



Newsletter No. 2, March 2014

Dear Diploma Alumna/us

Greetings from London where, after the wettest winter on record, spring has arrived with blue skies and warmer temperatures.

Keeping Connected

The next Smith-in-Europe weekend will take place October 9–12 this year in Berlin, and a number of Diploma alumni plan to be there, including several members of our Diploma Alumni Committee (at minimum, **Elisabeth Muhlenberg** DIPL '66 – who is coming from Chicago – **Karin Schmid-Gerlich** DIPL '86, **Alexandra Price** DIPL '87, **Wiebke Henning** DIPL '04 and me), so do come and join us. This event takes place in a different European city every two years (the last one was in Amsterdam in June 2012) and is organized by the Smith alumnae living in the host city. It is always a very enjoyable occasion with a mixture of talks, trips, and, of course, good conversation with other Smithies. (Note: Although intended for Smithies in Europe, the event is in fact open to anyone.) Those who live in Europe should receive mailings from the college about the weekend but information can also be obtained on this website: <http://alumnae.smith.edu/smithcms/europe/events/>

And don't forget the Diploma reunion planned for May 2017 at Smith.

For staying connected – or for connecting with others in the same profession – do join our LinkedIn group (Smith College Diploma in American Studies Alumni), which now has 131 members, or look at our Facebook page (Smith College Diploma in American Studies) for news and information.

Alumni News

Tetsuko Yamashita DIPL '81 has embarked on a new phase of her life – completing the “homework” that she felt she was set by a chance meeting during her year at Smith:

In October 1980, when I was studying in the Diploma program at Smith, I met a Korean priest at a small Catholic church in Boston. This one short meeting with a man who had lived through Japan's occupation of the Korean peninsula in the first half of the 20th century was momentous. It made me realize that there were so many events in the past that we Japanese didn't know about and that I had to discover. This was going to be a long process.

Tetsuko Yamashita
DIPL '81



In the summer of 2012 I quit my job and went to Korea to learn the Korean language and to study the history and culture of Korea at Seoul National University. Korea is an economically developed and culturally rich country and attracts many promising young students from abroad. They are my classmates. Learning with these highly motivated young people and being taught by highly trained Korean professors is refreshing my brain and proving very stimulating. Almost every weekend I go for day-long hikes with a wonderful group of Koreans who have been excellent guides to life in their society.

I realize that I made the right decision to tackle the unfinished homework Father Park had unwittingly set for me over thirty years ago. My student life in Seoul meets my needs perfectly, as if someone tailored a Korean Studies program just for me, and at long last I am finding out about Japan's neighbor.

Karin Schmid-Gerlich DIPL '86, who has been working on cultural and educational exchange at the US Embassy in Vienna for many years, wrote about an Austrian mini-reunion in New York in October, when she and her son visited **Christine Moser** DIPL '88, who took office as director of the Austrian Cultural Forum New York (ACFNY), Austria's cultural flagship institution in the United States, this past summer:

Karin Schmid-Gerlich
DIPL '86 and Christine
Moser DIPL '88

We exchanged notes and discussed ways to broker opportunities for possible cooperation in the spheres of culture and education between our respective organizations. Needless to say, we both made sure there was enough time for fun get-togethers for us and our two 14-year-old boys, as well as some serious sightseeing.

Limei Fan DIPL '87 writes from Seattle about the joy of reconnecting with a former classmate:

It's been twenty-five years since my last official connection with Smith College, and a lot's happened since that time – marriage, a Boston housing management career, and then, in 1996, my husband and I packed up our two daughters, rented a truck, and moved to Seattle, where our third child, a boy, was born four years later. At the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, where I've been doing fulfilling work ever since, 2013 was a year of LinkedIn profiles and connections. On a bright August day, I came across a LinkedIn posting – “Smith College Diploma Program” – and, intrigued, clicked on it. Soon after I connected with the group, Julia MacKenzie DIPL '79 asked if I could help find Yuan Cheng, a “missing” alumna from my year.

