Barbara Fried ’49
“I rarely respond to any requests for updates, but it happened that your email arrived just after a very recent, and rather nostalgic, trip to France. ... [I] was in the first group of Smithies to spend the junior year in France after the war, the 1947–1948 year, when the bread was black, the electricity often en panne and hot water a rare luxury. Nonetheless, our quarters in Reid Hall were comparatively luxurious and like my fellow students I fell in love with the language, Paris and all things French. The language served me well and continues to do so. I worked for a few years in the UN as an assistant in ECOSOC, got my MA at Columbia’s Teachers College and taught French for 30 years at the Dalton School in Manhattan. I still do translations, which come to me through friends, although for the past 15 years I have added to my retirement funds by modeling for print and TV. The trip to Paris was my sixth time there, three of them chaperoning groups from Dalton with a school in Grenoble and then Paris, and somehow I was always too busy to make a pilgrimage back to Reid Hall and the Sorbonne. But this time I was there with my eldest daughter and I wanted to show her both, so back we went and, amazingly, after 65 years, I traced an unerring route from the Sorbonne back to rue de Chevreuse. Reid Hall was the same and yet different. A lot of white paint had brightened the dark wooden stairways and walls, and my little chambre 13 (which I located by looking for its window’s specific angle on the adjacent buildings) contained a few computers and a very nice young woman at work on one of them. “Cette pièce était une fois ma chambre!” I cried. I confess I felt it necessary to point out to her and my daughter the former location of my bed, my desk, my little réchaud électrique and the sink with its discreet curtain screen. By this time the concierge had made known our presence to the Director and Assistant Director at Reid Hall who welcomed us most graciously and with whom we spent a wonderful hour chatting. But it was the building itself that moved me to tears: I stood in the library looking down on the Great Hall, now a conference/study room and I saw again a fire in the huge stone fireplace, lit for the occasion but barely warming the room, where girls in evening dress danced with the young men judged suitable to be invited by Madame Guilloton. The dining room contained a long conference table, but I remembered mornings holding a mug of café au lait against my chest to warm myself under those same chandeliers as I looked out the tall windows on the courtyard. As we left, we passed a sign in the courtyard: “Dans cette cour on parle français.” It could have been Madame herself encouraging in us that earnest desire to master French, to think French, to feel French, yes, be French! To this day, I am grateful for the way that long-ago year enriched my life.”

Pat Ashton ’53
“After retiring from teaching French, I returned to grad school, earned an M.A. in Art History, and have, since then (degree earned in ’97 at Case Western Reserve University) lectured in the Education Dept. of the Cleveland Museum of Art. French is still very integral to my life, both at the Museum, in research and lecturing, and in travels.”

Yolanda Astarita Patterson ’54
“I went from doing an Honors thesis in French on Baudelaire at Smith across the country to Stanford, where I did my Master’s thesis on Simone de Beauvoir and my Ph.D. dissertation on Sartre and Camus and was a Teaching Assistant in French for a number of years. After teaching both French and Spanish at San Jose State University, I joined the Modern Languages and Literatures Department at California State University, Hayward (now East Bay), where I taught French, Spanish, Women’s Studies, and History of Western Civilization for over forty years, and was named Outstanding Professor of the Year in the 1980s. In the summer of 1989, I joined a colleague from the English Department teaching in a CSUH summer quarter abroad program in London. That led to organizing a group of about eight Cal State Hayward colleagues to offer a
1990 summer quarter program in Paris, which was a huge success. I so enjoyed that experience that I asked the colleague who had helped us with housing arrangements and other practical details if he knew of a way that I could continue to teach in Paris in the summer. He quickly said, “Why don’t you just teach for me, Yolanda?” He had been running a one-month summer program in Paris for several years. I immediately took him up on the offer and have been teaching in July in Paris ever since. July 2013 will be my 23rd year in a row with the European Studies Association summer program … A colleague once said to me “Since you are so interested in this Simone de Beauvoir, why don’t you see if you can interview her while you are in Paris this summer?” I decided I had nothing to lose but a letter and a stamp, got an immediate response from her telling me a time to call to set up an appointment when I was in Paris, and had two interviews with her in her apartment on the Rue Schoelcher. I was also a founding member of the Simone de Beauvoir Society, which is an allied association of the Modern Language Association, and have been its President for several decades now. We have approximately 150 members from all over the world, publish an annual journal, Volume 29 of which is currently under preparation, and two newsletters a year, and have an annual conference, with our 21st coming up in June 2013 in Alicante, Spain. … Et voilá!”

Phyllis Nauts ’56

“After graduating from Smith, I translated three books on Africa from French (a long time ago!). Since 1990 we’ve had a house in the Vaucluse, in Vaison-La-Romaine, and now spend 6 weeks there in the spring and in the fall.”

