

# SMITH '72 *IN ACTION*

February 2004

## From Your Class President

In keeping with the theme for the years leading up to our 35th reunion, "Smith '72 in Action," I decided to find out more about one of our very active classmates, Joanne Sawhill Griffin. Joanne is President-elect of the Alumnae Association of Smith College. She will take office in July, 2004. Joanne was our 25th Reunion Chair and has also served as Vice President of the Class of 1972; past President of the Smith College Club of St. Louis, MO; and past Vice President of the Smith College Club of Rochester, NY. She has been instrumental in the Musee annual fundraiser and helped to start an endowed scholarship at Smith. Joanne lives in St. Louis with her wonderful husband, Peter, and their adorable Westie, Shoby, and rescued cat, Shakespeare. She is Vice President of Administration for Enterprise Rent-A-Car.

**Smith '72:** Why are you willing to take on the responsibility of leadership of the Smith Alumnae Association?

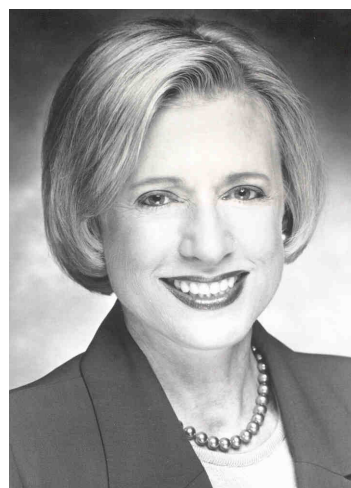
**JSG:** I have always been very appreciative of the education I received at Smith and have wanted to give back to the Smith community using the skills I have developed over the years. My grandmother graduated from Smith in 1904 so it seemed a happy coincidence that I was asked to serve starting in 2004 - 100 years later. I hope other '72's will want to get involved in committees or task forces, too. Please email me if you are interested! [jgriffin@erac.com]

**Smith '72:** One of the features of our 20th reunion was the presentation by Faye Crosby of her book *Juggling*, that dealt with the many balls women must keep in the air. What responsibilities are you juggling these days and how do you keep everything in balance?

**JSG:** As Faye Crosby spoke, I remember thinking that juggling was easy - just stay up later, work longer or harder. Now, I realize that it is all about prioritization and understanding what is really important to you. That said, I still stay up later.

**Smith '72:** What aspect of your undergraduate Smith experience have you found to be the most useful in your current situation?

**JSG:** Smith enabled me to develop a deep self confidence. When I attended a co-ed high school, the boys had all the top positions. I thought this was normal. Smith helped me understand what girls/women could achieve.



**Joanne Sawhill Griffin**

**Smith '72:** What do you do for fun and relaxation?

**JSG:** I love to travel and read. I wish I could say that I loved to exercise but, alas, that isn't true.

**Smith '72:** What books and/or movies do you recommend to your classmates?

**JSG:** I always recommend Jill Ker Conway's books to everyone. I also try to collect and read books written by Smithies to be supportive. Carolyn Heilbrun's books are also some of my favorites.

On behalf of all of us in the Class of '72, I extend our best wishes to Joanne as she starts her term as President of the Alumnae Association.

*Nancy Ammon Jianakoplos*

## **From Your Class Secretary**

First, ever so many thanks to those of you who faithfully answer my e-mail pleas for news at each *Quarterly* deadline! Your classmates love the column and thank me, although it is all thanks to you that I can cut and paste such a terrific compendium of news. If I don't have your e-mail address, I would certainly love to have it. Send it to maryburton@earthlink.net, and you too can decide to comment on the question of the day!

As of last fall I am serving on the resurrected Advancement Committee, an advisory group that brainstorms all manner of fund-raising issues for Smith. We're a dedicated group, with decades of experience and no shortage of ideas. We are thrilled with Carol Christ's stewardship, and eager to support her initiatives, as she did Ruth Simmons' projects.

Those of you who haven't been to campus recently are in for some surprises: a phenomenal new Art Museum, a Campus Center that stunned this former Minnesotan with its tropical colors, cathedral ceilings and multi-story windows overlooking Paradise Pond, and a beautifully expanded Lyman Plant House. Plans are underway for a new science and engineering complex on Green Street. Equally important will be increased funding for faculty (50% of the faculty will turn over in the next ten years as many professors hired in our era retire) and student scholarships.

