You Roared!

Smith College 1971 Reunion
Survey stats and plans

- Total class available universe -- 538
- Classmates receiving emails -- 394
- Total # of responses -- 132

- Dinner presentation at reunion
- Posting of survey Q and reunion presentation
- Posting of fuller results (all multiples choices and “light analysis” of open-ended questions)
- In-Depth interviews summary and archiving
What we did

- Formed a team: Mimi Zaugg, Sandy Cate, Carla Dickstein, and Liz Webster
- Structured an approach:
  - Part I: The Basic Perspective 37Q
  - Part II: A Deeper Dive 30Q
  - Part III: In-Depth Interviews 20
- Developed a survey for Parts I & II and ran it through Survey Monkey
- Sandy Cate conducted the In-Depths
Q12: How do you mostly feel about being in your mid-60’s?

- Answered: 126
- Skipped: 6

![Graph showing the distribution of responses:](image-url)
Q1: Are you currently:

- Answered: 127
- Skipped/Other: 5

- Married (once)
- Re-Married
- Divorced
- Widowed
- Single
- Single in long-term...

"Am skipping...it’s a close call"

"Married, divorced, and re-married the same man"
Q51a: Now in your ‘60’s, what are you doing More of than you expected?
Q51b: Now in your ‘60’s, what are you doing Less of than you expected?
Q35: Looking at the next 5 years, what areas concern you the most?

- Answered: 109  Skiped/Other: 23
Q23: Do you exercise regularly?

- Answered: 127
- Skipped: 5

Bar chart showing the distribution of responses:
- Yes, a lot
- Yes, some
- Not if I can help it
Q19: How does your present weight compare to when you left college?

- Answered: 129
- Skipped: 3

Bar chart showing the distribution of responses:
- Much thinner now (more than 15 pounds less)
- Somewhat thinner now
- About the same (+/- 5 pounds)
- Somewhat heavier now
- Much heavier (more than 15 pounds)
Q20: Do you color your hair?

- Answered: 129
- Skipped: 3

Bar chart showing the distribution of responses: Yes, No, Sometimes.
Q21: Have you had any cosmetic surgery?

- Answered: 128
- Skipped: 4
Q10: Have you looked up your first love on line (e.g. Google, Facebook)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YES (%)</th>
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Q10: Have you looked up your first love on line (e.g. Google, Facebook)?

- Answered: 129
- Skipped: 3
Q11: Regardless, do you think your first love would have worked out well?

- Answered: 127
- Skipped: 5
Q44: What is the source of most of your current close friends?

- Answered: 111
- Skipped/Other: 21
Q49: Have you begun to “reconnect” or spend more time with Smith friends?

- Answered: 116  
- Skipped: 16
Q66: Diary entry your last week?

“Whew! It's over and I made it!”

“It's not about who I marry but what I am going to make of myself.”
Q5: Did you get an advanced degree after Smith?

- Answered: 131    Skipped: 1
Q6: If you are/were in the workforce, what field?

- Answered: 78
- Skipped/Other: 54

**OTHER** would be highest!

Publishing/journalism/editing, government, research, arts, computer software, entrepreneurship
Q7: Since graduation, how many years spent employed outside the home?

- Answered: 130  
- Skipped: 2
Q65: What would your diary say after your first week at Smith?

- I’m homesick
- I’m happy to have left home, be on my own
- Everyone is smarter than me
- I’m enjoying meeting so many different people
- Exciting..high-calibre academic challenges, and opportunities
- “Where are the boys?”
Q65: Diary entry after first week?

“I have stepped through the looking glass into a whole new, very different world from the one I grew up in.”
Q25: First yr, did your parent have to give permission to weekend off campus?

- Answered: 120
- Skipped: 12
Q26: When we went to 24-hr parietals, did any of your dates sleep over?

- Answered: 122  Skipped: 10
Q52: How old were you when you lost your virginity?

Recollections certainly vary!
From the Vague...........To the Crystalline

"19...I think"

"At Smith"

"20-something"

"Eighteen – the night of the Yale Prom, by golly!"
Q52: How old were you when you lost your virginity?

- What was the typical age for the class of 1971?

- Hint: Between 16 --- and 33

- All Stand to Begin
Q52: How old were you when you lost your virginity?

- Answered: 108
- Skipped: 24

Bar chart showing age range responses:
- 19: 25 responses
- 20: 23 responses
- 21: 24 responses
- 22: 12 responses
- 23-27: 5 responses
- 28-33: 2 responses
Q53: Looking back, for you would you say that age was: No Regrets

- Answered: 108
- Skipped: 24
Q54: While at Smith, did you partake of any illegal substances (ex. alcohol)?

