FROM OUR CLASS PRESIDENTS

As we come off a highly successful and innovative 45th reunion celebration and commence a new reunion cycle, this one leading to our 50th (where did the time go??), we’d like to give a special shout out of gratitude to the 1977 Class Officers who led us over the past five years, particularly those who have decided to step down from leadership positions. To Laurie McIntosh, Lisa Boe Mason and Susan Wyman, thank you for your leadership, your creativity, your attention to detail, and your class stewardship. Your classmates are most appreciative for the volunteer efforts and hours you devoted to all things Smith ’77. To Harriet Madoff Parker, Jaye Barbaresi Hensel, Betsy Gardner, Nan Smith Stifel, and Gwen Mattleman, the Class is in your debt for achieving a highly successful reunion that succeeded in connecting us and beating our goals for fundraising! Thank you to all!

We want to introduce the new team of Class of 1977 officers:

Co-Presidents: Vanessa Clark Brooks and Adele Pike
Reunion Team/Co-Chairs: Betsy Gardner, Jaye Barbaresi Hensel, Paula Herold, and Nan Smith Stifel
Co-Treasurers: Beth Ambos and Becky Lamb
Co-Secretaries: Marjorie Meiman-Robinowtiz and Harriet Madoff Parker
Fund Chair: Gwen Mattleman
Memorial Team/Co-Chairs: Betsy Hetzler, Mary Nelson, Katie Huff Oberlin, and Maureen Tobin
Planned Giving Chair: Jacquie Ottman

We are happy to have others join us. We are still in need of a Fund Co-Chair, a Communications/Digital Media Chair or co-Chair, and a Planned Giving Co-Chair. If you are interested, please email AdeleAdelepike978@gmail.com or Vanessa Vbrooks1@mac.com.

As we start this new five-year cycle, we see reunion as more than a great celebration on campus in May of 2027. We are looking to create a multi-year effort that will reconnect classmates to each other and to the college. Last May we learned that virtual connections are powerful; we may well include some virtual programming in the years leading up to 2027. We will look to connect with the Class of 2027. We will raise money for Smith. And of course, we will plan for an in-person celebration a little more than four and a half years from now! An over-riding goal is to make reunion activities as accessible and inclusive as possible.

Email will be our primary means of communication. DON’T MISS OUT on Class of 1977 communications. Be sure Smith has your email. You can opt-out of certain types of Smith communications but we can’t email you about The Last Competent Class unless we have your email address. To add or update your email address, send a note to smithierecords@smith.edu.

Vanessa Clark Brooks and Adele Pike, Co-Presidents
1977 THE LAST COMPETENT CLASS

PLANNED GIVING UPDATE

As we begin our 50th reunion cycle, we will be learning more about Planned Giving. Planned Giving is different from Smith Fund giving, but they are not exclusive. Planned Giving involves making plans now to give to Smith after your death. There are a variety of ways you can plan a gift to Smith, and planned gifts can be made in any amount or value. We will be increasing our efforts on Planned Giving between now and May of 2027, as a 50th reunion often triggers alumnae to think about or revisit plans. All Planned Gifts made to Smith between July 1, 2022 and reunion in 2027 will count towards our class 50th reunion gift.

The Smith Office of Planned Giving will be offering webinars about the various ways alumnae can leave gifts to Smith. The initial programs are listed below; watch your email for more details.

October 18, 1 p.m. Eastern Giving from Retirements Assets

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

It was wonderful to see so many of you at reunion and virtually. Kudos to everyone who gave during our last reunion cycle. You raised a five-year comprehensive total (for all unrestricted and restricted Smith gifts) of $3,245,168 with average five-year participation at 31%. For reunion year FY 22, your comprehensive total was $459,930; your Smith Fund-specific total was $192,365, with 36% participation (211 donors).

Now, it’s THE BIG ONE, and your class needs you—

• GIVE regularly this cycle, especially if you haven’t given recently. For FY ’22, 211 out of our whole class donated. Smith says 50th Reunion participation rates are often in the 60th percentile. That means we must DOUBLE our recent rates.

• PLAN your 50th Reunion giving starting right now. Pick as generous of a stretch gift number as you can befitting the special occasion, divide it into manageable monthly or even annual bits, and sign up for a monthly or annual sustaining credit card gift at smith.edu/give.

And consider dedicating this year’s giving to our honorary classmate President Kathleen McCartney to celebrate her last year at Smith.

• OFFER matches and challenges along with classmates, friends and family.

• VOLUNTEER!!! To help make a significant 50th Reunion legacy gift toward a Smith education for the next generation, grab a household and join us—we need as many Fund Team volunteers as possible, including Special Gift and Fund Agents, Class Stewards and Ambassadors, and House Reps. Descriptions are here: www.smith.edu/about-smith/giving/smith-fund/volunteer-opportunities. And because we must double-staff 50th Reunion offices, we need a Fund Team Coordinator Co-Chair to serve with me. If you have questions or are interested in any Fund Team role, contact me at muselaw1@me.com.