Dear Classmates,

With an April birthday on the near horizon, the one marking three-quarters of a century on this planet, I feel a combination of utter disbelief and deep gratitude. Through this note, I want to reach each of you virtually, those who've passed this landmark and those who will come upon it soon.

Actually, I'd love a great big ole class birthday hug right now! But that will have to wait until May of 2021 when we gather again to honor our long lives, the common experience of our campus years, and the many wonderful Smith friendships that have enriched our lives.

We have enough months ahead of us to collectively plan a reunion that meets our expectations for learning about today's Smith and today's Smithies, for touching and being touched by one another through random or intentional conversations, and for the fun and delight of being together again. Historically, our numbers for this 55th reunion will be perhaps a third of our grand 50th, but the opportunities for deeper connections with old and new friends can result in one of the most memorable reunions of all.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, our Reunion Co-Chairs invite your participation in planning with ideas and with commitment of time and talent. Close to a dozen reunions behind us since our 5th (was there a 5th?) have proven that what will make our time together meaningful, worthwhile and enjoyable is the dedication of our classmates who volunteer to make every part of the whole come together beautifully.
Will you be one of those who gives back to our class (or gives back again) after attending one or more of our earlier gatherings?

Looking back to last fall, Martha McHutchison and I shared a motel room (in some ways, not unlike our Columbia grad school student apartment…) when we attended the biennial Volunteer Leadership Conference.

We heard talks by: President Kathy McCartney on the six major current campus initiatives; the new Dean of Admissions and the VP for Enrollment (responsible for the Offices of Admission and Financial Services); the Executive VP for Finance and Administration on issues concerning trends in endowment returns and the rising cost of college, the focus on strategic planning and the need for a new financial formula for future success in our rapidly-changing world; the progress and overall view of the new Neilson Library in the context of sustainability and healthy interiors to promote proven benefits in cognitive function; the Development Office; and much more, including the ever-impressive student panels. As you can tell, two days were packed with exciting updates, facts and figures that were inspiring and meaningful (even to this English major), high-energy connections with other alums, including Caroline Soleliac Carbaugh – and much good food! An unexpected highlight for me was meeting two 2018 alums who landed in Portland with jobs and have now taken over my seven-year run as president of the Maine Smith Club! Whoopee!!

Keeping up with Smith takes little effort if we pay attention to the weekly emailed Notes from Paradise as well as the Smith Alumnae Quarterly. Any opportunity to connect with current students or young alums in your community will offer you a sense of the intelligence, talent, intellectual curiosity and enthusiasm for Smith that are making it the first choice for today’s leaders. The NYTimes featured a brilliant, articulate student from the class of ’21 (who I’m proud to call my dear friend) in its article on the sizeable increase in recent years of young women applying to, and enrolling in, women’s colleges. Oh, to be a Smith student again, with its world-class faculty and a liberal arts curriculum for the 21st Century!

I hope that we can all take “75” as just a number, keep showing up with positive disbelief that we’ve reached such a milestone, and experience the gratitude for everything we’ve learned, everyone we’ve known and every breath we’ve taken!

Wishing you the next seasons of health and happiness,

Sarah Cross Mills President
Reunion Planning is Underway!

As your Reunion Chairs begin our thinking about another wonderful gathering in 2021, we know that there are many creative minds and hearts out there! And souls who love having FUN! We would be heartened to hear that many of us plan to attend, and delighted beyond measure to hear your thoughts and ideas that would make this reunion another resounding success, just like our 50th!

What activities, speakers, special events, songs, sketches, etc., would you like to see included? Any particular favors/mementoes you would like to have (or to avoid)? Help us brainstorm ideas for our reunion, including recruiting more classmates to return and developing themes and ways to exchange thoughts and experiences.

Of course, we will be needing Chairs for various aspects of the weekend - the Parade, Headquarters, etc. ’66 will be fabulous! If you would be interested in working with us, please email either or both of us. It might be a bit zany, wonderfully fun (some work, of course!), very satisfying and memorable as we gather on Reunion Weekend with hugs, bringing old memories and creating new ones! The openness and warmth of past reunions is a harbinger of what to expect, sharing our losses, challenges and disappointments along with our joys and contentedness.

And all to the music of our era, so wonderfully collected on the 50th Reunion CD of everyone’s favorite 60’s songs! So many popular singers, our contemporaries, are retiring this year—Joan Baez, Paul Simon, Elton John—could one of their songs be our theme? Looking forward to hearing from as many of you as possible and hoping that we will have a full house! Our email addresses are on the front page.

Peggy Chase and Martha McHutchison
Reunion Co-Chairs

Class Fundraising Update

Our thanks go out to everyone who has already contributed to the Annual Fund this year. Here are our totals as of March 31:

Gifts to the Smith Fund: $169,583
Comprehensive total for FY 19: $177,388

Giving since the 50th Reunion in 2016:
Smith Fund: $555,635
Comprehensive total: $1,174,713

Such impressive numbers for this fiscal year come from just 36% of the class. We hope the other ’66ers will help us get to a 50% participation rate by the end of FY 2019 on June 30.