- Answered: 115  
- Skipped: 17

![Bar Chart]

- Yes
- No

46
Q30: What song snaps to mind as most evocative of time at Smith?

- Bridge Over Troubled Water (5)
- Leaving on a Jet Plane (5)
- Abbey Road (2)
- White Album (2)
- Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club (4)

Answered: 91  Skipped: 41
Q32: How would you describe your Smith experience overall?

- Answered: 126
- Skipped: 6

[Bar chart showing the distribution of responses: Wonderful, Good, OK, Not great, Miserable]
Q33: Would you choose Smith again?

- Answered: 127
- Skipped: 5
Q34: Should Smith go co-ed?

- Answered: 118
- Skipped: 14
Q65: Diary entry after first week?

“I have stepped through the looking glass into a whole new, very different world from the one I grew up in.”
Q32: How would you describe your Smith experience overall?

1967-1971...
“No, I wouldn’t describe it (my college experience) as classic or fun...it was all too fraught”
Q32: How would you describe your Smith experience overall?

“"A Perfect Storm"

"Something in the combination of place and time...our own stage of development, what was going on in the world, how we responded...."
Q31: Most significant event

Moratorium
Anti-war Protests
Student Strike
Fast for Peace
Kent State
Graduation
1968
Fast for Peace
Peace Rally, October 15, 1969
People’s Lobby
Student Strike, May 1970
Student Strike, May 1970
Q45: Encountering “Otherness” (differences from our pre-Smith lives)

Religion
Sexual Orientation
Ethnicity
Socioeconomic Status
Foreign Nationality
Race
Q45: Encountering “Otherness”...

THEN...

“My first boyfriend from Amherst was African-American. I thought he was amazingly cool. My parents tried to pull me out of Smith...”
Q45: Encountering “Otherness”...

THEN...
“My freshman roommate was gay (I am straight) but I didn’t realize it until long after we graduated. So oblivious!”
Q45: Encountering “Otherness”...

THEN...
“...I didn’t pay attention to how vastly different other people’s experience of Smith might be. I missed out on an opportunity!”
Q45: Encountering “Otherness”...

THEN...

“I thought it was just part of going to a new place with people from many different places”
Q45: Encountering “Otherness”...

NOW...

“I am more aware that I have ‘blind spots’”
Q56: “Issues or causes” involved with at college, that have persisted?

Women’s rights

Economic inequality

Peace/Anti-war

Civil rights

Reproductive rights

Racial issues

Education

Gender equity

Environment

Politics

Access to arts
Q56: “Issues or causes” involved with at college, that have persisted?

“I felt driven to pursue work that would make a contribution and could help others....”
Q56: “Issues or causes” involved with at college, that have persisted?

“Skepticism about U.S.-led wars may have come mostly from Smith years...”
Q57: Did you consider Gloria Steinem’s commencement speech:

- **Answered:** 118  **Skipped:** 14

![Bar chart showing responses]

- Terrific and motivating
- OK
- Too “out there” and...
Q37: Your diary a year from now...

“What diary? What blog? Maybe you mean my Facebook wall?”
Q37: Your diary a year from now...

“How the @%%#$ would I know??”

“If there's anything I've learned over these years, it's that life can bring BIG surprises.”
Q36: If you won the lottery?...many answers were creative and specific

- Take jazz piano lessons with Helen Sung
- Buy a very impractical Miata
- Buy a home at sea level and have horses
- Build a greenhouse for my orchid
- Buy an apartment building that all my friends and I could age in together – with staff!
- Perform random acts of kindness
Q36: If you won the lottery and spent it on yourself...

- Overall winners **by a mile** were TRAVEL and SECOND HOMES
- Patches on remodeling, personal support, private jets, cosmetic surgery, erase debt
- Interesting run on Foundations
Q37: Your diary a year from now...

“What's next?
I'm ready!”

“I feel like
I'm ready for
one more big
adventure…”
Q37: Your diary a year from now...

“"My Smith education and experience is the gift that keeps on giving!”"
THANK YOU!!!

- Lois Fulton, Survey and template designer
- Nanci Young, Smith College Archivist
- Annie Croteau, IT Wizard, Alumnae House
- Molly Bouffard, Music Wizard, Alumnae House

IMAGES

- Smith College Archives
- “Real Rosie the Riveters: Rare Color Photos From WWII,” *Readers Digest*