Cynthia Crawford Berne ’57

“I am glad to mention briefly my connections with French and France since my graduation as a French major; I taught French to grades 5–8 from 1957 to 1962 and substituted in that same school’s high school French classes from 1962 to 1966; organized and taught a nursery school French class for children 3–4 from 1963 to 1969; visited my JYA Paris host mother several times from 1959–1970 until she retired to the south of France; had several French speaking exchange students over the years; encouraged my daughters to become proficient in French and to visit my 1952 French exchange family in 1978; encouraged my two grandsons to attain fluency in French while in high school; occasionally attended Alliance Française meetings in Pasadena, CA; organized the JYA reunions for my class at Smith for my 50th and 55th reunions. … I hope you can see that French and France have been important throughout my life!”

Jane Carey ’62

“In 2000 we retired and moved north to Paso Robles, California. … The quality of wines here is excellent rivaling and outstripping a lot of what Napa produces. And guess why? Because French people have come here to establish vineyards and build world-class wines in ways that the regional laws in France don’t permit. We now have wonderful French friends … and I have spoken more French in the last ten years than I did in the 40 before that. It’s rusty but it’s in there and I pull it out clumsily but joyfully. I forget how thirsty I was for the sound and music of the French language until I hear my friends babbling away. Cool water to the parched.”

Elizabeth (Betsy) Robbins Rosenthal ’63

“I … went to France my Junior Year. I still speak and read French easily … Last summer … we visited with French friends whom I met on the boat coming back from my junior year. … I am a recently retired Dermatologist and had many occasions to use my French while in practice in Mamaroneck, NY because of the French American school in Larchmont. I even learned a dermatological vocabulary in French.”
Suzanne Sevray Hoffman ’64
“I have been retired for seven years now. I still live in Paris and am in contact, through
my former job with a children’s book publisher, with French authors and illustrators. I
also have done quite a bit of translating from French into English for the French
landscape gardener, Gilles Clement[.] … I did some voluntary work with a French NGO
active in creating school libraries and books in Khmer in Cambodia. I also attend as
many of the functions organized by the Paris Smith Club … [including] a recent lecture
by Alice Kaplan about the influence of France and French on … Jacqueline Kennedy,
Susan Sontag and Angela Davis, [which] brought back many memories of Reid Hall and
Madame Jeanne Saleil, our and Jackie’s Year Abroad director.”

Jenifer Levenson Harris ’66
“Après avoir quitté l’université, j’ai passé un an en travaillant aux Nations-Unies, où j’ai
continué à employer la langue française. Mais à part ça, dans tous mes autres emplois, je
n’avais pas besoin d’utiliser la langue française. Pendant toute ma carrière je travaillais
avec de grands ordinateurs comme programmeur/analyste. Pourtant, n’importe où
j’habitais, je suis devenue membre de l’Alliance Française et j’ai continué à pratiquer la
langue française et à voyager en France. Aujourd’hui, après avoir pris ma retraite, je suis
membre de deux causeries françaises où nous passons deux heures chaque semaine en
bavardant en français. Pendant ma vie professionnelle et pendant mon mariage, j’ai
déménagé plusieurs fois et le français a été un bon moyen pour moi de trouver de très
bons/bonnes ami/es. L’influence de Mlle Delage et l’année que j’ai passée comme
étudiante en France (Smith Junior Year Abroad, 1963–1964) ne m’ont jamais quittée.”

Ruth Harwood Cline ’68
“I am presently a researcher in the Department of History, Georgetown University. I
have taught courses on the Magna Carta and on Medieval Monasticism through the
Medieval Studies Program. I am completing a manuscript on the Congregation of Tiron:
Foundation and Expansion in France and Britain during the Twelfth Century. I am a
contractor/reviewer of French, Spanish and Portuguese for the Office of Language
Services of the Department of State.”

Karen Camp ’69
“After Smith, I worked on Wall Street for one year as a management trainee at the
Federal Reserve Bank of New York, then went on to Middlebury College where I
received a Master’s in French from Middlebury and the Sorbonne, having spent the
academic year in Paris. … My career has progressed from banking to being a General
Partner in two successful venture capital firms. … My most recent company, VirtuOz,
was started in Paris, and most of our employees and customers were located in France
when I joined the company. I traveled to Paris nearly every month, and it ended up
being a critical skill that I could communicate effectively with the European staff and
read (and revise as needed) all the client contracts in French. … In summary, I have
enjoyed a diverse and fun career that was uniquely enabled by my education at Smith
and the amazing opportunity to study and live overseas. I am eternally grateful to Mlle
Weed, Mlle Demay and others who truly inspired me.”