Yuan Cheng and I shared a suite in Ziskind, the “shoebox dorm,” and it was comforting to connect with another Chinese student; we bonded through the sliding partition separating our rooms. We giggled, played dress-up, and became great friends, but lost contact after graduating. It's taken two and a half decades, but prompted by the Diploma Alumni Group's LinkedIn posting and prodded by Julia's persistence, I finally



found her. Yuan (“Grace”) is now the Country Manager for China with Russell Reynolds Associates (a global executive search and assessment firm). Since Smith, she married her Chinese college sweetheart, received a Master’s from UMass and a PhD from Oxford, and is the proud mother of two boys (young men). She and I have had a few long phone conversations already, rekindling memories and sharing reflections. Years have separated us, but we have years to catch up. I’m elated to have rediscovered an old friend from the Smith days, and excited to see where our friendship will go next.

Enrica Maggiani Bazzocchi DIPL ’91 writes from Italy:

It’s Sunday morning, and I’ve put on my “2002 AMS Diploma Reunion” T-shirt in order to focus on my Smith alumna identity! Such a long time has passed since I last met my friends at Smith. But in August my suitemate (Cutter House), Diana Del Grosso DIPL ’91, visited me here in La Spezia with her family. We enjoyed a couple of sunny days and had so much to talk about.

After my Diploma from Smith, I graduated from the University of Florence. Then I went on with my Florentine studies of Medieval and Modern Art History for three more years. However, the most important event was that in Florence I met Stefano, who became my husband in 1999. After having told him a lot of stories about Smith, I was very proud to show him the college in Northampton during the 2002 Reunion.

I now work as an architect in the field of historic preservation. My most interesting projects concern the “cultural landscape” of the UNESCO site of Porto Venere – Cinque Terre, where I was born and where I live. (If any of you are planning a tour here, feel free to contact me at enrica@offspark.it, especially if you are fond of sailing!)

Since 2003, I’ve belonged to an association called Soroptimist International, which is committed to the empowerment of women (www.soroptimisteurope.org). I’m currently serving as secretary in my local club.

There’s still a note posted in my office: “A Smith education makes your mind a wonderful place where to spend the rest of your life”. It may sound a little bit over the top, but ... well ... I agree! And I promise that I’ll do my best to attend the next Reunion!

Sabien Onvlee DIPL ’94 from Duivendrecht in the Netherlands met **Margaret Freeman** DIPL ’63 at the 2012 reunion. Last fall she visited the US once again, this time with her sister and daughter Lara. As well as time in Boston and New York, they took a trip to western Massachusetts to look at Smith, and went to see Margaret and her husband, Don, at Heath, about an hour north of Northampton, where they run the Myrifiel Institute, dedicated to furthering interdisciplinary research in cognitive sciences and the arts (<http://myrifiel.org/>). Sabien wrote:

All AMS DIPL Smithies should go and write a book or two at the SUPER LOVELY institute that Don and Margaret run. Enchanting place. The three of us loved it. My daughter was in the US for the first time and she really appreciated adding some rural MA flavor to her American experience. Lara won’t go to Smith but was delighted to see what her mother had been up to twenty years ago!

Ana-Karina Schneider DIPL '04, writes from Sibiu, Romania, where she teaches at the Lucian Blaga University.

In 2012, at the Salzburg Global Seminar session on American Studies, I had the great pleasure of meeting Peter and Hedy Rose again. I was also very happy to meet another AMS Diplomat there: Ewa Antoszek DIPL '02 from Poland. Like my own, Ewa's continuing passion for American Studies resulted in an academic career, and she is now a lecturer in the American Studies Department of Maria Curie-Sklodowska University in Lublin.

It was lovely comparing notes from our respective universities and we hope our paths may cross again sometime.

I had first met Peter ten years previously, also at the Salzburg Seminar, and it was then that he told me about the American Studies Diploma program at Smith. This time it was my turn to extend an invitation, so we arranged for Peter and Hedy to come the following spring and give a few lectures at my university in Sibiu, Romania.

