Dear Classmates,

This has been a good year for our class and for Smith! Our 55th Reunion was enthusiastically and well attended and we set a Smith Fund record for highest class participation (77%). An amazing record for a 55th Reunion class! Our thanks to our hard working Fund Agents and to all of you who contributed.

Special thanks to Ann Stebbins Sidles who has served as our class president these past five years. Ann is just as able and lovely as she ever was, and very devoted to our class and to Smith. The outgoing class officers each supported Ann and we owe them a debt of gratitude as well. A huge thank you to reunion co-chairs Mims Shea Placke and Marlene Futterman who masterminded a splendid reunion for all of us. Please see their report in this newsletter.

Smith looks wonderful. The campus is beautiful, there are remarkable new buildings, the museum is first class, many dorms have been updated – a place we can all be proud of. The college had a record number of applicants for the class of 2017. After fond goodbyes to Carol Christ, our president for 11 years, the college has welcomed her able successor, and eleventh president of Smith, Kathleen McCartney. Many of you may have seen her inaugural on the internet, and some attended in person. An exciting time.

As we launch into the next five years leading up to our 60th (!) Reunion, you will note that Class Officers are now “Co-Officers” – sharing the responsibilities. We suspect this is a hedge against the vicissitudes of our age, but we welcome it! For us, having married brothers, we find the chance to serve Smith together a great joy and privilege.

Enjoy the holidays, and let’s keep in touch.

Aubin and Fran

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Your secretaries would like to remind you to register your email addresses and all contact information updates with Smith (they are never given out to others) at alumnaarecords@smith.edu or 413-585-2040. If you don’t have or use email, please send your news by postal mail to the secretaries. (see addresses on pg. 1) Many thanks!

Check out our class website for photos from the May Reunion; then send in any news and/or photos that you would like to share. Our class website is always open and is just a click away at alumnae.smith.edu/classes/classwebsites/1958.
**THE INAUGURATION OF SMITH’S 11TH PRESIDENT**

October 19, 2013 – What a day for Smith College!! Beautiful weather – New England at its best!! I arrived at Smith in time for the second panel – “Transformational Power of Women’s Leadership”. It was superb. By all accounts, the first panel – “Future of Higher Education Leadership” was excellent, too. Time allowed us to picnic on Chapin lawn and explore the campus, which looked terrific. Inauguration was at 3 pm, beginning with an academic parade through campus to the Indoor Track and Tennis facility. All pomp and circumstance, led by a wonderful bagpiper. Excellent speeches for Kathy, including President Drew Faust – a former colleague at Harvard. Kathy looks too young to be President of Smith but there is no doubt that she will lead our college in new directions in the years ahead. Dinner was held in a transformed Scott Gym – beautifully arranged in celebration of the Inauguration. Our classmate, Sukie Grousbeck, attended the dinner sitting at the new president’s table – Carol Christ was at my table and I was pleased to see her looking so well. Kathy McCartney’s four children, as well as three former Smith College presidents, (Dunn, Conway and Christ) welcomed the new president with their enthusiastic and articulate words of praise. Dancing began after dinner but I went home!! It was a day to remember and one to make all Smithies proud.

*Judy Olin Higgins*

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**UP TO SPEED AT 55!!!**

Talk about great looks, good bones, happy faces and camaraderie! As a Smith undergraduate said, “Wow, you guys look great!” Yes, we do, and true to our Reunion theme, we were “up to speed at 55”!

Ours was a wonderful Reunion of 70 spirited classmates from 21 states and Canada who arranged their handy name tags and greeted one another with hugs and whoops of happy exclamations... “How wonderful to see you! You look great! Tell me your news!”

We gathered frequently at our class headquarters for snacking, reminiscing and catching-up, marveled at Smith’s 21st century campus and enjoyed the comfort of the Neilson Reading Room for our class activities. There, following a beautiful remembrance service and the class meeting, three classmates discussed their respective experiences and the evolution of their professional careers over the past 55 years. It was a fascinating program on medical advances and current technology, a program symbolic of a Smith continuous learning experience, which sparked a lively discussion. To learn more about the presentations, do visit our class website at alumnae.smith.edu. A sincere note of appreciation goes out to all those who contributed to the program and orchestrated the meeting in the library’s most distinguished room.