Patricia Willett Cummins ’70
“I continue to remain active as a Professor of French and International Studies at
Virginia Commonwealth University. Here’s the link to my faculty webpage. I currently
have two grants in French West Africa, and you can visit the West Africa Project VCU
on Facebook.”
Julie Arnold ’72
“In May 2012 my daughter Sarah and I spent 10 days in Paris and reconnected with one of my French ‘brothers’, Luc Monod, and his family. Jan English and I lived ‘chez Monod’ for our junior year (1970–1971) … where we lived on Boulevard Raspail now appears to be offices. It was really special to see Luc and meet his wife and children and introduce my daughter to them.”

Yvonne Boucher ’72
“I was an older student when I attended Smith. I’m retired and working part-time. I visit France every summer and go on vacation with my son, his French wife, and my French grandchildren, who are bilingual. They live outside of Paris, but we vacation in different parts of Southern France.”

Kathy Gieseke Bush ’72
“After Smith, I got my Master’s at Yale before moving to the California desert. I taught a modified version of French in Action to children as a volunteer for 13 years in the local public schools. Two years ago I translated a Jewish war survivor’s autobiography from French to English.”

Barbara Pilvin ’73
“I’ve been a librarian for more than three decades, and at the Free Library of Philadelphia for most of that time. How often do I use my French? Extremely! Philly has a lot of native French speakers—both residents and tourists—from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and North America as well as Europe, and a large public library like mine, with a vast range of collections, services and programs, attracts people from all over the world. … I’ve been a member of the Alliance Française for many years, and participated in the preparation of the Free Library’s exhibit commemorating the “bicentenaire” of the Revolution in 1789. There are so many things you can do with a French major, some of which might surprise you. … I learned more about organizing, researching and writing a paper (or anything else) from my French courses at Smith and in France than from any other single source.”

Heidi Willis Currier ’83
“[2013] is my 30th reunion and it feels like yesterday that I graduated. … I currently serve as a Judge of the Superior Court of New Jersey. … This past fall our family hosted a high-schooler from Colmar, France. … My older son who is a junior at Johns Hopkins was away for the Fall semester … at Paris VII. So cool as I had done this 29 years ago. … He is a French and Business Major and claimed he had to go to Paris as a junior because I had talked about it his entire life! Good to know they actually listen sometimes.”

Tone Moller ’84
“I currently live on two islands because I run and own a hotel in Curaçao and an art Gallery in Aruba. … Where and when do I use my French? Not very often indeed, but my knowledge of French has helped me improve on my Spanish … and [my knowledge] of French paintings has helped me discern between the good and great artists here in the West. Sometimes … we have French guests staying at the hotel, which enables me to practice the language I love.”

Maryam Montague ’88
“I continue to live in an olive grove in Marrakesh, Morocco, where I write the blog My Marrakesh. My book on Moroccan design—Marrakesh by Design—was put out by publishers in the US, UK and Australia. I also have a boutique hotel and a shop. I
continue my career as a specialist in the area of democracy and good governance and recently returned from trips to Kabul and Cairo.”

**Sheila Crane ’90**

She teaches the history and theory of modern architecture and urbanism at the University of Virginia and recently published a book with the University of Minnesota Press entitled *Mediterranean Crossroads: Marseille and Modern Architecture*. She never would have guessed that the day she spent in Marseille with her host family while living outside of Aix-en-Provence for the orientation session of her Junior Year Abroad in Paris would have led to years of research trying to understand what makes Marseille such a fascinating, dynamic, and unique city.

**Jenny Lind Schmitt ’91**

JYA Geneva 1989–1990, she currently lives in rural French-speaking Switzerland and uses her double European History and French Studies majors every day. She teaches her four children at home, tutors English in the community and is revising her first novel.

**Claire Jenkins Porter ’92**

“I graduated … with a double major in Art History and French Language and Literature. I was the recipient of a teaching fellowship and taught at a French middle school (collège) in Bourges, France for a year. I then went on to Tulane University School of Law, got my degree and spent five years practicing law in Virginia. In 2001, I left the practice of law … and got certified to teach French, which I did for several years in Connecticut. I moved to positions in administration, and now serve as director of Secondary Education and Cultural Arts K–12 for Orange County Schools, Chapel Hill, NC.”

**Leah Papernick ’96**

“After ten years in software, I ran away and joined the circus! I’ve been studying Aerial dance for about five years now, and just started teaching. I’ve also been making and selling hula hoops.”

**Deirdre McAnalphy ’99**

“In 2011 at Penn State, I defended my doctoral dissertation on the representation of sexual violence in French naturalist fiction. Since then, I have lectured at Gettysburg College and Penn State, and I am currently on the job market. I’m currently researching the links between the criminal “fait divers” in the French press and novels of the Belle Epoque. I hope to see some Smith faces at future conferences!”