They came in April 2013, after another stint at Salzburg. The lectures drew on their vast experience teaching around the world, working with migrants and making their plight known through books and study programs. Both students and staff attended, and we even had the pleasant surprise of finding former students, currently school teachers, among the audience. Hedy's touching story of surviving the Holocaust as a hidden Jewish child in a Dutch family's home in Amsterdam made a particularly emotional impression on the participants. Peter's insights into literary ethnography and matters of representation, enhanced by his extensive travels, gave food for thought to our students of English and American Studies, who took home useful notes and lists of bibliography. In between lectures and meetings with students and staff, we also managed to find a little time to show the guests around Sibiu and the lovely surrounding area.

We all felt how privileged we were to have both Peter and Hedy here and how much our students could profit from their lectures, their generously shared experience and kind advice. For months afterwards we reminisced about their visit with great fondness and promised to think of ways of bringing them back in the not too distant future.

Other alumni have written with personal news. **Marina Almeida McLoughlin** DIPL '03, who now lives in Newry in Northern Ireland, gave birth to Olivia on 6 January this year. Another possible future Smithie is going to have two Diploma alums as parents: **Piebe Teeboom** DIPL '00 and **Wilhelmina (Dee) van Leeuwen Boomkamp** DIPL '07. Dee writes:

We got married in The Hague on October 5 in a civil ceremony (we skipped the church). It was a wonderful day. I still go by my own last name (in case anybody was wondering). We live in the same Amsterdam house as before, so really not that much changed at all. But it's nice to be married anyway. Piebe is still with the financial regulator. His job is still challenging and interesting. I continue to lobby Dutch and European government institutions on behalf of the accountancy profession. Still enjoying it. We will soon see a massive change in our lives as I am expecting a daughter.



Left to right: Hedy Rose, Ana-Karina Schneider DIPL '04, Peter Rose, Ewa Antoszek DIPL '02

Piebe Teeboom DIPL '00 and Dee van Leeuwen Boomkamp DIPL '07



We hope to ship her off to Smith College in eighteen years of course, so we are playing a lot of Mozart.

Sichu Mali DIPL '12, our only alumna originating from Nepal, writes from Washington, DC:

Right after arriving in the US from Nepal, I started college in Ohio. Later, I transferred to Mount Holyoke College where I received my Bachelor's degree. While at Mount Holyoke, I immensely enjoyed taking classes at Smith through the Five College program. One day, while browsing Smith's website for resume and cover letter tips, I came across the Diploma in American Studies site by pure chance. I applied to the program as I really wanted to re-experience Smith and needed a year to apply to graduate schools and determine my funding options. Going to a top graduate school was integral to my career interests in energy diplomacy and international development.

I am currently a Master's in International Relations candidate at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs of Syracuse University. In my first year of graduate school, I had the wonderful opportunity of working with Professor Catherine Bertini who has served as the Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Programme and is a member of the US Department of State Benghazi Accountability Review Board. This past summer, I was able to travel to Italy through an internship.

I am now spending my second year in Washington, DC, and was recently selected to be an American Association of University Women (AAUW) Fellow. I am also working hard towards my personal priority of eating healthily and staying fit. I have been reading about all the great things the Diploma in American Studies alumni have achieved and it makes me incredibly proud to be an alumna of this program. I plan to travel more in the future and welcome the opportunity to connect with you all.

Last year the Junior Year Abroad Paris program was invited to participate in the yearlong campaign of the French Ministry of Women's Rights, "Every Day is March 8" (*Le 8 mars c'est toute l'année*), established to celebrate March 8 – and every day for a year – as International Women's Day. Thursday, December 5, was the day featuring Smith College's JYA Paris contribution, a series of video segments in which people from all walks of life discuss their interpretation of the term "feminist," and reflect on their involvement with feminism. **Pauline Pelsy-Johann** DIPL '12, who is a filmmaker, writes of her role in the project:

Upon my return to France, Robert Dorit, Director of the JYA Program in Paris, approached me with the idea of creating this site (<http://whatsupwithfeminism.org/home> / <http://quoilefeminisme.org/accueil>). I realized that as I was filming the interviews, I myself was searching for my own response to the word "feminism." The term and its implications seemed complex, and at times contradictory. As I recorded the reflections of over 100 interviewees, I discovered a vast array of interpretations that have served to deepen and nuance my own reflections on the topic.

