



SMITH COLLEGE

Class of 1974
Alumnae Relations and Development
Alumnae House
33 Elm Street
Northampton, MA 01063

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FROM OUR
CLASS
PRESIDENT

Dear Classmates,

It's hard to believe we will soon celebrate our milestone 50th reunion! I hope each of you will join us to commemorate this very significant time in our lives as Smithies. We "grew up" at Smith during a time of significant change and the world in which we currently live still presents significant challenges. We learned a lot during 1970-1974 and for many of us, that learning continues today. My hope is we will apply new learnings to support a better world for future generations. We are members of the *Great Class of 1974*, we are *Women of Change*, and we can continue to effectively influence positive change.

In preparation for our reunion, I reflected on my role as your class president as well as just how far we have come since our 45th reunion. In my first communication with you, I asked each of you to personally reach out to "**invite, include, and encourage** our classmates to **belong**" to the Class of '74 sisterhood and the Smith community. It was my hope that "**ask**" would inspire each of us to seek, create, and support opportunities for deeper connections among all members of our class. In support of that request, the class leadership team and I worked together over the last few years actively communicating with all members of our class to encourage engagement in our reunion planning activities, community building, and fundraising efforts. I am delighted to witness where we are today. Many of us have forged new relationships with our class members; we actively participated in class virtual and in-person events and we had FUN doing it!

In previous communications I also shared my hope that each of us would play a role in shaping the future for Smith. Since our 45th, many continued to **Pay It Forward** by making gifts to Smith that supported the numerous transformative educational opportunities for Smith students. We established goals and identified fundraising priorities for the class. However, we still

continued on the next page...

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On campus this spring? Visit "The Bell Jars: Lyman Conservatory and Sylvia Plath's Botanical Imagination" through June 28, 2024

Sylvia Plath '55 went on to become one of the 20th century's most important writers, celebrated for her poetry and her novel, *The Bell Jar*. Botanical images and tropes run throughout her work, partly because Plath took a year-long General Botany course at Smith's Lyman Plant Conservatory as a first-year student. The bell jar, Plath's famous metaphor for the oppressive conditions of life as a woman in the United States of the 1950s, is one example. A bell jar is a botanical technology used in horticulture and plant physiology. Plath employed them during lab exercises on photosynthesis, and her novel drew on this experience. These same bell jars are still in use at Lyman today.

"The Bell Jars: Lyman Conservatory and Sylvia Plath's Botanical Imagination" tells this story, shedding new light on Plath's life and work while also examining the power of interspecies encounters between people and plants. Using archival materials and Plath's literary work as a guide, this exhibit invites visitors to inhabit Lyman as Plath once did. Cross-pollinating the humanities and natural sciences, we hope to examine Plath's botanical imagination and Lyman's role in cultivating it.



September 15, 2023 - June 28, 2024
Church Gallery, Lyman Plant House, Smith College

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED...

have more work to do to meet our goals by our 50th reunion. Please join me in making a gift to the college to help us achieve our fundraising goals. Attaining our goals will ensure the Great Class of 1974 continues to play a significant role in supporting the education of *future Women of Change*. **Remember, all gifts count, no matter the size.**

I hope you are as excited as I am about returning to campus to reconnect, connect with new friends, reflect, and plan for the future. Thank you for your enthusiasm and generosity. I look forward to celebrating the *Great Class of 1974* in May 2024!

Linda Smith Charles

Make a Gift to Smith College

Secure Online Giving Form
smith.edu/1974/give

Call
800-241-2056, option #1
Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Mail
Smith College Gift Accounting
Alumnae House
33 Elm Street
Northampton, MA 01063

make your check payable to Smith College

Smith College Tax ID: 04-1843040

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Educating women improves the world—plus, we all know how Smith shaped and improved our own lives. **Giving to Smith is one powerful way to pay it forward.** We hope you'll join us in contributing to Smith!

Your current leadership team is delighted to announce the Class of '74 Leadership Challenge in honor of our 50th Milestone Reunion! If our class reaches 50% donor participation by Reunion weekend, the leadership team will collectively give \$100,000 to the class gift.

