

"I look forward to seeing you at our 40th Reunion. Let's make it the best ever!"

**Smith College
Class of
1977**

Smith Class of '77

www.smith77.org

February, 2017

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Mason**

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and Reunion
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Hensel**

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Coordinator:

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Planned Giving

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Dear Classmates:

Greetings to my fellow Wise Women of the Smith Class of 1977. It's hard to believe but 2017 has arrived, and in a short period we will celebrate our 40th class reunion (May 18-21, 2017). In this email newsletter you will hear from a number of our class officers about reunion planning. Our Reunion Chair, **Jaye Barbaresi Hensel** will fill you in on the great work she and her volunteer team have been doing to provide us an inspirational and awesome reunion. **Betsy Gardner** describes the special Reunion panel she has planned. **Gwen Mattleman**, our Fund Team Coordinator, will update you on how to make a class gift. Please plan to give and remember we are looking to increase our participation rates. No amount is too small; it all adds up.

I would also like to urge you to pay your class dues which cover the cost of travel for class-related business, newsletter printing and mailing fees, web fees and reun-

ion expenses not covered by the room and meal charges. Our dues are \$77 and can be paid via PayPal through our Class website (www.smith77.org) or via snail mail (see page 4).

Lastly, a Class printed newsletter and registration details from the college will be coming soon.

I look forward to seeing you at our 40th Reunion. Let's make it the best ever!

Lisa Mason, Class President



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40th Reunion News from Jaye Barbaresi Hensel

*"Our Wisdom of Women theme is
about sharing our journeys..."*



Hello again, my '77 Smithies,
Wow ... online registration is now open for Reunion! If you have not already done so — [REGISTER!](#) If you've been to reunions in the past, you know their magic, but if you've never been — this is YOUR year. Hey, we're not getting any younger, but we've all become wiser. Our **Wisdom of Women** theme is about sharing our journeys — not our achievements so much — but rather, who we are, what we've learned, and what we've lived through.

UPDATE for 40th REUNION EVENTS, MAY 18-21:

- Headquarters: Franklin King House
- Houses where we'll be staying: Franklin King, Martha Wilson, Morrow
- '77 Dinner locations: Franklin King and Alumnae House — nice venues!
- '77 Programming: Morning Yoga Classes, Friday & Sunday, Martha Wilson LR
Friday Afternoon Tea
TBA Friday Afternoon Event
Saturday Panel Discussion: "The Wisdom of the Last
Competent Class: 40 Years Later" (see *next page*)
Class Meeting at Saturday Dinner; After-Dinner Gatherings
- Parade Signs: Come up with a witty sign. If we choose it, you get to carry it!
Submit ASAP as the deadline is soon.
- Sharing Your Story "Everyone Has a Story" — do you want to present yours at
one of the dinners? (short 5 minutes top) Contact me.
- Photos: Please send me digital versions of your precious 1973-1977
Smith photos for a class book and for the archives.

AND LASTLY... REACHING OUT TO SENIORS:

*This is a big project and one I think will be truly extraordinary. I'm asking you to **write a letter** to a senior imparting some of your journey and your wisdom. I look at it as if we were writing to our younger selves on graduation day — and what we would have loved to have known or advice that would have been helpful. By reaching out to the seniors we're really reaching back to ourselves. In doing so, we get to see how very far we've come. Since there are 650 seniors, we'll all need to do about 6 copies — so write only one letter and Xerox it. I really have faith that EVERYONE will do this — and even if you can only manage a **card with a quote or a poem that changed your life** — anything of yourself you can give is truly a gift of wisdom. I am working on lovely packaging for your precious thoughts and words ... and please don't make me write all 650 letters!*

I welcome all suggestions and comments: jayebarbaresi@gmail.com

***YOUR input is needed for a special Reunion Panel !
— details from Betsy Gardner '77***

"But now I am Six-ty-ish, I'm as clever as clever..." (...with apologies to A. A. Milne and to the Ada Comstock and precocious younger members of the Class of '77, who may be older or younger than that.)