Please remember that Smith Fund gifts play an important role in the U.S. News and World Report college rankings. A gift of any size will help our Smith profile, so we thank you in advance for your support.

You can contact Jodi Fallon Fern, our Class Manager at Smith, at jfallonfern@smith.edu or 413-585-4407 or give online at www.smith.edu/giving.

Gail Kern Paster
Fund Team Coordinator

Peggy Chase, left, and Martha McHutchinson, Reunion Chairs

Gail Kern Paster
In 2010, Diana Kopp McDonough founded Global Grandmothers, a non-profit whose broad mission is supporting children worldwide. She retired from a career as an attorney in a firm representing California public school districts. Her specialties were labor and employment law and student disability issues. Diana lives in San Mateo, CA. She is widowed, has two daughters and two granddaughters, all of whom live in CA. Diana was invited to write about her 2018 trip to Africa where she visited three organizations recommended by Global Grandmothers.

When I started Global Grandmothers, I had simple goals -- how about 50% of the grandmothers in the US deciding to give to children in need when they give to their own grandchildren?

That hasn’t quite happened, but along the way some other amazing things have. For me personally, gratification has come in ways I never expected. Little did I know when I started that this would be a path to learning so much more about the world, and about people who inspire us with their humanity, their generosity and creativity.

I came up with the idea of Global Grandmothers just as I was retiring. I was looking for something to do that would help humanity, especially kids. I was tired of feeling helpless in the face of the daily news.

I was also moved by my own darling grandchildren -- probably not any cuter than yours, but you know how your own are special! I thought about the loving and prosperous home into which they had been born - with gratitude - but how sad it was that equally deserving children with equally loving parents born in a less prosperous country or to less prosperous parents faced a much dimmer future. I wondered if there was something I could do to link these two situations - one where some kids often have too much and the others too little. I came up with the idea of LINKED GIVING - giving to a child in need when you give to someone you love. I talked to a few friends about this, and the result was the founding of the non-profit Global Grandmothers -- with the mantra, “Give to a child in need when you give to someone you love.”

We didn't know anything about improving the lot of needy kids, be they here or elsewhere, so we decided to look into organizations that did, so that we could recommend them on our website to help our supporters. We used standard services like Charity Navigator, GreatNonprofits and Charity Watch to narrow our search. We also read key philanthropic books like The Life You Can Save by Princeton professor Peter Singer, Half the Sky by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, and Mountains Beyond Mountains by Tracy Kidder; we became regular readers of Nicholas Kristof’s New York Times columns.
In the last couple of years, the Global Grandmothers treasurer, Mary Beverenick, and I have made field visits to some of our recommended non-profits at our own expense so that we could learn more about them and make sure they merited our endorsement - but also, truthfully, because it was fun and gave an additional lens through which to see a developing country.

In May 2018, Mary and I visited Africa, focusing on three Global Grandmothers recommended non-profits, CAMFED, Partners in Health, and Room to Read. (We visited the offices of Room to Read in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, when we were there in 2017.)

We had decided to take the trip when we learned that a Room to Read supporter whom we knew was planning to lead a group of ten on a six-day visit to Tanzania. The focus would be Room to Read programs there and recent cultural and business developments. The first 10 sign-ups could go. Mary and I were numbers 1 and 2. Jodi Morris, our contact and the leader, had worked in the financial and investment world for the first twenty years of her life (Morgan Stanley, Asia Fund) and now was working on independent global and philanthropic projects. She had met Room to Read founder John Wood (they both attended Northwestern) in 2006 and been a Room to Read fan ever since.

With the Tanzania Room to Read destination as the centerpiece, Mary and I went about setting up the rest of the trip. We knew Partners in Health had a key hospital in Butaro, Rwanda, so we decided to visit Rwanda first, since it was just to the west of Tanzania. We corresponded with our contact at the Boston, MA, headquarters of PIH to arrange the visit. A friend here in the Bay Area suggested a hotel in Kigali, Rwanda, and we booked it. The hotel provided us with a driver who could take us on the 6-hour round trip ride to Butaro.

During the 6-day Tanzania visit, we took leave of our Room to Read group one morning, hired an Uber (!) driver, and visit the CAMFED headquarters in Dar Es Salaam, the largest city in Tanzania, situated on the Indian Ocean.

Then, as icing on the cake, and because we did not plan to visit Africa on a daily basis -- i.e. perhaps never again! -- we signed up with Overseas Adventure Travel (OAT) for its “Ultimate Africa” safari, a 17-day trip to Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Botswana. For this part of the trip, pure R & R, all we had to do was present ourselves in Johannesburg, and OAT did the rest. As the trip took shape, the second part was about animals and it was all rural. The first part (5 days in Rwanda, 6 days in Tanzania) was about people and it was all urban, or urban-based. This article provides an overview of the first part of the trip, visiting the three recommended non-profits.

