whitney Sprague

Co-Secretaries

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We want to be sure you know that Smith has a terrific website – Smith.edu - full of information, articles, and news about the college. Examples include: the inauguration of our new President, Kathleen McCartney and the announcement of a symposium: *Narrative of Dress: What Can a Garment Say?* **Holly Blanton Schroeder** and her daughter, Alex Risley Schroeder '86, were able to attend the inauguration; I attended the symposium.

The Inauguration: On Saturday, October 19, 2013, I was lucky enough to be able to attend President McCartney's Inauguration. It was a lovely New England fall day and

the festivities were extensive for our 11th president. With my daughter, Alex Risley Schroeder '86, I attended a panel discussion on the Future of Higher Education held in Sage Hall. It was a glimpse into the work and experiences of college and university presidents: several respected higher education leaders offered their advice – both sage and humorous – to Smith's new president.

Following the panel, we made our way to Chapin Lawn for a delicious lunch and were joined by Emily and Heather Upin 2016, the daughters of Alex's dear Smith friend, Stephanie Upin '86. After lunch we joined the procession starting from center campus. Led by bagpipers, the greater Smith and Northampton community ambled to the Track and Field Facility along the daffodil hill behind Wright Hall, on to Green Street and down the hill. The pomp and excitement topped the fun and poignancy of our Alumnae Parades and Commencement Ceremonies, but there were a lot of similarities including gorgeous academic regalia and the commanding presence of the High Sheriff of Hampshire County.

President McCartney was joined on the platform by past presidents Carol Christ, Mary Maples Dunn and Jill Ker Conway, as well as by Lynn Pasquerella, President of Mount Holyoke College, Drew Gilpin Faust, President of Harvard University, and David Narkewicz, Mayor of Northampton. In her address, President McCartney spoke of the opportunities that lie ahead for Smith, and highlighted the continuing importance of and need for a women's college. She was an engaging speaker, with a good sense of humor. Naturally, we sang *Gaudeamus Igitur* and cheered loudly!

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Isn't it remarkable that our class has seen seven of Smith's eleven presidents: Benjamin Wright, Thomas Mendenhall, Jill Ker Conway, Mary Maples Dunn, Ruth Simmons, Carol Christ, and now Kathleen McCartney.

*Holly Blanton Schroeder '53
and Alex Risley Schroeder '86*

The Symposium: On November 1 and 2, 2013, Smith hosted a two-day symposium: *Narrative Of Dress; What Can A Garment Say?* Experts from Great Britain and the United States "spoke about the role and importance of dress in the study of women, culture and history. Speakers considered the place of dress and costume in the academic classrooms and museums, and spoke to the value of studying dress when researching the lives of women over time." The presentations were enhanced by enlarged, wall-sized photographs of current Smith students exhibited around the campus, and tours of the Smith collection of costume and dress. The Symposium was organized by a committee that was chaired by Kiki Smith '60, Professor in the Smith Theater Department. The Northampton Historical Society also played an active role in the planning and presentations.

There were presentations by two members of the Smith community: Marjorie Senechal, Louise Wolfe Kahn Professor Emerita of Math and the History of Science and author of twelve books, discussed specific ways in which the Smith College Historic Dress Collection and the dress holdings of Historic Northampton serve to enrich the Smith curriculum. Sonnet Stanfill '90, Curator, Contemporary

Fashion, at the Victoria and Albert Museum, led off the symposium with a presentation of the costume holdings of the Museum. Additionally, a panel of students discussed dress in the present-day classroom.

Other presenters included: Independent Scholar and Author, Nancy Rexford; Independent Scholar and Author, Diana Baird N'Diaye; Curator and Cultural Specialist, Center for Folklife and Cultural History from the Smithsonian Institution, Laurel Thatcher Ulrich; author and 300th Anniversary Professor, History, Harvard University, Maria Miller; Professor, History, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Edward Maeder; Independent Scholar and former Curator, Historic Deerfield, Lynne Zacek Bassett; Independent Scholar and Textile Historian, and Colleen Callahan.

The symposium provided a means to explain the value and difficulties of preserving the clothing in both the collections at Smith and the Northampton Historic Society. Interest was generated in finding ways to not only preserve these valuable collections but also to make them available for further study. For more information, see the website: smith.edu/narrativeofdress.

Jane Cowen Pafford

The class also has a website. You can reach it from smith.edu, alumnae sign in (use the AV number on your quarterly as your password), go to classes, then 1953. If you have something you want to post or a question for the class, email it to me: jcpaf@comcast.net, and I'll send it along to the web manager at the Alumnae Office.

GREETINGS FROM YOUR REUNION CHAIR TRIUMVIRATE

Our 65th Reunion in 2018 does seem a long way off! However, as we look forward to it, we feel it would be a good idea to have House Reps in place. It is not very time-consuming and is a way to keep in touch with housemates. We certainly welcome volunteers, and, if you have recently been a Rep and would like to continue, please let us know that as well.