Our fundraising goal for our 50th reunion (i.e., the five-year amount that we want to have raised by reunion) is \$7.4M. To date, we have raised over \$5.9M, from 185 of our classmates (36%). We have about a month to go, and we aim to have at least 50% of our class participate by giving a gift of any amount. **Every gift matters: no gift is too small.**

We have identified three class fundraising priorities and your support of these priorities will help us achieve our goal and help Smith provide educational opportunities to students who will change our world!

The **Class of 1974 Endowed Scholarship Fund** will provide scholarship funding to Smith students. To direct your contribution to our class endowed scholarship fund, specify "Class of 1974 Endowed Scholarship Fund" when you make your gift.

The **Emergency Fund for Students of Color** was started by members of the Class of 1974 at the 25th reunion in 1999. To direct your donation to this fund, specify "Emergency Fund for Students of Color" when you make your donation.

The **Smith Fund** sustains the academic innovation, global education, scholarships, and resources that make our alma mater exceptional.

If you already made a gift, please consider making another reunion gift to help us reach our goal of \$7.4 million. Giving is fast and easy; you can contribute online at smith.edu/1974/give or by phone at 800-241-2056, using option 1.

Most important, we hope to see you in person at Reunion! Please contact us with any questions and thank you.

Inez D'Arcangelo and Mary-Margaret Chren Landefeld

REUNION UPDATE

2024 is here! We hope *everyone* will join us to celebrate our milestone 50th reunion May 16-19!

Whether you've never been to a reunion or have attended every one, we hope you will come enjoy the chance to reconnect with old friends, make new ones, revisit old haunts, and explore what's new on campus.

Here's some important information to be aware of:

Registration

- Registration is online only. **The deadline is May 2!**
- If you have not registered, you should do so **ASAP** via the reunion page on Smith's website, **smith.edu/reunion**, or by contacting Alumnae Relations and Development at 800-526-2023, option 9, 413-585-2150, or reunionregistration@smith.edu.
- NOTE: Financial assistance is available on a first-come/first-served basis. It does not cover travel. Applications should be made **prior to registering**. Contact Class Treasurer Inez D'Arcangelo (inez@navgroup.com) with your request. All requests are **confidential**. You will be notified by Alumnae Relations and Development when the process is complete.
- Be sure to indicate *any* disability accommodations you may need on your registration form so appropriate assistance can be arranged.

Questions

- Smith's reunion page, **smith.edu/reunion**, has useful information regarding transportation and parking, program schedule, check-in/check-out, etc.

What to Bring

- Bath towel (the ones provided are small and thin)

- Shower shoes; cover-up to wear after showering (bathrooms are co-ed)
- Water bottle (Help minimize our environmental footprint by bringing your own water bottle! There are bottle filling dispensers throughout campus.)
- Bath soap; shampoo
- Phone charger
- Hair dryer
- Eye shades if street light bothers you at night (window shades don't really block out the light)
- Comfortable shoes
- Sunscreen; umbrella or raincoat; hat/visor
- **And don't forget your Ivy Day Parade attire!** You will need WHITE clothes, WHITE or LIGHT COLOR (e.g. tan, khaki, off white) shoes, and a WHITE sweater or jacket. You will be provided with a stylish, wide-brimmed, red hat to wear and a signature tote to carry. You will get your red ribbon when you check in.

Keep up with reunion news by signing up for Smith's reunion app and checking:

- Smith's reunion page: smith.edu/reunion
- Our class website: smithcollege74.org
- Our class Facebook page: facebook.com/groups/56274719469
- Our class Instagram: instagram.com/smithcollegeclassof1974

See you in Northampton!!

Chris Albright, Cindy Britten Martin & Wing Hamilton

GIFT PLANNING UPDATE

I want to thank sincerely all those who have joined the Grécourt Society by funding life income gifts or naming Smith in your estate plans. To date, the Class of '74 has promised \$3,335,272 this way. As a former scholarship student, I am keenly aware of the need and eternally grateful to those who made my time at Smith possible. I hope that many more of you will consider a Grécourt promise: a gift that doesn't affect your day-to-day cash needs but ensures that Smith remains a vibrant place of hope and promise for young women for years to come. Simply by notifying the Planned Giving Office that Smith is in your will, you will become a Grécourt member. Please join me at the Grécourt Reception with President Willie-LeBreton in May!

Sandy Small Henderson