Finally, here is an idea from Karin George, Smith's Vice President for Advancement. On the Smith Advancement website [<http://www.smith.edu/advancement>] is a link, "Notable Alumnae." Karin writes, "We hope to have this full of alumnae records. 1200 are listed currently, many of which are self-nominations, but this celebrates all alumnae; notable applies to all. Click on the site and look at it, nominate yourself!" Now it took me a while to grasp this concept. When I think of "notable" alumnae, I think of those who are household names -- Julia Childs, to take an easy example. But I believe strongly that I -- we all -- need to expand our understanding of "notable." I only have to think of the women I know in our class, the "less-sung" heroines of neighborhood causes, school committees, advocacy of all sorts, leadership in myriad arenas, to know that "notable" applies! SO...sign on, and add yourself! You will be affirming your life choices, and inspiring another woman -- young, middle-aged -- in ways you can only imagine!

*Mary Lindley Burton*

## **From Your Class Treasurer**

The Class of 1972 has \$13,668.77 in the class treasury. These funds are used for the annual newsletter and to cover some reunion expenses.

*Melissa Field*

## **From Your Class Fund Team**

Hello All! I'm the Special Gifts Chair for our class. I've been involved in fundraising for Smith over the years, but this is my first time as chairperson. Your donation to Smith this year will be very important as our class fundraisers work to reach a 50% participation rate, and total dollar target of \$200,000. The number of classmates who donate has taken on greater importance since that is a measure of alumnae support targeted by *US News and World Report* in their ratings of colleges.

I know times have been tough for some of us. I was actually laid off my high-tech job last year. In the past I'd always written a single donation check to Smith; this year, I went to the (secure) Alumnae Fund web site and set up a monthly payment schedule for my Visa card. The Alumnae Fund people were most accommodating of the payment pattern I requested. It's very easy to donate this way! Please check out the web site: [www.smith.edu/advancement/giving/online.html](http://www.smith.edu/advancement/giving/online.html).

Here is one way your gift to Smith might be used. Sue (not her real name), receives financial aid from Smith; she's a second-year Smith student from the Phoenix area. I interviewed her when she applied to Smith, and later advised her (single) mom on some of the financial aid forms. Sue had a great first-year at Smith, and we've stayed in touch via email. Times are definitely hard. In March, she told me her mom had been laid off her blue-collar job. In fact, she had cashed in her 401K retirement investments so her daughter could take her place in the class of 2006. The mom is now homeless.

I heard from Sue again recently. She's declared her major - Russian Civilization - will finish the semester with A's and B's, and is disturbed that Smith's academic departments must further reduce their already tight budgets.

Helping provide an opportunity for Sue and others like her to attend Smith makes me very proud. When you receive a phone call or letter in the mail asking if you are able to contribute to the Alumnae Fund this year, please join me in saying 'yes'.

*Stefanie Solnick Cargill*

## Smith Ambassadors/House Reps Needed

We are looking for classmates to volunteer to be Smith Ambassadors/House Reps from now until our 35th reunion in 2007 (that's just three years away!). Your duties are to keep in touch with former classmates from your Smith house. You get to generate enthusiasm for Smith and our 35th reunion . Listed below are those who have already graciously agreed to serve. If you are interested or want more information, please contact Deb Thomas Robinson at (802) 287-2292 or [debrobinson72@hotmail.com](mailto:debrobinson72@hotmail.com).

<u>House</u>	<u>Smith Ambassador/House Rep</u>
Gillett	Nancy Roth Remington
Haven	Helen Marvel Strong
King	Kathy Gieseke Bush
Jordan	Debbie Miskell
Northrop	Marilyn Gepp Clark
Park	Maggie MacDonald
Scales	Debbie Gordon Wolk

## Where Are We Now?

Thirty-two years later, where are we geographically? The answer is based on the 577 mailing addresses in the Alumnae Association database for the Class of 1972. We are located in 42 of the 50 states plus the District of Columbia and U.S. Virgin Islands, and 11 foreign countries. The map below shows the number of '72s by state. The international locations include: Canada (3), Cyprus (1), Egypt (1), Germany (4), Greece (1), India (2), Ireland (1), Luxembourg (1), South Africa (1) Switzerland (1), and the U.K. (6). If you are interested in getting together with others from the class living close to you, contact Nancy Ammon Jianakoplos at 970-491-6537 or [Nancy.Jianakoplos@ColoState.edu](mailto:Nancy.Jianakoplos@ColoState.edu). We can arrange to get you a list (or mailing labels) of classmates in your zip code, state, or area.



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2002-2007**

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