
Subject: Class of 1969 Fall 2024 Newsletter

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SMITH COLLEGE CLASS OF 1969

Message from the Class President

Our 55th Reunion was loads of fun. We came, we learned, and we reconnected with old friends and made new ones. We left more determined to keep in touch by email, phone, Zoom, or in person. The Reunion team did a great job providing rich programming, and even the weather cooperated.



Some of the Reunion highlights and documents can be found on our [class website](#): the Virtual Art Tour, the 55th Reunion Edition of the *Grécourt Review* (also [available for purchase](#) on Amazon), and *In Memoriam*, which our class secretary Gale Eaton is continuing to update. You need a password to assess the documents; it's the color of our ribbons at Reunion.

We enter the next five-year cycle with a new Leadership Team. If you have ideas or questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch:

Susan Bangs Munro, President

Vice Presidents (open)

Gale Eaton & Marguerite Smith, Secretaries

April Foley, Treasurer

Sharon Smith Burlingame & Susan Bangs Munro, Fund Team Coordinators

Lisa Rosenbloom & Joyce Moran, Memorial Gifts Co-chairs

Joan FitzGibbon & Margi Nareff, House Reps Co-chairs

Gale Eaton, Webmaster

Jill Zifkin, Digital Media (Facebook)

Edie Dinneen & Debbie Franczek, Planned Giving Co-chairs

I'm grateful for the opportunity to lead the class of '69 for the next five years. When I turned 77 this year, my son told me it's a lucky number – an invitation from the stars to trust our instincts and embrace our personal values. We could all use some luck during these times – and good friends, including classmates who share a long history and the proud identity of Smith Women!

Susan Bangs Munro



Class of '69 prepares to parade

Celebrating Our 55th Reunion!

For a few joyous days in May, approximately 90 members of the class of '69 convened at Chapin House, class headquarters for our 55th Reunion. Chapin provided a centrally located, spacious, and once-elegant (and about-ready-for-a-makeover) place to gather, snack, and catch up with friends. From there we spread out to many venues – from Ford Hall to the Browsing Room in the new Neilson Library, Lyman Plant House, Alumnae House, and, for elegant dinners, the Conference Center.

We enjoyed activities planned by the college, as well as by our Reunion team, and still made time to wander the beautiful campus and to converse with housemates or new friends met through the class of '69 Zooms. It stayed sunny and bright for the parade and Alumnae Gathering. Programs, including a panel on travel as we age and a stimulating presentation on minding our minds, were enthusiastically received. We also remembered those classmates no longer with us as we gathered around our class tree.

Photos taken during Reunion capture some of the delight we experienced.

Although attendance at our class Reunions will inevitably decline, we hope that many of us will be able to come together in 2029 for our 60th Reunion. Let's support one another in pursuing "Wellness in Body, Mind and Spirit" and "Embracing Our Futures" as strong, caring, and creative Smith women.

All the best from your 55th Reunion planning team!

Rosa Leader Smith, Gale Eaton & Ellen Matzkin

Call for Class Notes

We love reading your news! Send your class notes for the *Smith Quarterly* to our class secretaries [Gale Eaton](#) and [Marguerite Smith](#). You can also use the [Smith Quarterly Class Notes form](#). Online submissions go directly to class secretaries.

Today's Smith Students: Class of 2028 Statistics

The Smith student body looks much different from our class back in 1965. [Here are some of the statistics.](#)

The Class of '69 Does It Again!



Margi Nareff, Fund Team Coordinator, Edie Dinneen and Debbie Franczek, Planned Giving Co-chairs, and Susan Bangs Munro, Fund Team Coordinator, accept awards for the class

Why do these women look so happy? If you were at Reunion, you'd know – the class of '69 received three awards:

- Largest number of Smith Stars (alums who gave every year in the past five years) in any class: 158 class members.
- Highest comprehensive giving total for five years: \$10,159,816.
- Largest number of new members (since 2019) of the Grécourt Society: 25. (Six classmates have joined since then!)

Smith would not be here without the generosity of generations of donors like you, which means the future of Smith rests on our shoulders. Every gift matters, and your participation sends a message that you understand, are grateful for, and want to be part of the Smith continuum of support.

For fiscal year 2025, our Smith Fund goal is 40% participation for a total of \$350,000. At a time when many causes demand attention, giving to Smith ensures that we continue to cultivate and educate the people and activists who will right past wrongs, invent much-needed solutions, and lead the way for an equitable and inclusive society. Please help us continue the great giving tradition of the class of '69 with a gift today.

We are extraordinarily grateful to each of you who has recently made a gift to Smith and to the classmates who have joined us on the Fund Team: Joan FitzGibbon, Sue Foley, April Foley, Debbie Franczek, Elissa Getto, Carolyn Gilbert, Janet Harrison, Kathy Martin, Susan Mygatt, Margi Nareff, Linda Sosnowitz, Marcia Steckler, Beth Sweetow, Claire Wolkoff, and Roz Zakheim.

Sharon Burlingame & Susan Bangs Munro



Grécourt Society members at an Alumnae House reception during Reunion

Gift Planning

Our classmates are following the example of Sophia Smith, as shown in the photo above of a gathering of Grécourt Society members at our May reunion. (Can you spot yourself?) Sophia through her will created Smith; Grécourt Society members through their planned gifts are ensuring an excellent education for future generations of Smith students.

Over the years, our class membership in Grécourt has grown to 115 people. They became members in a variety of ways, such as making Smith a beneficiary of a financial instrument like an IRA or insurance policy, including Smith in their will or trust, or purchasing a charitable annuity. During the five-year period ending June 30, 2024, planned gifts accounted for over 75% of our class's \$10 million+ 55th Reunion gift. Wow! Imagine what we may be able to accomplish for our 60th!

If you're not yet a member of Grécourt, we hope you will consider joining by making a planned gift of any size and kind. For information, check out our class website or go to smith.plannedgiving.org/.

We are here to answer questions about how to join without lawyers, documentation, or out-of-pocket costs. Don't hesitate to contact us. For more sophisticated types of questions about planned giving, you may want to consult the Office of Gift Planning at 800-241-2056 (option 4) or giftplanning@smith.edu.

Edie Dinneen & Deborah Chase Franczek

MORE INFO

Keep in Touch & Stay Informed

- [Connect with Smith in your city!](#) Join fellow alums for a festive evening of connection and conversation, hosted by President Sarah Willie-LeBreton.
- Visit [Stay Connected to Smith](#) for the latest campus news
- Log into [The Network](#) (password protected)—find alumnae and update your profile
- [Update your contact information](#)
- Follow Smith on [X](#) (formerly known as Twitter), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#)
- Access every issue of the [Smith Quarterly](#), going back to 1909, in the magazine's digital archive
- View past issues of [Notes from Paradise](#)
- [Be A Friend](#) (of the Libraries, Botanic Garden, Athletics, or Museum of Art)
- [Volunteer for Admissions](#)
- Join a [Smith Club](#) in your area

Class Leadership Team

[Susan Bangs Munro](#), President & Fund Team Coordinator

Vice Presidents (Open)

[Gale Eaton](#), Co-secretary & Webmaster

[Marguerite Smith](#), Co-secretary

[April Foley](#), Treasurer

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[Lisa Rosenbloom](#), Memorial Gifts Co-chair

[Joyce Moran](#), Memorial Gifts Co-chair

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Debbie Franczek, Planned Giving Co-chair

Connect With Us

Smith College Class of 1969

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SMITH COLLEGE

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The Office of Alumnae Relations and Development mailing address is:
Alumnae House, [33 Elm Street, Northampton, MA 01063](#)

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