Greetings to the Class of 1978! What a winter we’re having! I’m sorry for all you skiing, snowboarding and snowshoeing fans. But most of us are relishing these 50 degree days in the Northeast. How can anyone tell it’s February?

The calendar tells us it’s time to get going with our Reunion Planning for 2013. Hard to believe, I know! But our terrific Vice Presidents have been very hard at work studying up on and getting ready to get us helping with planning, etc. Welcome to all our volunteers – and thank you!

Our Class Fund Committee, under the stellar leadership of Annie De Groot, has been working unbelievably hard to raise funds for our class project – The Class of 1978 “Fulfill the Potential” Scholarship. Our deadline for raising $150,000 is looming, and we have a ways to go.

Many, many thanks to all who have already contributed, and please continue to spread the word to anyone no matter if they’re classmates or even Smith Alums – ANYONE can contribute to this wonderful project that will help us help young women accepted to Smith from developing and post-conflict countries. Our Class of 1978 Scholarship will create the opportunity we were lucky enough to participate in – an education that will prepare these women of promise for lives of distinction.

Please open your ears, wallets and hearts to these young women – and rally support for Annie and her team by scouring the bushes quickly for as many donations as possible. They are doing fantastic work, and really need the help of all of us to succeed.

I’m so excited to finally be getting to Reunion 2013 planning time – and to be thinking about when we’ll all be together on campus again just a little over a year from now. We are in great hands with Carrie and Sandi.

So let the planning – and VOLUNTEERING – begin!

My best to you all. -Carolyn

35th REUNION PLANNING KICKOFF by Carrie Dohan Buchman and Sandi McRae Duchesne

Hi Classmates! It doesn’t seem possible, but our 35th Reunion is quickly approaching. Please reserve Memorial Day weekend, May 23-26, 2013, on your calendar. We have already begun the planning process to ensure that it will be a weekend to remember, and everyone is invited to participate in teleconference calls to flesh out the details. Please make sure that Smith College has a current e-mail address on file for you, so we can keep everyone in the loop.

To reduce our carbon footprint and save costs, virtually all of our 2013 planning materials and class communications will be sent via e-mail rather than snail mail. If you haven’t done so already, please register with the Alumnae Office at alumnae.smith.edu with your contact info and current e-mail address. If you prefer not to share your contact information with the college, we will also post the conference call schedule, agendas, minutes, and discussions on our Facebook page (Smith College Class of 1978) and on the class web page (click on the “Classes” tab on the alumnae.smith.edu site). If you are the friend of a classmate who lacks reliable Internet access, would you please take the responsibility to share information about Reunion 2013 with her? Thank you.

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ONLINE MEDIA CHAIR NEEDED

(Continued from page 1)
free to nominate someone or just drop us a line to suggest who you think would be interested in and effective in this position. We’ll be happy to follow up with them.

If you’re willing to work on this important, creative position — and have a lot of fun doing it -- please contact Class President Carolyn McGee Mohn for a full job description. It’s a great spot to make a big, positive and visible impact on all our class activities. And we’d LOVE to have you on the team!

35th REUNION PLANNING

(Continued from page 1)
Here is a listing of your 2013 Reunion Committee Chairs, and the functions they will serve. Additional volunteers are welcomed in all committees, at whatever level of participation you can manage.

Reunion Chairs: Carrie Dohan Buchman and Sandi McRae Duchesne. Organize and coordinate all of the functions necessary for a successful reunion. (With the help of all the committees, plus valuable input from all classmates who wish to participate in the planning process!)

Headquarters Chair: Rochelle Jones (co-chairs and committee members welcomed). Greet classmates as they check in; stock and replenish refreshments as needed; ensure that everyone receives a class information packet and nametag; create a warm, welcoming hang-out space in the designated class HQ house. If your favorite memories of Smith include the many happy hours you spent socializing with housemates in the living room, this committee is for you!