Some of us are feeling none too clever at the moment, despite the hours we spend trying to absorb and metabolize the day's news. And it's likely that many of us aren't focusing much, if at all, on our reunion weekend. Here's hoping that most of us will find our way to Northampton in May. We have a unique opportunity to discuss our thoughts about wise approaches to life, 40 years after graduation.

To provide the raw material for that discussion, **you'll receive a "wisdom survey" in the next few weeks** via the email address you have provided to Smith. It contains a link through which you may access the survey at your convenience over the following month. It's anonymous, unless you choose to identify yourself, and the questions seek to get at our ideas about what we need to know in life, whether we think we know it now, learned it anywhere in particular, have to keep learning it, and if so, how: through important books, people, courses, experiences, practices? The survey will be fairly brief, with a few demographic bones, a few [Likert](#) scale questions, but primarily open-ended queries because we want to hear what we all think in our own words.

Our responses will be reviewed in advance through the [Smith College Qualtrics site](#) (again, it's ANONYMOUS!) by our distinguished panelists, who will meet with us on **May 20 from 1-3 in Alumnae House** to provide their respective impressions of our answers as a springboard to what we expect will be a robust and candid discussion among the women assembled. Bring your box lunch, if you'd like!

The panelists include:

- **Dr. Patricia DiBartolo**, Department of Psychology, and Smith College Class of '89, whose research includes extensive study of perfectionism: <https://www.smith.edu/academics/faculty/patricia-dibartolo> Here's a link to a lecture she gave recently: <http://nepr.net/audiofiles/2016/02/12/when-brilliance-backfires-perfectionisms-cutting-edge-2/>
- **Dr. Carrie Baker**, Department of the Study of Women and Gender, who has both a PhD and a J.D. and who authored a full-length book, *The Women's Movement Against Sexual Harassment* (Cambridge University Press, 2007), which won the National Women's Studies Association 2008 Sara A. Whaley book prize. It "examines how a diverse grassroots social movement created public policy on sexual harassment in the 1970s and 1980s." <https://www.smith.edu/academics/faculty/carrie-baker>
- **Dr. Borjana Mikic**, Department of Engineering <https://www.smith.edu/academics/faculty/borjana-mikic> In addition to her primary engineering department endeavors, Dr. Mikic is on the advisory board of the Smith Design Thinking Initiative, and has strong interest in "the application of design-thinking methodologies to creative problem solving in many domains." As you may know, Stanford profs Bill Burnett and Dave Evans' book about design thinking, *Designing Your Life: How to Build a Well-Lived, Joyful Life*, is an NYT #1 seller.)
- (Our own) **Amy Ellis Nutt**, *Washington Post* science writer whose beat is the brain, wrote for several years for the *Newark Star Ledger* and was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in feature writing in 2011 for her series "The Wreck of the Lady Mary." She will be writer-in-residence at Smith next winter! Her undergrad majors were English and Philosophy, and she is eminently qualified to help us discuss "all ye know on earth and all ye need to know." <http://www.amynutt.com>

We are grateful to these panelists for their time and effort on behalf of the Class of '77 as we gather to exchange ideas and tap into inspiration for the coming years. **Please do complete the survey** as its value is enhanced by multiple viewpoints. If anyone would like to suggest another panelist we should approach about participating, **please do let us know**. It would be wonderful to see all 700+ of us in the big room in Alumnae House on May 20th. Realizing that that isn't likely, we hope you'll consider completing the survey so we can *hear* us all.

Betsy Gardner, Reunion Panel Chair

Competent Class Giving

"...our support of the resources available to our alma mater can really change the world."

Thanks to all of you generous classmates who gave to Smith in 2016, and to all our amazing Smith Stars who give consistently each year! With our fabulous 40th approaching soon, let's focus on increasing our class participation and making a class reunion gift of which we can all be proud. **Let's reach our five-year class donor participation goal of 37%** —the one way each of us can affect Smith's college rankings. To do that, **we need nearly half of us (45%) to make a gift** during the Reunion-ending fiscal year. Which half will you be in?