Saturday began with cloudy skies and a drizzly rain, but, undaunted, we put on our whites and classy red accessories and moved to the Indoor Tennis and Track Center for the traditional alumnae parade. Check us out by viewing the Reunion photo gallery on our class website!

Awards were in order, and the class of 1958 made Smith headlines. With 77% class participation, the highest participation of all Smith classes, we contributed $523,046 to the Smith Fund 2013, and $2,090,741 total with restricted gifts! Additionally, the class received the annual “Friends of Smith College” award (Athletics, Botanic Garden, Libraries, Museum of Art) in recognition of the highest percentage of membership participation. We are special and very generous! Thank you to all who made these awards possible.

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Talk about having fun! By Saturday night we had several committee chairs lined up for our 60th! Imagine that! In tune with our Reunion theme, “Up to speed at 55,” table arrangements featured Rand McNally road maps, ivy and miniature red 1950’s cars. The dinners were to perfection, especially the New England lobster platters, and, as dessert was served, the wonderful Smiffenpoofs stopped by to serenade us.

Our 55th Reunion Team and all who lent a hand deserve a great round of applause. Their enthusiasm, allegiance to Smith, organizational skills and creativity made our 55th Reunion truly memorable and happy. **Ann Stebbins Sidles**, our president these past five years, and **Marlene Futterman**, our Reunion co-chair, join me in thanking everyone most kindly. It was a grand experience.

So… let’s take care of ourselves, stay fit, be happy and keep in touch. We’ll meet again in 2018!

With warm regards,

**Mims Shea Placke**
Reunion Chair

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**YOU DON’T NEED A MAN WITH YOUR BRAINS**

**An ode to Smith in the Nineteen-fifties**

(sung to the tune of “You Can’t Get a Man with a Gun,” from “Annie Get Your Gun” by Irving Berlin, first produced in 1946)

You’re sharp as a pin point,
Your marks are really ten point,
You are Dean’s List, Sophia Smith –
But if a man wants a kiss, kid,
He doesn’t want a Quiz Kid –
Oh, you can’t get a man with your brains!

Your French may be flowing,
Your Russian just as knowing,
You may sprechen zie Deutsch with ease –
But love for a man is
The Universal language –
Oh you can’t get a man with your brains!

You might know the futility
Of marginal utility
And believe that our enterprise is free –
But that’s irrespective
Of love, which is collective,
Oh, you can’t get a man with your brains!

You may know Lucretius,
And all the things he teaches,
You may think with Socratic skill –
But when a guy wants a mate, oh
He isn’t quoting Plato,
Oh, you can’t get a man with your brains!

You have Joyce in your carrel
And write like James T. Farrell,
You recite all of Shakespeare’s plays –
But you can’t get a Romeo
With a Smith diplomee-oh.
No, you can’t get a man with your brains!

This song was originally adapted in the 1950’s by an anonymous alum. Ravelle Brickman edited it and added two verses in 2013. Tinka Lunt, Audrey Wolf and Ravelle worked on the music together.

Oh –
We were smart, we were witty,
We could write a clever ditty,
We were able to cram all night –
And we knew we would eventually
flourish existentially.
Since you don’t need a man – no, you don’t need a man –
Oh you don’t need a man with your brains!

We’ve been diplomats and dancers,
Politicians and free-lancers,
We have doctorates and MDs too –
We were writers, lawyers, teachers,
Artists, ranchers, even preachers,
So you don’t need a man – if you don’t want a man –
So you don’t need a man with your brains!

Finale:
With your brains, with your brains,
Yes, you can – get a man – if you plan – and you can
But you don’t need a man with your brains!
The Class of 1958
Smith College Office of Alumnae Relations
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Up to Speed at 55
55th Reunion
May 23-26, 2013

Smith Class of '58
UP TO SPEED AT 55