



## SMITH COLLEGE CLASS OF 1973

### Message from the Class President

Dear Classmates,

By the time you read this, the Smith campus will be blazing with the colors of autumn, and the semester will be in full swing for faculty, staff, and students. It doesn't seem possible that our first autumn at the college was 55 years ago! I hope you all have some positive memories of that time – our first classes, first Mountain Day, mixers, trips to other colleges, fire drills with doughnuts, roommates and housemates who became friends, and learning more about who we were and who we might become.

After the bright days of September and October, I used to dislike the last weeks of fall when the trees (at least where I've always lived) are bare, the days are shorter and darker, and the holiday festivities have yet to begin. But, then, years ago, someone encouraged me to think about that shoulder season as a fallow time – a time that may appear to be dull or barren, but when there actually may be a great deal occurring in nature beneath the surface. It's also a time of quieter colors, browns and muted golds, and a time of very distinct light in the afternoons. Consistent with that perspective, I've been thinking that many of us may have experienced fallow times in our lives. We may have felt stuck, or thought we weren't growing or adapting, when it eventually turned out that those times were restorative preludes to change and progress. Even now, at our "advanced age," we may benefit from fallow times to pause and reflect as we continue to learn more about who we are and who we might become.

On another matter entirely – please vote. We owe that to ourselves, our

families, our communities, and our country, as well as to the women who fought so hard and endured so much to secure that right for us.

– Anne Pidano

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## Reunion Update

It's not too early to be thinking about our 55th Reunion! GiGi Benjamin Woodcock, our Reunion co-Cchair, is in need of a partner to ensure its success. If you're interested or want to know more, contact GiGi at [gigibenjamin@gmail.com](mailto:gigibenjamin@gmail.com) or Anne Pidano at [aepidano@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aepidano@sbcglobal.net).

Here's where GiGi wants to start with gathering information from the class; please flood her inbox! I would like to know what our classmates liked and didn't like about Reunion. Was there a particular meal you liked? Was there too much to do? Not enough to do? Something you especially enjoyed? Great speaker? Did we miss something? All thoughts and constructive criticism about meals, activities, and the schedule are welcome.

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## Class Spotlight

### Alison Quoyeser '73

Fifty-five years ago, Alison arrived at Smith's Lamont House from Texas, looking forward to a stimulating new environment, new ideas, and new friends. I was fortunate to meet her in one of our introductory psychology classes. As fellow psych majors, we took experimental psychology – and just recently learned that both of us had named our lab rats after former boyfriends.

At Smith, Alison became more aware of and fascinated by the feminism, civil rights, ecology, and anti-war movements. She majored in psychology and art with the intention of going to graduate school in clinical psychology – but we shared the disappointment of not being accepted to any doctoral program. With characteristic resilience, Alison moved on to work for architect Tulio Inglese in Amherst – for 50 cents an hour! She lived at 66 Green Street, a boarding house with single rooms and a communal bathroom and kitchen. Barbara Petersen '73 shared a room with her. A year later, she and Barbara moved to Cambridge where Alison was on her way to MIT to earn a degree in architecture, where both her application and her master's project integrated

psychology and architecture as she designed spaces to support mental health and recovery.

In 1977 she moved to the San Francisco Bay Area, where she worked in various architectural offices for 10 years, earning her professional license along the way. But as she sat drafting one day with her headphones on, she heard about an opportunity to volunteer with inner city schools. Taking a week to do that, she realized her heart was in education. She enrolled at UC Berkeley and earned her elementary education credential. What followed was a 28-year career during which she taught hundreds of students in second and fourth grade, often including environmentally and ecologically-based content in lessons. She became involved with STRAW (Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed, a program of Point Blue Conservation Science), a program with which she's still connected as a faculty member. In 2007 she co-founded a non-profit called Amigos Alados (Winged Friends) with a fellow Spanish student. Through this project, students in California and Canada become pen pals with students in Mexico, and together they learn about birds, migration, habitat, ecological services, and so on. (To learn more about the program and the terrific work it's doing, you can visit [amigosalados.org](http://amigosalados.org).)

Meanwhile, in about 1985 she met landscape architect Gerald Kawamoto, a fellow Tae Kwon Do black belt. Because she was studying Japanese, she tried to impress him by reading the characters on his belt, but unfortunately, she read them backwards! It turned out well, though, because they married and in 1988 became parents to Nicholas, currently an industrial designer, who lives nearby with his wife, Laura, and their three-and-a-half-year-old daughter, Fern.

Today, Alison continues to direct Amigos Alados, teach bird and watershed lessons, take Spanish class, and do Zumba classes. Of course, she is a happily and regularly involved grandmother. When I asked if there was something I should emphasize in writing this spotlight, she told me that she finds her work with Amigos Alados to be a gratifying culmination of her experiences in education, environment conservation, and the Spanish language.

– Anne Pidano

**Call for Class Notes**

Our class notes are an effective vehicle for keeping in touch with each other, both those we may know well and those with whom we shared only a class or a conversation at Reunion. You may not think others are interested in your daily lives, your work, your families, and your adventures – but we are. PLEASE send your news and notes either directly to [Lolly Olena Mixter](#) or submit the [Class Notes form](#) that you receive via email prior to the *Smith Quarterly* deadline on November 15.

### 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.](#)



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### Fundraising Update

The big fundraising news is that we exceeded our participation challenge goal of 35% with a total participation of 37%! That meant that the leadership team contributed an additional \$10,000 at the end of the fiscal year. Congratulations to all for making this happen and a big thank you to the house liaisons who participated by contacting housemates and encouraged them to give.

Our focus for next year will be primarily in two areas. First will be during the Rally Day campaign in February when the trustees typically have a matching gift. It's a great way to double the value of your donation. The second will be at the end of the fiscal year in June. We currently plan to repeat our participation challenge for those who have not yet donated with an additional leadership team gift when we meet or exceed our participation goal.

Thanks again for all your help – we certainly couldn't do it without you. And, as always, we are always open to additional volunteers. Just contact us.

*Margie Rowland – 503-970-5502*

*Crissy Taylor Waddill – 561-914-1082*

GIVE TO SMITH

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### Gift Planning Update

What is planned giving anyway? Planned Giving is any sort of giving to Smith which will occur in the event of your death.

It may be as simple as a specific bequest of property to Smith in your will, designating Smith as beneficiary of insurance or pension plan, or something more complex as creating an annuity for your (or someone else you may designate) benefit during your lifetime, with any assets remaining at the time of your death passing to Smith.

Many of us in the class of 1973 gave to Smith at the time of our 50th Reunion utilizing Planned Giving techniques. But activity continued after Reunion was over. Since Reunion, seven people have contributed to Smith via Planned Giving, for an amount over \$150,000.

*Thanks,  
Barbara Simanek*

MORE INFO

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### 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

[Anne Pidano](#), President

[Virginia "GiGi" Benjamin](#), Reunion Chair

[Laura "Lolly" Olena Mixter](#), Secretary

[Shirley Mah Kooyman](#), Treasurer

[Margaret "Margie" Hunt](#), Web Chair

[Jessica "Jess" Tava](#), Web Chair

[Margaret "Margie" Rowland](#), Fund Team Coordinator

[Christine "Crissy" Taylor Waddill](#), Fund Team Coordinator

[Barbara Robbins Simanek](#), Planned Giving Chair

[Jean Godsall-Myers](#), Memorial Co-Chair

[Janet Josephs Wang](#), Memorial Co-Chair

[Wendy Kassel](#), Reunion House Rep

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Smith College Class of 1973

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Alumnae House, 33 Elm Street, Northampton, MA 01063

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