All the best from your Reunion Chair Triumvirate:

Judy Hill Kittredge, kittredge@crane.com

Jid Whitney Sprague, jids@aol.com

Lynne Stein Leavitt, lidesigns1@hotmail.com

TREASURY REPORT

Currently the treasury has a balance of \$3,231.74. Until the printing and distribution of the newsletter there have been no expenses since Reunion. The college is managing the account. Annual dues of \$25 are always welcome. Please send your check to Joy Williamson, Office Coordinator, Alumnae House, 33 Elm Street, Northampton, MA 01063 with Class of 1953 dues written in the memo.

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

Anne Fairchild Jeffrey	7/25/2013
Anne Gibson Kumm	8/20/2013
Maryanna Kennedy Milton.....	9/8/2013
Edythe Graham Barfield	9/15/2013
Helena (Toni) Glassey Barnes	9/22/2013
Deborah Williams Troemner.....	11/4/2013
Nancy Hale Helmers.....	11/21/2013
Nancy Rohrer Byrd.....	12/14/2013
Georgiana Homer Daskais	2/7/2014
Anne Cooney Milone.....	3/5/2014
Barbara Parker Tuttle.....	4/11/2014
Mary Carey Smith.....	4/19/2014
Nancy Kadow Treadway.....	4/21/2014
Margaret Girton Graves	5/5/2014
Sally Spence Morley.....	5/8/2014

PLANNED GIVING

Dear Classmates, My message is about gift planning – and it's a confusing world with lots of terminology: will or trust, IRA, life insurance, appreciated securities, annuities, deferred gifts...it's a sort of alphabet soup of financial jargon – but it represents a variety of ways to leave a lasting legacy for Smith and to become a member of the Greccourt Society, if you are not already a member. The Greccourt Society is Smith's honorary recognition society for those who have included the college in their estate plans.

An example of estate planning: establish a charitable gift annuity now. My mother, (class of '18) did this when she was our age – she funded a gift annuity with Smith – it provided her a good income during her life (she lived into her 90's!) and then at her death the remainder stayed with

Smith. Most of us are about 82 years old now, making us eligible for a 7.2% rate of return on an annuity of \$10,000 or more. Our gift is co-mingled with Smith's endowment right away—a win-win for the donor and for the enrichment of Smith's endowment.

This is just one of many ways to give your gift, and also allows you to ensure a stream of income. There are many other ways to give and the Smith Gift Planning office in Northampton is ready to help you. You can reach them at 413-585-2051 or at <http://smith.plannedgiving.org>.

My very best to you all,

Molly Duff Woehrlin

Please remember to continue your support of the Smith Fund each year. You can make your gift by calling 800-241-2056, option #1, make a secure online gift at www.smith.edu/thefund or mail your gift to The Smith Fund, 33 Elm Street, Northampton, MA 01063. Thank you.

THE GRECCOURT 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 Greccourt Society. This program, established in 1994, gives the college the opportunity to acknowledge your thoughtful planning for Smith's future. Members are listed below.

Class of 1953 Gréccourt Society Members

(as of 12/9/13)

*Jane V. Anderson	Dorothy Anne Griffin	Susan K. Palmer
Joanne Shartle Anderson	Mary Ann Hamill	Stuart Hooper Peckham
Patricia Moore Ashton	Sarah Knight Hindle	Janice Phillips Pell
*Lore Mamlok Barroso	Judy Wells Hoffman	Margaret Whitney Phillips
Christine von Wedemeyer Beshar	*Constance Crump Hume	Mary Byrd Platt
*Mary Bonneville	Grace-Jeanne Pohlmann Jahn	Marcia Damon Reinke
Jane Chace Carroll	Janet Wright Ketcham	Holly Blanton Schroeder
Barbara J. Case	Jean Reeve Klings	Mary Carey Smith
Harriet Ballin Chenitz	Helen Lichtman Kohen	Emma-Marie Snedeker
Emma-Joy Linen Dana	Elinor Stein Leavitt	Mary-Jane Whitney Sprague
*Barbara Davies	Ruth M. Lieder	Lysbeth Kaye Stone
Phyllis Culbertson Draper	Elizabeth Heard Lufkin	Flora Burger Swanson
Lelah Dushkin	Ann Safford Mandel	*Deborah Williams Troemner
Jacqueline Kilbourne Eldredge	Anabel Carey McHugh	Barbara Stevens Weeks
Christina Janson Eldridge	Barbara Dodds McSpadden	Polly Myers White
Frances Horton Fife	Isabelle Carter Michel	*Isabel Brown Wilson
Anne Taylor Evans Foard	*Joan Lawrence Miller	Molly Duff Woehrlin
Joan Scott Frary	Kathrine M. Ockenden	*Mary Loehr Wright
Mary Jane Butler Gill	*Rosemary O'Connell Offner	Anonymous – 1, Spouses - 1
*Margaret Gatch Griess	Muriel Dobson Palitz	*Deceased

Smith College Class of 1953

Office of Alumnae Relations

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Northampton, MA 01063

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