**Marta Schaaf ’99**

A major in French Literature and Modern European History, she is conducting research related to accountability and maternal mortality at the Averting Maternal Death and Disability project at the Columbia University School of Public Health. Prior to that, she lived in Burkina Faso. She managed pediatric HIV treatment programs in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mali and Togo.

**Stephanie Sines ’00**

“I have been living in Guinea Conakry since July 2007 working to develop the local private sector’s capacity so that it can supply the goods and services required by the mining sector allowing some of the economic benefits to return to the local economy. … Since 2008, I have been doing this work for International Finance Corporation, the private sector arm of the World Bank Group. … In short, as I work in French every day, my French Studies degree has proved quite relevant.”
Kelly Buffington-Bermudez ’01
“I currently teach French at South Brunswick High School in New Jersey. I teach levels 2, 4 Honors, 5 Honors, AP and an Independent Study [literature] class. I’m loving it all and have a newfound appreciation for grammar! Next year I’m hoping to teach a DELF prep class in addition to my current course load so that my students have something truly unique to put on their college apps! I am also trying my best to persuade all of my female students to apply to Smith and do JYA!”

Anita Pedersen ’01
“I graduated … with a double major in Psychology and French Studies, and have since gotten my M.S. (2005, The Pennsylvania State University) and Ph.D. (2011, Arizona State University) in Clinical Psychology. I am currently a lecturer at Arizona State University in the Psychology department.”

Mary Kristen Kelly ’04
“As of January 2013, I left my law firm in Raleigh, NC where I was working as a litigation associate and joined the legal department of a French biotech company called bioMerieux, Inc. as Associate Corporate Counsel. I am working in their North American headquarters in Durham, NC. The company’s global headquarters is in Lyon, France. … I am using my French almost every day!”

Jennifer (Jones) Duffourg ’05
“My degree in French Studies is definitely being put to work on a daily basis—after graduating in 2005, I took a job in Paris managing media relations for various blue chip companies. I've enjoyed working so much in this field that I'm still hard at work at it today; I now work for Symantec … and am based in their Paris office where I manage consumer media relations for France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg.”

Kelly McCray ’06
“I have been accepted to … the French MA program at the University of Utah[.] … I am really looking forward to beginning my program and teaching next fall.”

Justina Roberts ’06
“I graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School in 2011 and am currently clerking for Judge Kathleen H. Sanberg in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the district of Minnesota. I really enjoy serving as the Vice President of the Smith College Club of Minnesota and as the Midwest NAAC.”

Corin de Freitas ’07
“At Smith, I double majored in Government and French and did the Geneva JYA program. I am currently working on my PhD in Geography at the University of British Columbia, where I am studying environmental governance in Brazil. I also did a Fulbright in Brazil in 2010. (It’s listed on their site under my maiden name: Amanda Corin Parsons.)”

Natalie Bell-Kearney ’08
She is still loving being co-owner of her yarn shop in downtown Fort Wayne, IN. She is fortunate enough to use her French language skills talking to vintners whenever she goes to a wine event.
Alexandra Dellerson ’08
“I’m currently working at FanVision[,] … We have an office in Boisbriand, Quebec and I’m so happy to share that my French is being used daily with our team there. The class I took on “Business French” really came in handy. Proud to be a daily French speaker in the business world—thanks to all in the department who contributed to my growing fluency in the French language.”

Christine Kakoczky ’10
“Currently, I am living in Montreal, QC making good use of my French language skills … I am thrilled and excited by all the new opportunities.”

Abby McIntyre ’10
A French and Comparative Literature major, she was recently named deputy health care editor at POLITICO in Washington, D.C., where she’s worked since 2010. In her free time, she volunteers at the Alliance Française de Washington, D.C.’s French Library.

Rebecca Weiner ’10
She completed her Master’s in French and Francophone studies at Penn State in May 2013. She will spend 2013–2014 as a teaching assistant in the département d’études anglaises et nord-américaines at the Université de Strasbourg before returning to Penn State to continue her doctoral work the following year.

Elyse Martin ’11
A Comparative Literature and French Studies (JYA Paris) major, she is currently working as a Program Assistant at the Folger Shakespeare Library. She was previously an English-language teaching assistant at three elementary schools in Saint-Quentin, France.

Christianne Beasley ’12
“I am the new head Librarian at the Alliance Française de Washington, D.C. and very excited about the new opportunity!”

Alison Emmerson ’12
She has recently been accepted into the TAPIF program, and will be living in Paris, teaching middle school and high school students.