Alumnae Parade Chairs: Joy Borelli Edwards and Laura Vassamilet. Develop parade sign ideas based on the class theme (TBD); refine them based on class feedback; submit final copy to the Alumnae Association for fabrication; remind classmates to wear all-white for the parade; provide final parade details at the Friday night dinner; organize classmates with signs to march along the parade route.

Class Meals Chair: Sue Whitenack. Select the menu and venue for Friday and Saturday night dinners, based on class preferences and the choices offered by the college; secure after-dinner entertainment; procure centerpieces or other decorative items for the dinner, as determined by class preferences.

Program Chair: Cindy Kohlbry. Develop programs and solicit speakers or performers as needed to fill Class of 1978 time slots. Cindy is looking for volunteers to help her develop entertainment programs, educational programs, or both, depending on the interests expressed by classmates.

LGBT Diversity Chairs: Annie DeGroot and Liz George. Work with the Reunion Committee to integrate LGBT-allied diversity; identify location for an LGBT-allied gathering; organize food and a speaker for the gathering.

House Rep Chair, Vacant. Maintain a master list of all House Reps, request volunteers where needed, and distribute reunion outreach materials to House Reps who in turn will share them with housemates. Ideally, we would like to have a House Rep for every house on campus. House Reps attempt to communicate via e-mail, phone, or snail mail with all of their Class of '78 housemates (and ask them to provide current contact information to Smith College, if they have not yet done so); encourage as many as possible to attend Reunion 2013; and solicit photos, notes, and other memorabilia to display at Class HQ. If you were a House Rep for the 30th Reunion, and you are willing to serve again for the 35th, or if you want to sign on to be a new House Rep this time around, please let Carrie or Sandi know and we will forward your name and house to the House Rep Chair when a volunteer for this position is appointed.

When we sat down to discuss our goals for the upcoming reunion, all of the class officers agreed that we wanted it to feel welcoming and inclusive for all of our classmates, including those who have chosen not to attend previous reunions. If you would like to provide confidential feedback on barriers that have prevented you from attending past reunions – and how we might work to overcome those barriers for the 35th – we would love to hear from you. If you HAVE attended previous reunions, we want to hear about what activities were most meaningful and fun for you, and what you found to be boring or unnecessary. Whether or not you are willing and able to participate in reunion planning via teleconference, we are eager to hear your thoughts and suggestions to make this our Best. Reunion. Ever. -Sandi & Carrie
CAN YOU HELP US REACH OUT TO MISSING CLASSMATES?

We want to “go green” by using electronic media for most of our class communications from now on. It’s essential for all class members to have an up-to-date e-mail address on file with the Alumnae Association, so we can keep you up-to-date on an important reunion planning info.

If you don’t have an e-mail address on file yet, just go to alumnae.smith.edu to register. It’s probably a good idea to check out the site even if you’re already registered, to be sure the e-mail they have on file is one that you check frequently. We don’t want to lose anyone out in Cyberspace!

If you opt to not register your e-mail address, please ask a classmate to share her messages with you. If you’re concerned about getting too many communications from Smith, you can set your preferences via the website to limit the number and types of e-mail you receive. And, you’ll always be given the opportunity to “unsubscribe” if you so choose.

This is the easiest, least expensive and most efficient and reliable way for us to communicate with the greatest number of classmates. We really hope you’ll help us by making sure the email address you’d prefer us to use is the same one you’ve registered with the Alumnae Association.

The following classmates have registered previously, but their e-mail bounced back as undeliverable from our first broadcast e-mail: Elizabeth Andrews, Carol Brady, Rebecca O’Neill, Deborah Murray, Dana Ellers, Kim Humphrey, Heather Goddus-Healy, Judith Grant, Katherine Hughes, Diana Calligan, Sara Newman, Cynthia Bar, Julie Rames, Sara Palmer, Julie Lovell, Diane Stancel, Annie Tuttle, and Caron Woodruff. If your name is on this list, please go back to the alumnae.smith.edu site and update your e-mail address to one that you currently use. If one of your friends is on this list, please ask her (sweetly, but persistently) to visit the site and update her info!

