Laura Brown AC'93  Too many memories of Smith to narrow down to one, but I think of Leah Ryan and Len Berkman almost every time I think of Smith! Since graduation I have graduated from Yale School of Drama, designed sound for many years, and then went into teaching through the NYC Teaching Fellows program. I've been teaching now for 14 years, living in Vermont with my partner, Bob, and golden retriever, Sunny, teaching yoga and first grade! I visit Northampton regularly as I continue my yoga teacher training with Eileen Muir at Karuna Healing Arts Center.

Judith Cain AC'93  So much I loved about Smith. I do think the campus itself (and lilac in May), the glorious women I met, the powerful professors, the town of Northampton and, yup, living at 36 Bedford Terrace stand out.

After Smith, I was accepted at Smith School for Social Work but it was just too expensive so I returned to California and received a Master's Degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from Sonoma State University.

I worked at a variety of jobs in my field (nanny, elementary school counselor, family advocate for two not-for-profit agencies) but the longest (15 years) was as a Parent Educator for Child Protective Services. Though officially retired, I still see a few private clients as a Parenting Coach.

I recently ended a very enjoyable paid gig (part-time, temporary) as an Ambassador for our brand-new train in Sonoma/Marin Counties. I'm now looking at some volunteer opportunities (Jewish Free Clinic? Luther Burbank Center for the Performing Arts? Information provider at the Visitors’ Center?)

I LOVE being a Bubbie. I have four grandchildren 24, 14, 4 and 2, all of whom I am able to spend time with. My son, who stayed with me several times at Smith, married just five years ago and is the Dada of 2 little boys. It's interesting to have this age spread in grandchildren and I'm so lucky (and the only one amongst my peers) to have these two little ones.

I live in a tiny, lovely granny unit in my daughter's garden. I go to San Francisco fairly frequently for the museums, ballet, Golden Gate Park, my favorite neighborhoods (Japantown, North Beach, the Haight, the Richmond District where I grew up). I have a "lunch-bunch" which eats at different ethnic restaurants and a book club which has been together since 2001.

Marianne Drake AC'93  I relished my time at Smith! My favorite memory is meeting for coffee with my friends at the former Green Street Café before heading over to class. Upon graduation I was fortunate to obtain a job creating a fundraising program at Johnson Health Network in CT and from there moved to direct the Development program at Saint Joseph College in West Hartford, CT. We moved to Chesterfield, MA in 2002 where I eventually landed at
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA) as president of the MCLA Foundation and Vice President of Advancement. During my tenure we raised the most money ever in the history of the College before I retired in 2016. But my proudest accomplishment is my two daughters and my grandchildren (four) ages 11, 10, 9 and 8.

I am blessed to live next to my daughter Kate Saccento ’99, a teacher, her husband and children Jacqueline and Frederick. My daughter Dr. Ellen Rustico, her husband and children Grace and Jack live in East Longmeadow. I just finished training to be a Hospice volunteer and am a student of oil painting at the Hill Institute. My husband and I love the Chesterfield community and are also starting to travel more, taking our second trip to Ireland in April. I currently serve as the vice president of the Smith Student Aid Society board and am a member of the Chesterfield Finance Committee and Senior Housing Committee. I am deeply grateful to Smith for helping to transform my life.

