

# ALAS

Association of Latina Alumnae of Smith

## Meet the Board

### President

Norma Melgoza '92

### Vice President

Catherine Cota '91

### Treasurer

Alta Rodriguez '90

### Secretary

Maria "Mini" Naranjo '91

### Membership Chair

Sarah Gould '99

### Communications Chair

Ashley Zurc Pereira '07

### Admissions Chair & NAAC

Rebeca Ames '01

### Co-Networking Chair

Monique Chavoya '02

### Co-Networking Chair

Jennifer Tarazon '03

### Co-Networking Chair

Layla Ramirez '09

### Student Chair

Open

### Mission Statement:

The Association of Latina Alumnae of Smith (ALAS) works to create community among Latina alumnae and Smith College.

ALAS works collaboratively with the Alumnae Association of Smith College (AASC) and alumnae across the world to establish an organization that is strong, responsive to the changing needs of alumnae and creative in our approaches. We are flexible, vibrant and embrace the diversity of our alumnae and ever-changing world.

## President's Report

SPRING 2011

Dear ALAS Friends,

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and spirits! For this message, I wanted to reflect on my three years as President of ALAS. The last three years have been exciting and busy. ALAS sponsored events across the country from New York City, Boston, Los Angeles, Chicago, Dallas-Fort Worth, Miami and Washington, DC (all coasts were covered). I met incredible women at events who are forging ahead with life by balancing careers, family, graduate school and various other interests. The ALAS newsletter also gave alumnae the opportunity to share thoughts and opinions about current issues such as immigration and the economy. Your articles and creative poetry made the newsletter an interesting production. As I think back to why I became involved with ALAS, it is ALAS' mission of bringing diverse alumnae together that inspired and fueled my involvement.

It is time for a new board to take ALAS to the next level, so I have decided to support the election of a new president. A new president will re-invigorate the organization with a fresh perspective. I will always support ALAS and provide guidance when requested. I encourage all of you to consider being a part of a wonderful organization that has so much to offer. Please consider running for a position or nominating a fellow Smithie. More information on the process of our upcoming election is available on page 2 of the newsletter.

As the months move forward, we will continue to fulfill the mission of ALAS. Our next event is a graduation tea in May for our fellow Smithies at the Women of Color tea on Ivy Day. We also plan to host an event in New York City and tea in Los Angeles over the summer.

Your membership and attendance is what connects all of us. Thanks for attending an event, contributing to the newsletter and being an active dues paying member. Muchas gracias! I also want to thank the board for their commitment and leadership. Without their support, the events at the various cities would not have been possible. In fact, board members planned events by identifying restaurants or opening their homes, negotiating prices, selecting menus, coordinating mailings and calling alumnae. The newsletter also was designed, edited and created by board members. Thank you for sharing your time and talent with the Smith community.

I hope that you will continue to support ALAS by running for office and becoming a \$25 dues paying member.

Sincerely,

## Recruitment @ Smith

The recruitment season is about to begin! Once again, it will be time to contact promising Latina students about Smith. Do you remember first learning about Smith? What about the emotions that you felt when you mailed (or emailed) your college application? For many of us, we learned about Smith through an alumna. ALAS is searching for alumnae volunteers to assist in the recruitment efforts. There are many ways to volunteer based upon your time, energy and interest. Here are some suggestions: Represent Smith at a local college fair

- Coordinate/sponsor a book award in your local high school
- Host a gathering for prospective students
- Host an admissions training session for alumnae in your area
- Recognize/ call newly admitted students
- Conduct an alumna interview

(Continued on Page 2)

Website: <http://alumnae.smith.edu/smithcms/alas/>

Email: [AlasAlumnae@live.com](mailto:AlasAlumnae@live.com)

## Upcoming Events

ALAS is in the process of planning events in Los Angeles and New York City. We are seeking volunteers to help organize events in other locations. ALAS is always happy to support and inspire; however, events are only possible when alumnae step forward to organize the gatherings. If you don't see your city represented, that means that we are in need of an alumna coordinator. Please consider volunteering to coordinate an event in your hometown. ALAS can provide ideas and logistical guidance on how to organize an alumna gathering. Please contact [ALASAlumnae@Live.com](mailto:ALASAlumnae@Live.com)

### Graduation Tea at Smith College, Saturday May 14, 2010

Please join ALAS for a graduating tea at the Alumnae House on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> from 2:30-3:30. ALAS alumnae will have the opportunity to meet the 2011 graduating class and wish them the best in their new adventures. ALAS will be distributing roses and good wishes to the graduating seniors. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP at [ALASAlumnae@Live.com](mailto:ALASAlumnae@Live.com).