This is merely the teaser! Diana’s vividly described stories of visits to three organizations supporting health and girls’ education allow us to enter into the same experiences she had and come away with insights into the lives of the people she met. Please continue reading on our class website at https://alumnae.smith.edu/smithcms/1966/newslettersaaq/ for these engaging stories.

How many others of you have started a non-profit? We’d love to learn about it, if you would send a description to our class secretary, Ann Eglin Allen. Your piece will appear either in the Alumnae Quarterly Class Notes or a future newsletter, and be posted on our class website.
Memorial Gifts

Thanks very much to those who give to Smith in memory of classmates, relatives and Smith friends. Your gifts are greatly appreciated, as they help Smith to continue to provide an outstanding education to current and future students while you remember and honor our sister Smithies. Memorial gifts are a lovely way to remember Smithies who are special to you.

Please contact Elsa Pottala Pauley or Caroline Soleliac Carbaugh with any questions or comments about the Memorial Gifts program.

Important Update from our Web Chair-
Password Now Required for Class Website

Website Password: We are attempting to ensure privacy by password protecting our website, easily reached at smith66.org. Like those of other classes, the entire website will be protected except the welcome or front page. Personal information is contained in the sections on mini-reunions, newsletters, class notes, books, In Memoriam and in photographs. The same password will work to access any part of the website. This password, unique to our class, is RallyDay66. If you forget the password, just contact the webmaster.

Reunion Page: As our 55th reunion approaches, the class website will be adding a page to update you on reunion planning from our Reunion Co-Chairs. There, we will post developments on our theme, program, speakers, special events, songs, sketches, etc., and strategies to recruit more classmates to return and enjoy it all!

Your Input: Any ideas to enhance our website will be much appreciated! Send them to Sandy Putnam at slputnam1@gmail.com. Thanks to Barbara Tuggle Fetting for her suggestions!

“Smithies After 60!” Webinar

You might have been one of almost 600 Smith alums who registered for this webinar that set attendance records. If you missed it, would like to revisit it or share the presentation with others, you can find the recording on the Smith College YouTube channel.

Visit to download the presentation slides and to see the quotes that were pulled out and mentioned during the webinar. Webinars on the topics “Life After 60: Planning for What Comes Next” and “Housing and the Final Stage of Life: Getting Ready” will have been held by the time you read this, so look for them online this summer.

Connecting with our Sisters

Do you know there is a Seven Sisters Alumnae Association, with a new website at https://sevensistersalumnaeassociation.com containing a lot of valuable information for connecting with our Sisters from the other six original Seven Sisters? There are also almost 70 Seven Sisters Facebook groups for different interests, all listed on the site. The primary Seven Sisters Alumnae Association Facebook group is at https://www.facebook.com/groups/435682553513762/

“These Facebook groups and this website grew from the original Facebook page called Seven Sisters Together. Alumnae on the page began to unite over the 2016 election and since then, have engaged on many different levels. The Seven Sisters Together page is a secret page, with over 10,000 members. Click on the link above to join the FB 7S Alumnae Association and you will be added to the secret Seven Sisters Together page. The Seven Sisters Together page is the place to engage in political discourse, share grassroots political action items and more!” – from the Seven Sisters Alumnae Association website.
Newsletters by Email Only 2019-2020

For the rest of this year and throughout 2020, class newsletters will be emailed electronically only and placed on our class website. If you received this as a print copy through the mail, it's because Smith does not have your current email address on record, or at some point, you requested to receive no class email (or no email at all) from Smith. If that is not your preference at this time, and you want to easily keep abreast of our class news, go to www.alumnae.smith.edu and click on “Online Alumnae Community”. This will bring you to a login screen. If you don’t know your username and password, click on “Forgot Your Password” and follow the instructions. Be sure to make a note of your username and password for future reference!

Once logged in, click on “Profile” on the top blue line and update your contact information. Then click on “Preferences” (same page) to change categories of email you now want to receive. Be sure to click “Save All” when you’re finished. You can make changes in the future to anything on these pages.

If you have recently moved and haven’t changed your contact information with Smith, follow these same directions to update your new mailing address, phone, or email.

For everyone, as we get closer to our 2021 Reunion, you’ll want to be able to access our class website with ease at http://smith66.org/ or from the www.alumnae.smith.edu site. Any last-minute communications will come by email only and be placed on our website.
SMITH COLLEGE CLASS OF 1966
Smith College Office of Alumnae Relations
33 Elm Street
Northampton, MA 01063

Class Website: https://alumnae.smith.edu/smithcms/1966
Class Facebook Page: "Smith College Class of 1966", https://www.facebook.com/groups/131968797783/