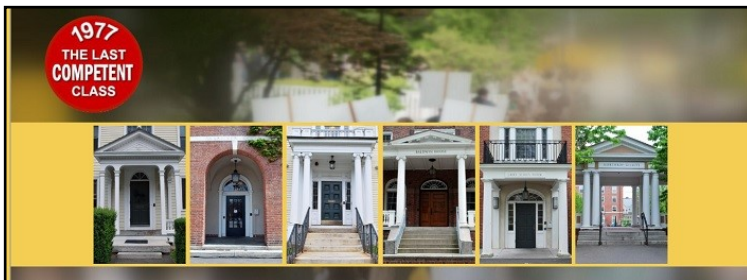
Now more than ever, let's **MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE**—our support of the resources available to our alma mater can really change the world. Make your gift online at <https://give.evertrue.com/smithcollege> ; by check: The Smith Fund, Smith College Gift Accounting, Stoddard Annex, 23 Elm Street, Northampton, MA 01063; and by phone with credit card: 800-241-2056 (option 1) during business hours. Before you give, check out the information on gift designations here: <https://www.smith.edu/about-smith/giving/smith-fund/designations>. For help with a gift or to volunteer with the Fund Team for this reunion cycle, please contact me via our Facebook page.

As always, thanks for all you do for Smith.
Gwen Mattleman, Fund Team Coordinator

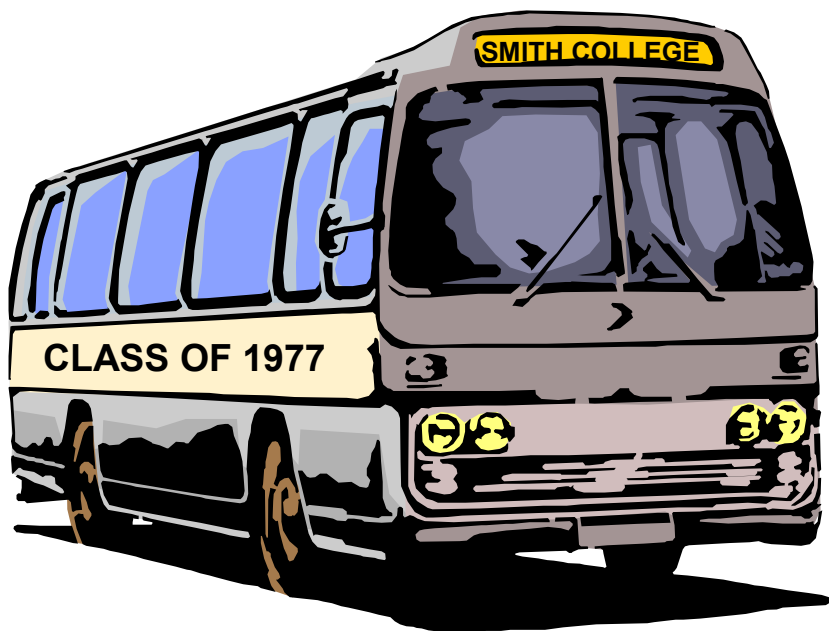
Visit our class website at

www.smith77.org and

- Update your email address
- See Reunion schedule details
- Pay your dues via Paypal
- Make a gift to Smith



Take a bus, a car, a train, or a plane, whatever floats your boat! It's time to figure out how you're getting to NOHO for our 40th Reunion, May 18-21!



OUR SECOND DUES APPEAL IN 5 YEARS

Please pay your Smith College class dues now. As in the past, we are only asking for \$77 for a five year period. Use the Paypal link on our [website](#) or mail a check payable to Smith College Class of 1977 to our Treasurer, Isabella Zagare, at Smith College Class of 1977, P.O. Box 2232, Westerly, RI 02891

*Thank you for paying your dues
as soon as possible!*