These classmates – yikes, close to 300 of us! – have no e-mail address registered with Smith College. If you’re on this list, please register TODAY at alumnae.smith.edu. If you see the names of friends and housemates on this list, please contact them and let them know that we really don’t want them to miss out on our electronic communications. Remind them that they can change their default settings and limit the types of e-mail they’ll receive from Smith’s alumnae database, if that’s what they’re keeping a low profile.

Help us be efficient and earth-friendly, and make the Alumnae Database the most efficient and reliable way to get the info about Reunion 2013 out to as many classmates as possible. Thanks in advance for your help! Here are the classmates we’re currently missing:

Smith College Class of ‘78

c/o Carolyn McGee Mohn, President
25024 Rutgers Way
Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8700
E-mail: carolyn_mcgoo_mohn@yahoo.com

SAVE THE DATES!
MAY 23-26, 2013
for our 35th REUNION

FULLFILL THE POTENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE by Annie De Groot

Hello! This is a brief update from your fundraising chair. We're closing the gap on our "Class Fund" Project! Only $89,000 to go!

If we are to reach that goal by the June 30, 2012 deadline, we would need every class member to contribute at least $250. If you can't do that much now, how about $50 each month, over the next 4 months? I know that you can do it.

Please visit the donation site www.smith.edu/thefund and contribute whatever you can. Click on "Class of 1978 Fulfill the Potential" under "Other Designations" to make sure that your contribution goes to our fund. Also, if you live within striking distance of Providence, you are invited to an April Fool’s Day Brunch at my home to strategize about fundraising opportunities and how to include Smith in your estate planning. Join us at 292 Morris Avenue, Providence, RI, from 11 a.m. till whenever. No foolin’! RSVP to dr.annie.degroot@gmail.com.

Here is an excerpt from a letter from Naomi to inspire you to contribute to our class project.

Dear Dr. De Groot,

Thank you so much for allowing me to be a part of the Fulfill the Potential project. I am truly glad that I can contribute to the Class of 78’s aspirations for future students. Such a project is one of the main reasons I chose to attend Smith; it manifests the nurturing environment I hoped to find in a women’s college. From the semester I have spent at Smith thus far, I have been pleased to discover a wonderful, compassionate group of peers.

Born in Sri Lanka, I attended school in the capital, Colombo, until the age of seven when my family relocated to Lesotho. The decision to move was primarily influenced by the escalating civil conflict, which was beginning to disrupt the daily lives of civilians throughout the country. After graduating, I volunteered as a relief worker in a not-for-profit organization, contributing to the effort to rehabilitate the refugee population. Sri Lanka is currently attempting to rise out of its prolonged period of conflict; this includes a need to shed any vestiges of ethnic divides that may have previously existed. Whether or not it succeeds in achieving this, it is evident that transparency between the government and the populace is imperative for progress…I realized that I wanted to become an archivist, in order to make history more accessible to the public.

...There were many factors that influenced my decision to apply to Smith. I learned of the school through a gradual process; I realized that many of the women whom I admired, including a series of authors and political figures, were Smith alumnae. This revealed to me Smith’s determination to facilitate the confidence of idealistic students, as well as to provide them with a support system to remain empowered following their higher education...Finally, Smith’s financial aid package was incredibly generous, greatly relieving my parents who are also currently paying for my sister’s college education. While studying in Sri Lanka, I never imagined that I would have the opportunity to major in History and Classics in such an intellectually-charged, promising environment.

I hope that by sharing my story, I can continue Smith’s tradition of empathy, and help other women from post-conflict countries to achieve their goals.

Do please let me know if I can contribute to the Fulfill the Potential in any additional way.

Best Regards, Naomi Sinnathamby, 2015