



SMITH COLLEGE CLASS OF 1973

Message from the Class President

When I started this column, I had recently enjoyed a Smith-filled week. On March 5th, I attended President Sarah Willie-LeBreton's live webinar for alums, as I know some of you did also. It was informative and inspiring to listen to her perspective, her plans, and her answers to a range of questions. A few days later, I participated in a Hartford Smith College Book Club meeting with seven other women as we discussed Ruth Simmons' *Up Home* – many thanks to our classmate Joyce Dickey for organizing the club and leading the discussion. To top things off, I visited the campus for the Spring Bulb Show, which was beautiful as always – and fascinating in its focus on Sylvia Plath's life and the botanical references in her writings. The highlight of the trip was a meeting with President Sarah; I found her to be smart, genuine, warm, thoughtful, knowledgeable about the college, and committed to its continued excellence. I hope Smith is fortunate to have her as its leader for many years to come.

Walking around campus, the word "coddiwomple" (which I learned not long ago) came to mind. It's English slang meaning to travel in a purposeful manner toward a vague or as yet unknown destination. In some ways, that describes my time at Smith, and perhaps yours as well; coddiwompling can be positive in many ways. Paul Zarou proposes in a post on LinkedIn that it can involve embracing change, acting in times of uncertainty, adapting to course corrections, and profiting from experience. I would suggest that we learned to coddiwomple at Smith, and I'm convinced, as I continue to read pages in our digital Reunion book, that we've benefited from coddiwompling ever since.

Now for a few updates about our class leadership team – I'm delighted to share the exciting news that Virginia "GiGi" Benjamin Woodcock will be co-chair of our 55th Reunion! I know that with her planning, organizational, and interpersonal skills it will be a fabulous celebration. Kudos to our class fund agents, Crissy Waddill and Margie Rowland, who are already hard at work and have developed well thought-out plans for fundraising this year. In more good news, Wendy Kassel is returning as chair of the House Liaisons, and last, thanks to Jess Tava and Margie Hunt as they continue to improve our [class website](#) and keep our [Facebook page](#) current.

I wish you all time and opportunity to coddwomple over the spring and summer!

Warmly,
Anne

Update from Web Chair/Digital Media Coordinators Margie and Jess

For those who want a printed edition of our digital 50th Reunion Class Book, the PDF is now available for you to self-print until November 2024. Print the entire book or just pages you are interested in.

To access the PDF, go to the Check it Out! page on smithcollege73.org and use password 73book_priv!! Be patient while it loads! Because the PDF contains classmate contact info, please do not share the password.

In our new digital hats, we encourage you to explore the updated Class of 1973 website: enjoy Reunion photo albums, try the 50th Reunion kaleidoscope cookie recipe, check out the Giving page and more.

Not yet a member of our Smith Class of 1973 private group Facebook page? Join the 205 classmates who already are, and keep up on class and college-related news and postings.

Reunion Update

After experiencing the enthusiasm and vitality of the Class of 73 at our 50th Reunion, I am very excited to be co-chairing our 55th Reunion. Although May 2028 seems a long time away, it's not too early to get your thoughts and

suggestions for our next celebration. Please let me know what you liked at our 50th, what you didn't like, and your ideas for things we haven't thought of – lectures, meals, exhibits, etc. My email is gigibenjamin@gmail.com. I can't wait to hear from you!

Co-chairs Needed!

As of this writing, we are in need of a co-chair for our 55th Reunion to collaborate with GiGi Benjamin Woodcock. We also are seeking a memorial co-chair to work with Janny Wang. If you're interested, please contact Arthur Pero, our college liaison, at apero@smith.edu. Thank you!

Fundraising Update

Greetings to all!

We are off to a great start with fundraising this year. We were among the leading classes with the Rally Day challenge in February when 37 of us gave \$26,662! With the 1:1 challenge from the trustees, that was a significant accomplishment – congratulations! We're still getting our feet wet, but—with your help—we plan to keep our class in its top performing status.

There are two goals for fundraising each year – participation rate and dollars raised. Our goals for the current fiscal year (ending June 30, 2024) are 50% participation and \$250,000. Our current status, as of April 1, is:

24% participation
\$199,989

Our goals are ambitious and, to encourage everyone to participate, we are planning our own class leadership challenge for the end of the fiscal year. Details will follow in May – be on the lookout for a postcard!

Finally, we're looking for volunteers. Fundraising is actually a great way to connect with your classmates and make a huge difference for the college. And remember, every gift has an impact – regardless of size. If you have any interest, please contact either of us. We'd love to hear from you!

Best,

[Margie Rowland](#) & [Crissy Taylor Waddill](#)

Gift Planning Update



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.

MORE INFO

Keep in Touch & Stay Informed

- [Follow President Sarah Willie-LeBreton on Instagram](#) as she explores her new home.
- Visit [Stay Connected to Smith](#) for the latest campus news
- [The Network](#) (password protected)—find alumnae and update your profile
- [Update your contact information](#)
- Follow Smith on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#)
- Access every issue of the [Smith Alumnae Quarterly](#), going back to 1909, on the SAQ 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 Volunteers

[Anne Pidano](#), President

[GiGi Benjamin Woodcock](#), Reunion Chair

[Lolly Olena Mixter](#), Secretary

[Shirley Mah Kooyman](#), Treasurer

[Margie Rowland](#), Fund Team Coordinator

[Crissy Waddill](#), Fund Team Coordinator

[Janny Wang](#), Memorial Chair

[Barbara Simanek](#), Planned Giving Chair

[Margie Hunt](#), Web Chair/Digital Media Coordinator

[Jess Tava](#), Web Chair/Digital Media Coordinator

[Wendy Kassel](#), House Liaison Chair

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