



Betsy Coddling <eacoddling@gmail.com>

Smith College Class of 1988 Fall Newsletter

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Greetings, '88! Leading up to our 40th (!) Reunion, we would love to be in touch with as many of you as we can.

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SMITH COLLEGE CLASS OF 1988



Message from the Class Presidents

Greetings, '88! We hope everyone had a great summer, and that you are looking forward to a productive or restorative or whatever-you-need fall. Remember how gorgeous Northampton is in autumn? Makes us want to be there right now ...

Leading up to our 40th (!) Reunion, we would love to be in touch with as

many of you as we can. If you know classmates who don't think they are receiving updates from our class, please pass this newsletter along, and encourage them to contact the College at smithirecords@smith.edu to be sure their privacy preferences allow emails from the class.

You can always find 1988 on the [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#), but did you know we have a [class website](#) as well? Betsy Coddling has taken on the role of webboss, and is updating the site with information and photos—[check it out here!](#) In particular, we would love to develop a gallery of pictures from 1988 reunions over the years. Check out what we have up so far, and send in your pix, the older the better! You can send pictures and website ideas to Betsy at eacodding@gmail.com.

As always, please feel free to contact us directly at smithclassof88@gmail.com with any comments, questions, reunion ideas, etc. We would love to hear from you.

Best wishes to all and keep in touch.

—Kristy and Lisa

From your Reunion Chairs



A recent meetup of Gardiner House friends: Ashley Charnoff, Rebecca Sunfist Yazel, Stephanie McClung, and Tina Garrity



Jane Abramowitz and Heidi Johnson Novaes at a Smith Tea in Los Angeles.



Betsy Coddling and Elizabeth Westley met up at a Grecourt Society event in 2024.

Also, please send your reunion pictures to Betsy Coddling for inclusion in our class website!

–Elizabeth and Jane

Call for Class Notes

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

Class Spotlight

We are so proud of our classmate Cecilia Robinson Edwards, who you may have seen has been appointed a Trustee. Cecilia was our class president along with Kecia Brooks-Smith Lowe for the previous reunion, and the Reunion co-chair for our 30th Reunion. Her appointment as a Trustee also gives her a position on the Alumnae Association Board of Directors, and if you have questions or concerns, she encourages us to reach out to her to represent these.

Cecilia is a partner and principal solutionist at Wavestone, a global management consulting firm focused on supporting large enterprises to drive impact along their generative AI and sustainability transformation journeys.

Cecilia produces and hosts *The Business of Impact*, a weekly podcast on this topic. Cecilia spent nearly seven years at The Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and later led The Foundation for Community Empowerment (FCE), a nonprofit organization where she focused on early childhood education, public school reform, affordable workforce housing, community health, nonprofit capacity building, and community research. Starting her professional career as an officer in the United States Air Force, Captain Cecilia Edwards was the launch manager on the Titan Satellite Launch program, supporting the successful launch of five satellites. After receiving her A.B. in mathematics from Smith, she went on to get an M.B.A. from the Haas School of Business at the University of California, Berkeley.

Congratulations, Cecilia!

News from Smith

New Faces in the Botanic Garden—[John Berryhill's](#) career at the botanic garden began over 27 years ago, today he's the new director. [Kady Wilson '15, S.M. '21](#), a fourth-generation Smithie, is the new manager of living collections. [Learn more.](#)

Smith Votes—will boost civic engagement on campus by helping students register to vote, learn about candidates and issues, and become more involved in local, state, and national elections. [Scroll down this page to learn](#)

[more](#) and to see the election-related courses being taught this fall.

Smith Quarterly—a magazine for the Smith of today. [Learn more](#) about the complete redesign, try the crossword puzzle and read archived issues.

Fundraising Update

At the end of the last fiscal year (June 30, 2024), our class participation giving rate was 17% and we exceeded our goal for contributions to the [Smith Fund](#), which provides the college with the most flexibility. We knocked it out of the park, with \$84K raised toward a Smith Fund goal of \$75K! A big **thank you** to all who made that happen!

Let's see if we can beat those numbers this year—25% participation rate anyone? The College also set our Class of '88 fundraising goal for this year at \$100K. **We can do it!**

The easiest way to show your support is to become a **monthly donor**. At any level of donation, giving monthly provides the college with the stability it needs to plan and implement ambitious programming. Go to smith.edu/give and check the “Monthly or Yearly Sustaining Gift” box.

Our giving participation rates are a strong sign to Smith leadership and the external community that a Smith education matters.

Thank you to everyone who makes a contribution—financial or otherwise—to Smith.

GIVE TO SMITH

Gift Planning Update



Our class remains at 21 members of The Grécourt Society. If Smith has already been named as a beneficiary of your will, retirement account, trust, donor advised fund, or other account, please let the college know by contacting giftplanning@smith.edu. You will be welcomed into The Grécourt Society!

Have you heard that there's a new Grécourt Match III? As of July 1, 2024, an anonymous donor, whose late wife was a member of the Class of '59, pledged \$1.8m as matching financial aid funds. 10% of your new planned gift will be released to outright financial aid (limit of \$10k per planned gift).

For example:

- You make a planned gift to Smith after July 1, 2024, such as:
 - Document a bequest in your will.
 - Make Smith a beneficiary of your retirement plan.
 - Fund a charitable gift annuity that pays you a fixed income for life.
- Your gift can be for any purpose, although financial aid is especially welcome.
 - If, for example, the gift is \$10,000:
 - \$1,000 of matching funds goes into the Smith endowment for financial aid immediately.
 - Your gift makes a powerful impact now, and a powerful impact later.
 - If you're interested, the form is attached here.

Please remember to notify giftplanning@smith.edu if you have Smith in your estate plans so that we grow our class's Grécourt Society membership numbers!

–Steffi Garrett, Planned Giving Chair

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 alums, update your info, and access Career Hub resources
- [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

Jane Abramowitz, Reunion Chair, jane.abramowitz@gmail.com

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Sylvia Bolivar, Memorial Chair

Betsy Coddling, Digital Media Coordinator, eacoddling@gmail.com

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Elizabeth Westley, Reunion Chair, elizabeth.westley@gmail.com

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Smith College Class of 1988

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Alumnae House, [33 Elm Street, Northampton, MA 01063](#)

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