I think that our project lifts the veil on a topic that has once again become taboo. The word "feminism" today has been devalued, and has



Sichu Mali DIPL '12

come to be seen as old-fashioned or irrelevant. It is hard to raise the issue of feminism without having to justify oneself. It is time once again to take back the debate, and to offer each of us a space in which to express our own definitions of and interactions with the word “feminism.”

If you wish to participate in the on-going debate, please contribute to the site by submitting your own video commentary. Write to pauline@quoilefeminisme.org for details.

Joséphine Landais DIPL '13 wrote about a mini-reunion in Paris last fall of four members of the 2013 AMS Diploma group. She sent the following news:

I am currently finishing my Master's degree to become an English teacher in France. Plus I take acting lessons because I miss Smith acting classes so much. Indeed, I miss Smith a lot, and by that, I mean A LOT. Rosalin Happe is applying to PhD programs in the US (in the meantime, she goes back and forth from Hamburg to Northampton), Mallika Humpert is back in Geneva, now proudly settled in her own apartment. She is on her way to becoming a PE teacher, working to complete her Master's degree as well. Also, she volunteers and gives dance lessons to overweight children. Louise Fudym is studying for a diploma in translation for film and opera. She may not be in the Glee Club anymore, but she still sings opera in a chorus. She may go to Montreal for an internship this semester and plans to use it as an excuse to go by Northampton.



Left to right: Rosalin Happe, Joséphine Landais, Mallika Humpert and Louise Fudym, all DIPL '13, at the Louvre, Paris

Finally, in California in February Peter Rose met with **Ana Sierra** DIPL '71 who teaches Spanish at Stanford University. As a result of this, it was discovered that Ana has known **Renate Albrecht** DIPL '77, who also lives in the Bay area, where she teaches German, for a number of years without either of them realizing the other one was also a Diploma alumna.

Diploma Alumni Gatherings

Hamburg in Germany has the highest concentration of Diploma alumni in the world – over forty of them live in or near the city. Last September eleven of them gathered for lunch, together with six other Smith alumnae. I was on a visit to the city and joined the group. The Diploma alums ranged from a 1978 graduate to two from the Class of 2010. They were (left to right in the photo): Tatjana Dems DIPL '98, Wiebke Henning DIPL '04, Ayla Mayer DIPL '03, Yasemin Ergin DIPL '03, Christiane Thurner DIPL '92, Kerstin Koch Bahner DIPL '06, Ingeborg Adler DIPL '86, Malin Stegmaier DIPL '10, Antje Künnemann DIPL '93, Brigitte Koenig Hoening DIPL '78, Julia MacKenzie DIPL '79, Marisa Schonfeldt DIPL '10.



Diploma lunch, Hamburg, September 2013

Following the success of the Hamburg event, another gathering of Diploma alumni, this time a brunch for those living in or near Paris, took place at the home of **Stefan Flückiger** DIPL '86 on March 15. Twelve Diploma alumni attended (Caterina Bertelli DIPL '87 and I travelled over from the UK). The alumni ranged from Dominique Marçais, who graduated in the second group of Diploma students in 1964, to two members of the 2013 cohort. They were (in the photo, front row, left to right): Catharina Wulf DIPL '87, Marina Caruso Bergmeijer DIPL '84, Julia MacKenzie DIPL '79, Dominique Marçais DIPL '64, André Kaenel DIPL '84, Sarah Padioleau DIPL '09; (Back row): Caterina Bertelli DIPL '87, Stefan Flückiger DIPL '86, Amel Toumi DIPL '06, Friederike Runge-Touillon DIPL '90, Louise Fudym DIPL '13, Joséphine Landais DIPL '13. The group was joined by two Smith Junior Year Abroad students, two members of the Smith Club of France board, and Paula Faith Kaenel '84 who is married to André Kaenel DIPL '84. Stefan is in the last months of his posting as the Swiss Ambassador to the OECD and his residence provided an extremely elegant setting for the brunch. We thank Stefan wholeheartedly for volunteering to host this very enjoyable event.



Diploma brunch, Paris, March 2014

News from Northampton

A Diploma gathering also took place in western Massachusetts last November. **Margaret Freeman** DIPL '63 who lives in Heath (see the contribution of Sabien Onvlee DIPL '94 above) and her husband, Don, hosted a brunch at Myrifiel for this year's group of Diploma students (except Kerstin Müller), who were driven up by the current director of the Diploma program, Lane Hall-Witt. Peter Rose and three of the Diploma alumni who live in the area also attended the event on a rather misty day.

Lane writes:

Our time with Margaret and Don was simply delightful. Peter regaled us with stories; Margaret and Don were clearly in their element as hosts; Sigrít Schütz DIPL '69, Mohsen Jalali DIPL '10, and Domenico Mazza DIPL '13 were in fine form; and the current students seemed to enjoy every aspect of it, from the beautiful surroundings to the delicious meal and the stimulating company. It was so kind of Margaret and Don to make the effort to arrange and host the gathering! Margaret has kindly offered to host next year's group in a similar way – it would be a nice tradition to have a mini-reunion at Myrifiel during the fall colors each year.

This year's students are as follows (with university they came from): Marijn Freud (University of Amsterdam), Gaia Cozzi (University of Florence), Megan Venter (University of Manchester), Aïcha Kaddour (University of

Paris 7 – Diderot), Margaux Kapfer (University of Paris 4 – Sorbonne), Rajbir Perewal (University of Geneva), Kerstin Müller (University of Hamburg), Naima Limdighri (University of Hamburg), Álvaro Suárez Ortiz (University of Córdoba)

Also last fall, Peter Rose gave a reading in the Browsing Room at Neilson Library from his memoir *Postmonitions of a Peripatetic Professor* (Levellers Press), which describes his academic life and some of his extracurricular excursions.

Saverio Giovacchini DIPL '85, Associate Professor of History, University of Maryland, wrote that it is “a riveting and original autobiography that reads like an intellectual and political *Bildungsroman* ... Peter teaches us how powerful learning becomes when one has mastered the skill to pass it along in splendidly written prose.”

In October Kathleen McCartney was formally installed as the 11th president of Smith College. Before coming to Smith last summer, she was Dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Education and is an internationally recognized authority on child development and early education. She is visiting cities across America and around the world as part of her first-year listening tour. At each event, she will share her impressions of Smith, bring news from the campus and provide an update on the college’s Women for the World campaign. Attendees have a chance to meet President McCartney and share their own Smith stories. “Together,” McCartney says, “we will develop a collective set of priorities for the Smith of tomorrow.”

Kathy McCartney came to London in November as part of this tour and **Anne-Catherine Berrut-Maréchaud** DIPL '11 (who is in her second year studying the violin at the Royal College of Music), her classmate **Andrea Clausen** (who is working for Google in Dublin), and I attended the event and found her very impressive and personable. I urge you to attend one of these gatherings if possible (and do take the opportunity to speak with her in person). The upcoming dates are: Chicago, April 7; Minneapolis, April 8; Washington, DC, April 24; Tanglewood, August 17. The date of a Paris visit has yet to be announced (probably June).

Fundraising Campaign

Many of you contributed generously to our fundraising campaign last year in which we raised over \$10,000 for the Peter & Hedy Rose Diploma in American Studies Scholarship Fund – which helps to fund Diploma students. That tremendous effort tripled the number of Diploma alumni who donated to Smith. Our contributions are counted as part of Smith’s Women for the World capital campaign, which has a goal of \$450 million.



Diploma brunch, Myrifield, November 2013. *Left to right:* Peter Rose, Sigrit Schütz DIPL '69, Domenico Mazza DIPL '13, Aïcha Kaddour, Margaret Freeman DIPL '63, Marijn Freud, Lane Hall-Witt (Director), Megan Venter, Gaia Cozzi, Rajbir Perewal, Margaux Kapfer, Naima Limdighri, Álvaro Suárez Ortiz, and Mohsen Jalali DIPL '10



Anne-Catherine Berrut-Maréchaud DIPL '11 and Kathleen McCartney, President of Smith College, London, November 2013

This campaign is ongoing so our fundraising committee will be writing to you again (and supplying details of how to give) to ask if you will kindly contribute to the Rose Fund before the end of Smith's financial year on June 30.

Kathy McCartney made it very clear at the London meeting that the college is as keen to increase the number of alums who give to Smith as the actual amount donated. This is because the percentage of alumnae(i) who give is one of the factors in determining college rankings in the US. So, if we want Smith to better its position in the rankings (which helps to attract the best students), we can assist by making a contribution to the Rose Fund. Therefore, please do consider giving, however large or small the amount. Every gift helps, and every gift counts.

Lost and Found Diploma Alumni

Over the last year or so, the following Diploma alumni have been found:

Ariko Murakata DIPL '65
Kyoko Takahashi Uchida DIPL '65
Ana Sierra DIPL '71
Birgitta Knapp DIPL '76
Randi Mikelsen DIPL '77
Edward Chen DIPL '78
Isabelle Mealhie Ben Chaabane DIPL '83
Shen Xiaofang DIPL '83
Lone Gerlach DIPL '84
Susanne Heitmann DIPL '84
Su Hongjun DIPL '84
Yuan Cheng DIPL '87
Limei Fan DIPL '87
Ariko Okamoto Tamenaga DIPL '87
Caroline Guillarm Lefèvre DIPL '88
Usha Vedan Gurumurthy DIPL '88
Noriko Makoshi Adams DIPL '90
Zhiyuan Zhan DIPL '90
Aurelia Geisse Puschart DIPL '91
Karen Gammel Wlach DIPL '93

They have been found in different ways – some by classmates (see Limei Fan's contribution above), some by social media. **Ariko Murakata** DIPL '65 wrote to me out of the blue: "my browsing eyes happened to catch the signs/phrases: Diploma, AMS, Smith College, which I had never expected to see." Nonetheless, there are still about 60 (out of a total of about 470) Diploma alumni who are designated as "lost" by the Alumnae Association, or from whom nothing has been heard, despite our efforts. In the last letter I included a list of Italian and Polish alums who are lost, this time I include the Japanese alums in case anyone has any information about their whereabouts (I give the city of their last known address and university they attended before Smith). Please let me know if you can help us locate any of these alumni, or, if you are in touch with them, ask them to contact me.

Lost Japanese alumni:

Tetsuko Abe DIPL '67, Fujisawa (Kyusha University)
Keiko Yamaguchi Yajima DIPL '71, Tokyo (Toyo Eiwa Junior College)
Keiko Watanabe DIPL '72, Nagoya (Nanzan University)
Junko Sono Mitamura DIPL '73, Tokyo (Tsuda College)
Kaeko Mochizuki DIPL '76, Yamanashi-ken (Tsuda College)
Keiko Nakamura Sugiyama DIPL '77, Kawasaki (Tsuda College)
Junko Yamaguchi Tsurusawa DIPL '82, Osaka (Doshisha University)
Etsuko Kakuta DIPL '87, Tokyo (Tsuda College)
Rimi Kim DIPL '87, Tokyo (Waseda University)
Hiroko Shiba DIPL '89, Tokyo (University of the Sacred Heart)
Chizu Shimotomai Nagai DIPL '89, Yokohama (Gakushuin University)
Yoko Nagatomo DIPL '90, Tokyo (Sophia University)
Tetsuya Inoue DIPL '93, Kobe (Doshisha University)
Yoshitomo Katagiri DIPL '95 (Waseda University)

Do remember to keep alumnaerecords@smith.edu informed of changes to your email and postal address. We do not want to “lose” you!

And please send me your professional and personal news, stories of encounters with fellow Diploma graduates/Smithies (and photos – high resolution, please!), and so forth, so that I can include them in the next newsletter.

On behalf of the Diploma Alumni Group Committee,

Best wishes

Julia MacKenzie DIPL '79

President, Diploma Alumni Group

email: jcgmackenzie@yahoo.co.uk