Laura Kozaitis AC’93
Laura’s best memory of Smith was watching and welcoming fellow Adas on Ivy Day with her family and friend, Khen Rinpoche Lobzang Tsetan, Buddhist Abbot of the Tashi Lhunpo Monastery in South India. Laura met Rinpoche the first week of classes when she sat in Marilyn Rhie’s course in Tibetan Buddhist Art and Religion. Khen Rinpoche co-taught this course with Professor Rhie, and it was life-changing for Laura. “I was drawn to the course because I was a textile artist before enrolling at Smith as an Ada. I thought it would be interesting to learn about a region of the world so important in the development of the silk trade. What I had not anticipated was that it would be an introduction to my life’s work.” Laura is a co-founder (along with Sonya Rhie SC’93, Professor Rhie’s daughter) and current Executive Director of the Siddhartha School Project. “The Siddhartha School started with a simple wish to provide children in Khen Rinpoche’s native village a better education, closer to home. Since 1995 when we hired our first teacher and held classes in a rented room, we have taken great care in growing the school while never losing sight of our primary purpose—to provide the best possible educational experience to Ladakhi children with an eye toward the future and a reverence for the past.” Siddhartha School has grown to serve over 400 students per year, many of whom are from remote villages where education facilities are limited. In 2015 Laura and Rinpoche were thrilled when their graduate, Tsewang Chuskit was accepted to Smith on early decision. Chuskit ’20 is an education major and Laura, her husband, and son, host her in New York as her ‘American family.’ Laura believes that the magic of Smith is strong, and she feels fortunate to have helped a student from her school in Ladakh discover the magic of Smith as well. She looks forward to attending Tsewang Chuskit’s Ivy Day in 2020.

Mary Martineau D’Amato AC ’93
I can hardly believe it has been 25 years since graduating as an Ada Comstock Scholar. After working at Smith for 29 years, I have been happily retired for almost five years now. Having retired a bit early, I was able to enjoy the gift of time with my sweet Honey Man and my dear mother who passed away last year at the age of 98. As they say, no one on their death bed ever voices regrets for not working long enough. I can attest to that as every morning I delight in the freedom from rigid schedules. Jewelry making is a new hobby and some volunteer work keeps me busy these days.
Kathleen McGarry AC'93 After graduation, I went to Antioch and got a Master's in Org Development. I then worked for about 14 years as a fundraiser for education and my last gig was 7 years at our beloved Smith, where I helped raise money for scholarships, engineering and the Praxis Program, to name a few.

In 2009, I moved west and went to massage therapy school in Berkely, CA. I have been practicing now for 9 years. I currently live in Boulder, CO where I have a full-time healing practice called Colorado Acu Care. I do massage, acupressure and energy work. I love my work and being my own boss!!

My best memories of Smith are riding my bike to school via the path along Paradise Pond. I also loved Helen H's class on the History of Women.

The future is bright, with a trip to Hawaii coming up next month and plans to begin teaching massage and energy work next year. I cherish my time as a student and an employee of Smith. To be in the company of so many brilliant, committed women was a rare and precious opportunity.

Cynthia McInerney J'93 After graduating from Smith, I felt as though I was seated on a booster rocket, shot up into the woods of Maine. I spent 25 great years as an art teacher/department head, archivist, and Associate Director of Admission (not all at the same time, though many hats are often worn together at traditional boarding schools!) at Kents Hill School, in Kents Hill, ME, founded in 1824. Last year, I volunteered as an art instructor at Maple Tree Community School, a dynamic and wonderful small K-8 independent school down the road from Kents Hill. It wasn't until the very end of the school year that I learned the founder of the school, Nicole Danielson, was also a Smith alum. Not just any alum... but also a traditional member of the Class of 1993! We hope to make it back for reunion together this year. I am currently on a sabbatical of sorts, loving a quieter day, but looking forward to my next adventure.

Melody (Shira) Wilensky AC'93 continues to write and publish from the Boston area, while working as a financial services associate in a private wealth firm, and pursuing financial planning certification at Boston University. She is proud to share that her daughter Dara Leah Wilensky (Barnard '08) is a resident physician in consult liaison psychiatry at Brigham & Women's Hospital, Boston. Her son George who works and studies at UMass Amherst, continues to pursue his own music as well as supporting live musical performances versus saving for retirement. BTW, he has a lovely girlfriend, Elizabeth Coover, Smith Class of '12. Melody notes "I have slowly begun using my Hebrew name, Shira, instead of my middle name, Ann."