### Los Angeles

Alumnae in the Los Angeles area are planning an event in May-June. Please keep your eyes open for an invitation once details become available.

### New York City

A summer event is currently in the plans for New York City. The event will incorporate alumnae in the NYC area, current Smithies and recently accepted students. An invitation will be sent once details are finalized.

### Alumnae Association of Smith College

The AASC is planning a Homecoming event for alumnae this coming fall. More details will be available soon. An invitation will be sent to alumnae in April 2011.

**\*\*Please ensure that your contact information is up to date with the Alumnae Association of Smith College.\*\***

## Elections

The current board of ALAS will turn over in July 2011. ALAS is searching for its future leaders. Please consider volunteering for a leadership role in the upcoming board. Elections will be held in June 2011. If you are interested in a position, or know of an interesting candidate, please submit your information to [Normamelgoza@hotmail.com](mailto:Normamelgoza@hotmail.com).

The positions that are open include: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Fundraising Director, Communications Director, and Co-Networking Chairs (2).

We look forward to hearing from you!

## Smithie Tea in Boyle Heights, Los Angeles

On Sunday, November 21, 2011, Monique Chavoya '02 hosted a Smith alumnae tea at her home in East Los Angeles. Smithies had a great afternoon full of wonderful conversation and delicious desserts. Keep a look out for the next Smith Tea hosted by ALAS in Summer 2011.



In this photo (left to right): Back Row - Elizabeth Valdivia, Vivian Forbes, Gail Conway, Kelly Briana; Center Row - Jay Golden, Noriko Yamaguchi, Noriko Sato Ward, Sylvia Zamora, Nancy Martiz; Front Row - Johanna Cardenas, Lauren Perez, Norma Gonzalez-Ramirez, Monique Chavoya

## Recruitment @ Smith

(...continued from page 1)

We hope that you will consider joining ALAS' efforts in increasing the qualified pool of Latina applicants to Smith. Rebeca Ames '01 currently serves as the ALAS National Admissions Coordinator (NAAC). She is happy to provide you with details about the recruitment cycle at Smith and equip you with recruitment tools. Rebeca can be reached at

[rebeca.ames@gmail.com](mailto:rebeca.ames@gmail.com)

**ALAS is on Facebook!!  
Become a Fan!**



## ALAS Membership Form and Survey (Membership year is July 1-June 30)

**Please update your information:**

Name		Class Year
Address		
Home #:	Work: #:	Cell #:
Email:		

Membership Dues:

Class of 2011	Free
Basic membership	\$25
General Support	

**Checks should be made payable to the:**

*Alumnae Association of Smith College*  
**c/o Norma A. Melgoza**  
**1007 W. Armitage, 2F**  
**Chicago, IL 60614**  
**Attention: ALAS Dues**

I would like to make this contribution to the Smith College Women of Color Emergency Fund. **Please make your check payable to Smith College and indicate that it is for the Women of Color Emergency Fund.**

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Please indicate your interest in attending or helping to organize either locally or regionally, the following group functions or events:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ALAS Big Sister Program/Mentoring Program<br><input type="checkbox"/> Admissions Interviews/Recruiting<br><input type="checkbox"/> Women and Financial Independence Seminar | <input type="checkbox"/> Career Panel<br><input type="checkbox"/> Book Club<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hosting an Event |
|--|--|

Would you be interested in Career Networking breakfasts/roundtables? \_\_\_Y \_\_\_N

Would you be interested in a Working Mothers/Balancing Family and Career Support Group? \_\_\_Y \_\_\_N

Would you be willing to be contacted for informational interviews? \_\_\_Y \_\_\_N

What kind of programs and events would be most appealing and/or helpful to you?

Suggestions: