

SMITH COLLEGE
DIPLOMA IN AMERICAN STUDIES
ALUMNI

Newsletter No. 3, May 2015

Dear Diploma Alumna/us

Greetings from London. It is hard to believe that over a year has gone by since I sent out the last Newsletter. In that time, we welcomed eight 2014 Diploma graduates to the group and another twelve will join our ranks this month. Many of you have contributed news to this edition, for which thank you. You mention meeting with Diploma classmates and making new connections with other Diploma alumni, as well as telling us about your work and personal milestones. In what seems to be an increasingly troubled world, I would particularly like to draw attention to the contribution from **Christina Hantel-Fraser** Am.S.Dipl '64 concerning the teaching she has done in the Ukraine, the piece by **Josefine Ulbrich** Am.S.Dipl '10 on her year promoting volunteerism among young people in Kazakhstan, and the work of **Saara Bouhouche** Am.S.Dipl '11 in Sahrawi refugee camps in southern Algeria.

Alumni Gatherings and Keeping Connected

Last October sixteen Diploma alumnae (20 percent of the participants) attended the Smith-in-Europe gathering in Berlin. This meeting of Smithies who live in Europe (in fact open to any Smithie) takes place in a different European city every two years (the next one will be in Edinburgh in the fall of 2016) and is organized by the alumnae living in the host city. In Berlin, **Aurelia Geisse Puschert** Am.S.Dipl '91 and **Marijke Engel** Am.S.Dipl '94 were on the organizing committee. The photo shows those present (except Aurelia). *Standing, L to R:* Karin Schmid-Gerlich Am.S.Dipl '86, Marijke Engel Am.S.Dipl '94, Kerstin-Elisabeth Müller Am.S.Dipl '14, Julia MacKenzie Am.S.Dipl '79, Sabien Onvlee Am.S.Dipl '94, Marijn Freud Am.S.Dipl '14, Gaia Cozzi Am.S.Dipl '14, Alexandra Price Am.S.Dipl '87, Elisabeth Muhlenberg Am.S.Dipl '66, Naima Limdighri Am.S.Dipl '14, Sylvie Castagné Haas Am.S.Dipl '82, Caroline Demierre Burri Am.S.Dipl '92 (obscured), Helga Bechmann Am.S.Dipl '92, Wiebke Henning Am.S.Dipl '04; *at the front, L to R:* Caroline Straathof Am.S.Dipl '85 and Dee van Leeuwen Boomkamp Am.S.Dipl '07. It was particularly

Diploma alumnae at the Smith-in-Europe gathering, Berlin, October 2014



good to see four of the 2014 graduates there and to welcome them to the Diploma Alumni Group.

In the course of the weekend, a group of the Diploma alumnae had the opportunity to have a private meeting with Kathy McCartney (President of Smith), Betty Eveillard '69 (Chair of the Board of Trustees) and Jennifer Chrisler '92 (VP for Alumnae Relations) in order to discuss the Diploma program. We talked about the Diploma alumni's commitment and interest in the program and its future, and our willingness to help in recruitment to the program where we can. We also offered to help with initiatives for the undergraduates, such as the Translation Concentration, where appropriate. We very much appreciated the fact that these leaders from the college made time to talk with us about the Diploma program.

Gaia Cozzi Am.S.Dipl '14 very kindly organized a gathering of eighteen Smith alumnae and JYAs at her food shop in Florence in March. There were four Diploma alums at the event. This was an opportunity for the Smithies to get to know each other before the reception on April 19 when President McCartney visited the city. On that occasion, eight Diploma alumni were present, pictured right (except for Deborah Bergamini Am.S.Dipl '93).



Please do not forget our FB page and our LinkedIn group (Smith College Diploma in American Studies), which provide ways to stay in touch with the Diploma group. In order to be sure that you do not lose contact, please tell alumnaerecords@smith.edu of any changes to your postal or e-mail address. The old Smith alumnae online directory has recently been replaced by a richer, easier-to-use online system and you should have received an e-mail from the college in April giving you details of how to access your account. If not, please contact the Office of Alumnae Relations. I have created a Diploma group on this new Smith Online Community as another way for us to keep in touch with each other.

Please note that the official designation of Diploma alums is now Am.S.Dipl. You will see this being used in college publications, such as the *Alumnae Quarterly*.

Reunion 2017

It does not seem long since the Diploma reunion that was held at Smith in 2012 but we are already beginning to think about the next one, which will take place on campus May 25–28, 2017. Please build this into your future travel plans as we would like to see as many of you there as possible. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet not only your classmates but also all generations of Diploma alumni. (And for those who graduated in 1972, 1982, 1992, 2002 or 2012, your Smith classmates will be on campus as well.)

Diploma alumni at the reception for President McCartney, Florence, April 2015. *L to R:* Katarina Dusikova Am.S.Dipl '10, Alexia Mascherini Am.S.Dipl '89, Gaia Cozzi Am.S.Dipl '14, Enrica Maggiani Bazzocchi Am.S.Dipl '91, Giulia Scarpa Am.S.Dipl '81, Maria Rosa Pipparelli Giordani Am.S.Dipl '63 and Andrea Baldi Am.S.Dipl '99

Our Reunion Co-chairs are **Margaret Freeman** Am.S.Dipl '63 and **Alexandra Price** Am.S.Dipl '87 and they would be delighted to know of alumni who would be willing to join them on the Reunion Committee to help with the organization of the event. Please let me know if you would like to become involved and are willing to take on a small task (such as Parade Chair, or Meals Chair) and I'll pass your name to Margaret and Alexandra. We would also be pleased to hear from anyone who would be interested in being a country/regional representative to liaise with other Diploma graduates in that area about the reunion. We really count on volunteers to make the reunion happen. And being involved with the planning is actually a lot of fun!



Alexandra Price
Am.S.Dipl '87 and
Margaret Freeman
Am.S.Dipl '63,
Reunion Co-chairs
for the 2017 Diploma
reunion

News from Northampton

There were twelve students in the program this year. Pictured below, (with university they came from), *front row (L to R)*: Lise Koning (Amsterdam); Serra Aydin (Paris 7 – Diderot); Vincent Guénon (Sciences Po); Stella Frei (Hamburg); Gloria Alberti (Florence); *back row (L to R)*: Paloma Lukumbi (Geneva); Loren da Costa (Paris 4 – Sorbonne); Katharina Frisch (Hamburg); María Ruiz Plata (Córdoba, Spain). Not pictured: Caroline Jauch (Geneva), Tatiana Maksimova (St Petersburg) and Natascha Schiel (Heidelberg).



Nine of the 2015 group
of Diploma students

In October 2014, **Margaret Freeman** Am.S.Dipl '63, resident near Heath, MA, and co-director of the Myrfield Institute for Cognition and the Arts (MICA), kindly co-hosted a lunch for the current Diploma students with the Franklin County Smith Club (FCSC). This was the second year running Margaret has hosted a welcome lunch for the Diploma students, for which we thank her very much. FCSC Smith alumnae attended as well as past and present directors of the Diploma program and some Diploma alums. It was the first joint trip for the students after their arrival, and they took in Shelburne Falls and the famed Bridge of Flowers on their way.

Diploma Decennial Review

Every ten years or so the College undertakes an academic review of the Diploma program. This decennial review is now in process. The Diploma Alumni Committee is keeping in touch with Lane Hall-Witt, the current director of the Diploma program, to ensure that the views of the Diploma alumni are represented in any proposals that might arise to change the content or nature of the program.

Campus Regeneration

On campus the process of regeneration and renewal of the buildings continues. A two-year renovation of Cutter and Ziskind, home to many Diploma students over the years, has been completed, with energy-efficient features, such as a roof planted with sedum. Dawes House, where several Diploma students lived in the 1960s when it was a graduate student residence (known as 8 Bedford Terrace), and where the French-speaking Diploma students often lived since 1977 after it became the French House, closed its doors as a dorm in June 2014. The announcement of this on our FB page elicited comments such as “heartbreaking,” “very sad,” “loved every moment at Dawes House.” Nos 12 and 26 Bedford Terrace, where Diploma students have also lived, closed as well. These closures are part of Smith’s \$20 million budget reduction plan, brought on by the global economic downturn and adopted in 2009, which called for the reduction of the college’s use of space by 5 percent.



The refurbished Ziskind showing the sedum roof above the dining hall and the redesigned courtyard

At the end of Paradise Road, the Mason Infirmary and several old houses have been demolished (including no. 66, Professor Peter Rose’s former home, where many of us attended Diploma seminars) to make room for the construction of more student accommodation in apartment-style buildings. For the students’ medical needs, the Nancy and Henry Schacht Wellness and Health Center has been built on Belmont Avenue near Green Street. Looking to the future, Smith is entering the planning phases of a crucial renovation of Neilson, to consider how the college library can best serve the changing needs and expectations of the next generation of students and scholars. The substantial renovation and reimagining of Neilson will be the college’s largest capital project in the next decade.



Dawes House, 8 Bedford Terrace, which closed as a dorm in 2014

Alumni News

Christina Hantel-Fraser Am.S.Dipl ’64 (Victoria, BC, Canada):

Ukraine has been part of my personal and professional life for the past fifteen years. In June 1999, as I was graduating from Harvard with a Master’s degree in Theology and heading to Kiev to join my husband during his appointment as Ambassador of Canada to the Ukraine, the Dean of the Divinity School handed me a small file about a distinguished Ukrainian-American Harvard Ph.D and young priest. I should connect with him, he said. Borys Gudziak was doing wonderful things for the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church at the Theological Academy in the city of Lviv in Western Ukraine.

Borys quickly took on the role of tutor to help me overcome my ignorance about the history of his Church. Stalin and his successors had imposed unimaginable horrors on bishops, priests and laity, including torture, murder and exile to Siberia. In 1946, aiming at its extinction, the Church had been outlawed. When in 1989, following the collapse of Communism, the Church was declared legal once again, five million faithful and hundreds of ordained priests emerged from the underground. They were not only enthusiastically alive, but proved to be untainted by the moral corruption of members of other Ukrainian churches who had been forced for decades to accommodate themselves to Communist morality. Borys introduced me to some of the survivors and their families of his Church. They struck me as the noblest persons I had ever met.

At that stage, the Church needed to be rebuilt. Borys was about to become Rector of the Lviv Theological Academy (LTA), created in 1994 to educate a new generation of clergy and laity. He immediately accepted my offer to assist him and his budding team. My inability to speak Ukrainian turned out to be no problem. LTA was bilingual, and everyone spoke more or less good English. I would teach the kind of courses I had given in my pre-Harvard days to German and Hungarian clergy, and to university students, public servants and business leaders in post-Communist Hungary. My recent studies in theology would be a valuable addition to my earlier graduate degrees.

In January 2000, as newly appointed guest professor for organizational psychology and conflict management at LTA, I established the necessary fresh routine. Living with my husband in Kiev, where I was playing the role of Ambassador's wife much of the time, I would take the overnight train to Lviv, some 500 km to the west, and spend one week each month at the Academy, coaching young faculty and staff, teaching students and seminarians, and introducing well-established clergy to the complexities of organizational psychology in faith-based environments. My audiences' enthusiasm for the academic material, from which they had been cut off in their underground existence during Soviet rule, was infectious.

Among the wide range of participants in my crowded seminars and individual tutoring programs was a brilliant senior cleric and monk of the Studite order, born in Ukraine, and educated at schools and universities in Austria, the US and Italy. Bishop Lubomyr Husar quickly became one of my best students. Working with a wise old survivor of the darkest decades of the underground Church seemed to me like an undeserved privilege. In January 2001, the Synod of Bishops elected him Patriarch of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. The Pope immediately elevated him to the status of Cardinal. Not only I felt thrilled. Everyone around me expressed utter delight at this choice. On the day of his enthronement, he asked me whether I would be willing to continue my work with him. I felt slightly stunned. No bishop or Cardinal had ever issued such an invitation to me. Of course, I accepted, and soon marveled at the cheerful ease with which I was received by the all-male group around the Head of the Church, ascribing their natural acceptance of a woman in their midst to a century-old orthodox tradition of married priests with large families. Cardinal Husar appointed me "consultant for organizational development" to the Patriarch and to the Synod of Bishops. At that moment I had no idea that I would hold this position for the entire ten years of his Patriarchate.

This appointment coincided with my husband's retirement from the foreign service of Canada, and our move in 2002 from Kiev to Victoria on Vancouver Island, where I taught my "Introduction to Systematic Conflict Management and ADR-based Intervention Methods" course at the University of Victoria in the Master of Arts in Dispute Resolution program as well as to law students. I began a ten-year commute between Western Canada and Ukraine, spending several months each year working with Cardinal Husar and his bishops on organizational issues in the Church, teaching students, seminarians, staff and faculty at the newly created Catholic University of Ukraine (UCU), the former Lviv Theological Academy, and coaching priests and bishops individually and in groups. It was an exhilarating and exhausting time. Everywhere I went in Ukraine I experienced the heartbreaking post-Communist suffering of its people. Eventually, in 2010, I was able to retire from UVic. In 2011 Cardinal Husar resigned due to blindness, and the Synod elected a new Patriarch.

My close association with UCU remains a privilege and a joy. Now, I travel to Ukraine once a year. I spend September in Lviv, pressing into one month the work of one semester for the same categories of students, seminarians, faculty, staff, priests and bishops. Beyond Ukraine, in Western Europe and Canada, I work throughout the year on special assignments in Ukrainian Greek Catholic communities.

UCU carries its own share of the recent tragedy imposed on the country. In 2014, we mourned the death of one of our young UCU lecturers who was shot by government forces in Kiev on the Maidan. And even though the war zone is more than 1000 km to the east of Lviv in Western Ukraine, the bullets also reach Western Ukrainian recruits. The 21-year-old nephew of one of my UCU colleagues was buried in Lviv during my visit last year.

After fifteen years of close cooperation with my Ukrainian students, fellow faculty and a large number of clerics, I remain full of admiration for their integrity in the face of a particularly Ukrainian brand of adversity, a toxic mixture of corruption inside their country and violent aggression from outside. What constitutes moral integrity in their cases? I see it as their ardent desire to be educated and carefully trained to be able "to serve with professional excellence," as the UCU mission statement suggests, their fellow Ukrainians for whom they feel a strong sense of personal responsibility. Who in the Church and at UCU fits into that category? I am thinking of the young women with whom I have worked who have dedicated their lives to mothering the multitude of abandoned children; of young seminarians and clergy who tend to the emotional damage done to post-Communist victims in overcrowded, inhuman prisons; of priests who devote themselves to the support of soldiers in post-combat situations; of young UCU professors of psychology who have set up a walk-in clinic to look after the crowd of individuals and families damaged by a morally corrupt social system; and the countless members of UCU and the Church, students, seminarians, priests and bishops, who served the community during the Orange Revolution in 2004, and in 2014 on the Maidan. I am also thinking of the most distinguished Ukrainian, Myroslav Marynovych, who spent ten years in Siberia for his commitment to Human Rights. He is one of the Vice Rectors of UCU and continues his fight.

The overriding purpose of all these activities has been summed up by Bishop Borys: “The Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church and the Catholic University of Ukraine are to play an active role in the moral renewal of Ukraine.” After having spent fifteen years in the complex role of participant-observer on the Ukrainian scene I know that the battle for a moral renewal of Ukraine is being fought valiantly – against brutal odds – by a noble people.

Elisabeth Muhlenberg Am.S.Dipl '66 (Chicago):

*“Diplomats” are truly in a category of their own! When **Ania Gardziel** Am.S.Dipl '77 and I, together with our husbands, met in May last year in Krakow, Poland, we found each other instantly simpatico. Although Ania and I had never met before and had attended Smith more than ten years apart, we were immediately comfortable with each other and the conversation flowed so naturally and easily – as if we had known each other forever. Ania’s story of how she came to Smith is astonishing to hear. I was thrilled to learn that Smith administrators outfoxed Poland’s Communist government to ensure Ania’s attendance. I so hope to see her at a reunion soon and have tried to convince her to come to one by telling her about my marvellous experience at the Smith-in-Europe reunion in Berlin last October. In all my seventy years and after several degrees I had never, never attended a college reunion until then. The Berlin reunion got me hooked! I soaked up the laughter, the happiness, personal warmth and friendly curiosity of the over ninety Smithies from everywhere in Europe, including Iceland. Attendees represented graduation years ranging from the late 1940s to 2014. Simply remarkable! A particular highlight for me was being part of the group of Diploma alumnae who met with President McCartney to discuss the Diploma program [see Alumni Gatherings above]. She is a terrific listener and thoughtful speaker. She is and will be a tremendous asset to Smith. Finally, remember that we “Diplomats” have a reunion at Smith coming up in 2017 and I hope to meet many, many more of you there. It will be a blast!*



Ania Gardziel
Am.S.Dipl '77 and
Elisabeth Muhlenberg
Am.S.Dipl '66, Krakow,
Poland, May 2014

Miskaman Rujavichai Am.S.Dipl '70 (Udon Thani, Thailand):

After Smith I returned to Thailand because my mother was sick and I worked at the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) until 1982 when I resigned to practice Buddhist meditation full time. The inspiration started in fact while I was at Smith when as a Fulbright grantee I participated in seminars and visited several different churches in Massachusetts. One question I could not answer was about Buddhist meditation. Also, one of my American friends told me she liked the Thai people but not Buddhism for it’s the religion full of stress and sorrow! This made me curious about the true nature of Buddhism but I could not find anyone to explain it to me



Miskaman Rujavichai
Am.S.Dipl '70

as I was the only Thai and Theravadin Buddhist student at the college at that time. I was most impressed by and deeply appreciated the Helen Hills Chapel where the students and faculties of any religion could take turns to do their religious event, but sorry for myself as the only Buddhist!

At work with TATI had the chance to travel both around the country and abroad and met several Buddhist scholars and monks of the Aranyavasi/forest tradition who put the Buddha's teaching into practice. Buddhism comes in three parts: Pariyatti/theoretical, Patipatti/practice and Pativedha/attainment. So now I'm still a student, practicing the religion. Finally, I met Luangta Maha Bua of Wat Pa Ban Tat in Udon Thani, and settled here. The life in the forest monastery is like in the time of the Buddha over 2000 years ago, very simple with no electricity or tap water. (I went to town to send emails, until I helped an Australian layman with translation and he gave me an iPad!) I am an Upasikaa on eight precepts and an Anagarika (meaning homeless). Wat Pa Ban Tat is partly international and there are meditators from Europe, the Americas and Australia, as well as from Asia, coming to practice, and now there is a German monk teacher to help.

Magdalena Albero-Andrés Am.S.Dipl '78 (Barcelona):

My first novel has been published! It is a historical novel which I entered in an International Contest for Historical Novels (written in Spanish) – and I won the prize! *Los Caminos del Mar* was published in September 2014 by Rocaeditorial in Barcelona. I've always written essays and had some short stories published before but this is my first novel. I'm working on my second one, which is also historical. My children have left home and my husband and I are both thinking about retirement, which would give me more time to dedicate to writing fiction.



Magdalena Albero-Andrés Am.S.Dipl '78



Julia MacKenzie Am.S.Dipl '79 (London):

When I was in Massachusetts last May, **Margaret Freeman** Am.S.Dipl '63 kindly hosted a lunch at Myrifiel for two other Diploma alumnae who live in the area and me (photo right). In August, **Eva Amann-Brockhaus** Am.S.Dipl '69 visited me on her way to a conference in Oxford. We had a good time exploring Highgate Cemetery (where Karl Marx and other famous people are buried) and other unusual sights in London. Eva's knowledge of English culture is quite astounding. In February I met **Filippo Cervelli** Am.S.Dipl '12 for the first time on a visit to Oxford (see his entry below). I enjoyed meeting **Andrea Clausen** Am.S.Dipl '11 again (we have met twice at Smith events in London) when I was in Dublin in early March, and later that month I had dinner with my classmate **Monica Giovannini** Am.S.Dipl '79, Resident Director, Richmond – the American International University, Florence Program, when she was visiting London for work.



L to R: Julia MacKenzie Am.S.Dipl '79, Reyes Lazaro Am.S.Dipl '80, Sigrid Schutz Am.S.Dipl '69 and Margaret Freeman Am.S.Dipl '63, Myrifiel, MA, May 2014

Sylvie Castagné Haas Am.S.Dipl '82 (Feldmeilen, Switzerland):

*A group of Smith alums started meeting in Zurich in the fall of 2012. Our first get-together was a fondue evening in Piz Europa, a chalet built for a few weeks in a business area – a little bit of the alpine world in the middle of the city. Six Smithies made it. There followed art outings, a brunch in Berne, and a picnic near Neuchâtel with Smithies from German- and French-speaking Switzerland, including two other Diploma alumnae: **Caroline Demierre Burri** Am.S.Dipl '92 and **Gabi Haefliger** Am.S.Dipl '99.*

Then the chalet in Zurich was back. Bigger than before, because it had become a trendy place. Their “high-society” fondue with champagne and truffles might be a reason why. We enjoyed it a second time last December – as well as the company.

*Recently another Diploma graduate, **Anne-Catherine Berrut-Maréchaud** Am.S.Dipl '11, from the French-speaking part of Switzerland, visited Zurich, a place to which she would like to move. She is back from London where she spent two years studying the violin at the Royal College of Music. We are happy to welcome her to our group (and any other Diploma alums in Switzerland). We are only quite a small group of “Ostschweiz” Smithies, but nice! Just like the country itself: “Klein aber fein” [small but beautiful].*

Mirian Carballo Am.S.Dipl '85 (Córdoba, Argentina):

I live in Córdoba, Argentina, and I work at the Faculty of Languages at the National University of Córdoba. I have been very active in the academic world in the years since I left Smith and have devoted myself to education, to the teaching of English and more specifically literature. I am a full professor and researcher now and was the Dean of the Faculty in 2013 and part of 2014. From my time at Smith I developed an interest in studying minorities and I have done research mainly in connection with the literature of minorities (gender studies, ethnic minorities, postcolonial studies).

Ingeborg Adler Am.S.Dipl '86 (Hamburg):

After many years of freelancing I started working as press officer for the Hamburg Centre for Ultrafast Imaging at the University of Hamburg in January 2013. I had written about insurance, public transport, lifestyle, and economics before – but never about top-level physics and chemistry, which is my job now in addition to the usual public outreach topics. I had always enjoyed “serious” subjects – but to my big surprise I also find the natural sciences very interesting (AND demanding). Nevertheless, after two and a half years in the job, at the age of 51, and with the kids just leaving school, I start wondering what else professional life might have to offer. Private life includes a lot of travelling, for example to Boston, Cape Cod and New York with my daughter, who has enjoyed these trips and come to love the US. So I will certainly ask her to join me for our next Smith reunion in 2017.



Sylvie Castagné Haas Am.S.Dipl '82 and Anne-Catherine Berrut-Maréchaud Am.S.Dipl '11, Switzerland, April 2015

Stefan Flückiger Am.S.Dipl '86 (Berne):

In September 2014, after eight wonderful years in Paris as the Swiss ambassador to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), I was assigned a new post in the Swiss capital. Okay, Berne is not Paris, but in this new posting, dealing with economic and financial innovation issues, I will be travelling quite a bit and look forward to meeting Diploma alumnae and alumni across the world.

Simone Walper Am.S.Dipl '90 (Hamburg):

*One highlight this year will be a mini-reunion with two of my Diploma classmates: **Sabine Haenni** from Switzerland and **Karolin Halmi-Samel** from Bremen. The three of us will meet in Hamburg at the end of April and spend the weekend together. We last met three years ago in Hamburg and spent a day at Timmendorfer Strand.*

As for me personally, last summer I quit my job as Public Relations Manager in a publishing company after almost fourteen years and joined my husband in his IT company, which we are now building up together. So far everything is working out fine. Our two daughters (10 and 5) very much enjoy having the two of us close by as our office is integrated into our family home.

Aurelia Geisse Puschert Am.S.Dipl '91 (Berlin):

I am married and have two children aged 13 (boy) and 9 (girl). I live in Berlin where I work as a psychologist and am doing my first steps in the field of drama and theater therapy with adults and children. I was very glad to discover this method three years ago: it is a beautiful bridge between the arts of the theater (writing/acting/directing), which I explored at Smith and have been practicing since, and my later professional identity as a psychologist.

In October, I had the great opportunity to meet several Smithies at the Smith-in-Europe meeting in Berlin. They had come from all over Europe and it was a real pleasure to talk with them, reminisce about the time spent at Smith and introduce them to the city that has become my new home town. I went with one group to visit STATTBAU, an organization that develops new ideas and projects for multi-generational living in several neighborhoods of the city.

*I am still in contact with **Stephanie Djavadi** Am.S.Dipl '91 from Paris; we met at Smith and since then she has become my very best friend.*

Wanli Hu Am.S.Dipl '92 (Boston), director of the China Program Center at the University of Massachusetts Boston, continues to work on two Fulbright-Hays Group Program Abroad Projects that received funding in 2012. These are a short-term Chinese Language and Culture Enrichment Program, taking fifteen teachers of Chinese language to Shaanxi Normal University for five weeks in the summer, and a four-year Chinese Language Immersion Program to enable sixteen students to spend two semesters at Shaanxi University.



Aurelia Geisse
Puschert Am.S.Dipl '91

Marijke Engel Am.S.Dipl '94 (Berlin):

I thought I'd let everybody know how much I enjoyed the Smith-in-Europe Berlin reunion and how inspired I was by meeting all those wonderful women. I hope that many more will come to the next one in Edinburgh in 2016.

I am working on an oral history video project about women and their different approach to success (in Germany, initially). How do we define success anyway? I want to interview women who have found their own answers. Maybe they can serve as role models for other women. I have just started to find ways to get private and federal funding. Feminism is hot again in Germany because we now feel that "leaning in" and playing by the rules is sometimes not enough to get the jobs and the influence we deserve. Only 6.3 percent of top-ranking jobs in German industry are held by women; only 7 percent of those awarded the highest federal medal of merit are women; only 12 percent of the highest ranking group of scholars are women. It is a depressing list, which goes on and on. If I get the initial funding I'll let you know more about the project. And if anyone is interested in this or has some spare money to help back the project – a good investment in society – or knows someone who does, please contact me: me@goodstories.de



Karin Schmid-Gerlich Am.S.Dipl '86 and Marijke Engel Am.S.Dipl '94 at the Smith-in-Europe gathering, Berlin, October 2014

Susanna Erlandsson Am.S.Dipl '98 (Uppsala, Sweden):

I would like to share the news that I am getting my Ph.D in history at Uppsala University this spring. On the seventieth anniversary of VE Day, 8 May, I will defend my dissertation "Window of Opportunity: Dutch and Swedish security ideas and strategies 1942–1948." Professor Margaret Hunt, one of the editors of the series in which the dissertation will be published, wrote the following about the book in her thesis report: "It makes a significant intervention into our understanding of the impact of World War II on small country politics and diplomacy in the face of the increasing polarization between the Western and Eastern blocs."

I am proud and happy to have finished the Ph.D program at the age of 44 and look forward to continuing my career as a historian. This fall, I'll be teaching Swedish and Nordic history to exchange students at Uppsala University, and in addition I hope to start on a new research project soon.

Eve Demange Am.S.Dipl '00 (Epernon, France):

*I am still working as a web content strategist for Plume Interactive, my own little company, which is celebrating ten years of web copywriting and consulting this year. I share this passion with my students at the University of Paris Ovest X and I am working on a new novel (when my three boys leave me some time to breathe). Quite a hectic life but I love it all. I still love cheese and enjoy eating some with Diploma friends such as **Katharina Thote** and **Julianna Bark**, whom I met in Geneva in February for a delicious raclette. They are doing well. Katharina is still working for the UNHCR and finally got married last January to the father of her two boys: the nice Antonio Martin Prieto. Julianna is working and taking care of her baby, another boy. Who is going to send a girl to Smith, I wonder?!*

Julianna Sandholm-Bark

Am.S.Dipl '00 (Geneva). Further to Eve's entry above, Julianna sent this photo of her marriage to Anders Sandholm in March 2013. *L to R: Antonio Martin Prieto and Katharina Thote Am.S.Dipl '00 with their son, Isaac, Julianna and Anders, and Eve Demange Am.S.Dipl '00 (whose husband, Stephen Demange, wasn't able to attend the ceremony but who was with them in spirit).*



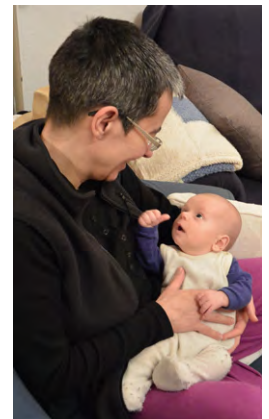
The wedding of Julianna Bark Am.S.Dipl '00 and Anders Sandholm, March 2013

Lucy Laliberte Am.S.Dipl '01 (San Francisco):

I'm currently living in San Francisco and have been working in project management for Pixar Animation Studios for the past seven years. I've had the great fortune of working on a number of their films, and hopefully many more to come. San Francisco is definitely my home at this point. I love it here. Though I'm excited to head home and visit Australia soon!

Susanne Scharf Am.S.Dipl '01 (Frankfurt am Main):

On November 26, 2014 I had a major and most joyful change in my life: my son Anton Tyler Scharf was born! My husband Kai and I immensely enjoy Anton's company and so far cope well with the challenges of parenthood – although I still get very few things done besides nursing, diaper changing and the like. Anton is quite the active little fella and is keeping us on our toes. It is amazing to see him grow and develop so quickly.



Susanne Scharf Am.S.Dipl '01 and her son, Anton

Flavien Collet Am.S.Dipl '02 (Smithfield, Rhode Island):

*I left my job as executive director of the Alliance Française de Providence, RI, to work as an Upper School French Teacher at the Bancroft School in Worcester, MA. I am getting married in Boston on October 24. I am still in touch with **Davide Ceriani** Am.S.Dipl '02 who has been an assistant professor in musicology at Rowan University in Glassboro, NJ, since September 2013.*

Maki Ikoma Am.S.Dipl '06 (Shiga Prefecture, Japan):

After six years of teaching English at high school and at university in Japan, I recently got a full-time lecturer (instructor) position at Ritsumeikan University, starting this April. I will keep my current instructor position (part-time) at Doshisha University, too. I was glad to have finally made some progress with my career, and realized that it has been ten years since my year at Smith (2005–6). I appreciate the kind of learning experience I had there and the college had a great influence on the way I chose my path in education. The tenth anniversary meant something special to me so I felt it was good timing to visit Smith for the first time since graduation. So I visited Northampton in February and had



Jim Hicks, Anna Botta and Maki Ikoma Am.S.Dipl '06, Northampton, MA, February 2015

a wonderful reunion with Jim Hicks, the former director of the Diploma program, and his wife, Anna Botta, professor in the Italian Language & Literature department at Smith.

Amel Toumi Am.S.Dipl '06 (Paris):

I am still an English teacher in Paris; I've been in touch with a lot of Smithies lately; not Diploma graduates but regular students, particularly those who are/have been here for their JYA program. Other news is that I've been part of a team organizing multicultural events called "The Peacock Palace" (<http://peacockwanderer.wix.com/peacockpalace>) and I've been doing a lot of music as well. Thanks to my participation with the Peacock Palace, in January I had the opportunity to do a small concert at a famous venue in Paris called "La Bellevilloise."

Marina Bilbija Am.S.Dipl '07 obtained a Ph.D from the University of Pennsylvania in 2014 and is now Harvard College Fellow in English Literature (African American Literature) at Harvard University.

Dee van Leuwen Boomkamp Am.S.Dipl '07 (Amsterdam):

*In March, my husband, **Piebe Teeboom** Am.S.Dipl '00, was in Paris for his international work in financial regulation, and our daughter, Daria, who is now ten months old, and I met him there for the weekend. We had lunch one day with **Mathilde Bielec** Am.S.Dipl '07. Mathilde works hard at her career with an insurance company and has two little boys (Alexandre aged 2 and Paul aged 6 months). I'm impressed she manages.*



Borja Cabada Am.S.Dipl '10 (Los Angeles):

So many things have happened since I graduated from the Diploma program in 2010. I have had the opportunity to work and study in the UK, Spain and the US again, but for the past year I have been living in Los Angeles, where I moved in order to give the film industry a shot right after finishing my MA in Writing and Publishing as a Fulbright scholar at DePaul University in Chicago. Luckily, eventually I was hired to work at Studio 8 as a 2nd Executive/Development Assistant to CEO Jeff Robinov. Before this new venture, Jeff had been President of Production at WB and oversaw the development of worldwide hits such as The Dark Knight trilogy, Sherlock Holmes, Argo, The Matrix, and a long et cetera. With Studio 8 he aims to become the eighth film and TV studio among the big seven (WB, Sony, Paramount, Disney, Universal, Lionsgate and Fox). I have only kind words about my experience working for him, but after seven months I decided to be true to who I really am and take a more truly artistic career path. I have just finished an illustration for the cover of Young Playwrights for Change, a theater anthology for kids to be published by the Theatre for Young Audiences/USA foundation later this year. I am also working on my first graphic novel while writing the screenplay adaptation of my novel The Sound of Atlantis, finalist for the 18th Lengua de Trapo Book Award, 2013, Spain, all in the hope of finally establishing myself as a writer/illustrator.

Mathilde Bielec
Am.S.Dipl '07, Daria,
Piebe Teeboom
Am.S.Dipl '00 and
Dee van Leuwen
Boomkamp Am.S.Dipl
'07, Paris, March 2015

As scary and uncertain as my situation might be, I can't help but feel excited about what the future might hold. I have always wanted to devote my life to creative endeavors, so in spite of all the difficulties, I have never been more convinced that I am making the right choices. To the other struggling artists and creative souls out there, I encourage you to keep your hopes up and continue to nurture your craft. You never know when you might get your big break! Please visit <http://bonesandsmithereens.com> to see my portfolio and feel free to drop me a line.

Josefine Ulbrich Am.S.Dipl '10 (Amsterdam):

“Kashmar!” is what Kazakhs wholeheartedly exclaim when they are faced with something unforeseen and, most often, unfortunate. My year working for United Nations Volunteers in a job entitled “Focal Point for Youth and the Post-2015 Development Agenda” in Kazakhstan occasionally merited this exclamation, too. But now, a year after I came back, I recall incredibly dedicated young volunteers, a hard-working UN country team and Astana glistening with its ever-present heavy blanket of snow. Professionally, I devoted the year to promoting volunteerism among young people and to raising awareness about their activities with the government, other UN agencies and NGOs. One way to achieve this was outreach campaigns for the MY World campaign (the UN Global Survey for a Better World) in which I and a group of young Kazakhs collected votes on people's six priorities for a world after 2015. In a workshop that I organized, young volunteers from all over Kazakhstan discussed how volunteerism can contribute to achieving these priorities – and handed a Call for Action these young people had drafted to the government's Youth Committee. In the process, I learnt that young people can move mountains. At a more personal level, I perfected my ice-skating skills and made wonderful friends who helped me through the kashmars.

After ten months in my current home, Amsterdam, where I work as an online journalist and on War and Peace Talk (<http://warandpeacetalk.com/>; video interviews designed to make complex conflict situations understandable to a young lay audience), I will head overseas again in May to Afghanistan. In an assignment funded by the German government, I'll be working for the Communications Department of the Joint Independent Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC) in Kabul. I will pursue what a year among Smith's exceptionally smart women and men from all over the world encouraged – never refrain from engaging in issues you care deeply about.

Josefine was born in Berlin and obtained her BA in North American Studies from the Free University Berlin. She subsequently graduated with an M.Litt in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of St Andrews, Scotland.

Simona Aniello Am.S.Dipl '11 (Florence):

This has been a very good year for me. After completing my apprenticeship in a buying office (agents for Swedish and Finnish



Josefine Ulbrich
Am.S.Dipl '10
collecting votes in
Kazakhstan as part
of the UN MY World
campaign

customers who buy in Italy), I got offered a permanent job. I am excited, not least because this will enable me to move in with my boyfriend. We were best friends in high school, then we lost sight of each other until meeting again last year. It was “love at first sight” and I am really happy with him. I am still in contact with my Diploma classmates and I went to visit **Anne-Catherine Berrut-Maréchaud** recently in Switzerland. She’s one of my best friends. I’ll go to visit **Andrea Clausen** in Dublin soon; it’s really nice to have friends all over the world.

Saara Bouhouche Am.S.Dipl ’11 (Algeria):

Since Smith, my career has been in communications, marketing and non-profits management. Now I’m working in the field for different INGOs. Currently I am Humanitarian Programme Coordinator in the Sahrawi refugee camps (Southern Algeria) with Oxfam. It can be tough living in the extreme conditions of the desert away from everything but I am so proud to be able to work with the Sahrawi population and with Oxfam, an amazing organization that is deeply engaged in the defense of the Sahrawi’s rights and in providing aid in the camps. The Sahrawi people are amazing – welcoming, very intelligent, educated, charming and warm. But they have been suffering for forty years and are forgotten by the rest of the world. They need the international community to hear them, to respect their rights and to help in defending them.

Sometimes, I find it hard to work in remote and difficult areas far from my family and friends. But Smith helped me more than I could have thought. The year there was my first experience of living abroad, with people from different backgrounds and cultures. I learned so much about myself and it helped me see how wide the world is and encouraged me to explore it further. So thank you Smith College, Rob Dorit and all the amazing professors and colleagues I met during my time there!

If anyone is interested in learning more about Oxfam’s work with the Sahrawi, please see these links:

<http://www.oxfamsol.be/fr/pays/sahara-occidental>
http://ec.europa.eu/echo/field-blogs/videos/oxfam-and-western-sahara-assistance-and-protection-population-defense-their_en

We need help from private donors to continue our work, thus anyone who is interested in donating or who wants to learn more about our programmes can contact me directly (saara_b@yahoo.fr). Thank you!

Andrea Clausen Am.S.Dipl ’11, who is German and works for Google in Dublin, met **Inga Diercks** Am.S.Dipl ’05, from Hamburg, for the first time when Inga was on a trip to the Irish capital in February. They enjoyed a French dinner together. Andrea also writes that

Hanna Goetze Am.S.Dipl ’11, visited me one weekend in March, and I’m attaching a picture we took together at Powerscourt Estate in Enniskerry, where we explored the house and gardens and had coffee.

Andrea Clausen
and Hanna Goetze,
both Am.S.Dipl ’11,
Powerscourt, Ireland,
March 2015



Filippo Cervelli Am.S.Dipl '12:

I am currently enrolled in my second year of doctoral study in Modern Japanese Literature and Sociology at the University of Oxford. My project, focusing on the last two decades, aims at studying what perception of society and the position of the individual emerge from literary and visual works (comics and animation). My research deals with providing an accurate portrayal of the spirit of the contemporary age in Japan, as shown from artistic works, a perspective that is too often neglected in studies on the present age. During the current academic year, I have taught Japanese translation and a survey on Japanese Literature. I also engage in academic translation projects, mostly dealing with Japanese, Italian and English.



Filippo Cervelli
Am.S.Dipl '12, Oxford,
England, February
2015

Yuanyuan (Sheena) Liu Am.S.Dipl '12 (Beijing):

*After leaving Smith, I got my Ph.D from Beijing Foreign Studies University and have been teaching in Beijing since then. I have met my Diploma classmates **Pauline Pelsy-Johann** and **Chloé Pulice** in Beijing; Pauline stayed with me for three days and Chloé dined with me before leaving. I have attended several gatherings of Smith alumnae, young and old. Those gatherings are always inspiring and my family has been donating to Smith every year.*

Last October, I attended an international conference in Nanjing and took my husband and daughter with me. We visited Nanjing Normal University, which occupies the site of Ginling College (1915–51), a women's college that had a connection with Smith for thirty-five years (Ginling has been called Smith's "Little Sister in China"). I took a picture of my daughter, Stella, in front of the building given to Ginling by Smith in 1923. I value this picture for its symbolic meaning: generations of Chinese women went to Smith and came back with new dreams and it is my sincere hope that Stella can study at Smith when she grows up.

For more on Ginling and Smith, see:

<http://sophia.smith.edu/blog/smithipedia/international-connections/ginling-college-and-wu-yi-fang/>

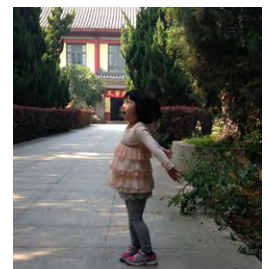
Pauline Pelsy-Johann Am.S.Dipl '12 (Paris):

Everything is fine for me in Paris, teaching film studies on Smith's JYA Program, guiding Smithies through Paris and visiting cultural places (castles, monuments ...) in the surrounding area. I really enjoy my job for Smith; the students are involved in learning the French way to analyze and write about cinema in French.

Also, my own movie projects have found some new producers and I'm working as editor on a few productions. To relax, I try out new French recipes – I just bought a new oven for cooking! If you are visiting Paris, I can tell you Montmartre's history over a good meal (pauline.pelsyjohann@gmail.com).



Sheena Liu Am.S.Dipl '12 with her daughter, Stella, and Pauline Pelsy-Johann Am.S.Dipl '12, China



Stella, the daughter of Sheena Liu Am.S.Dipl '12, in front of the Ginling College building given by Smith in 1923

Sabine Milger Am.S.Dipl '13 (“Bina”) has returned to Smith as a graduate student in the Exercise and Sports Science program.

Naima Limdighri Am.S.Dipl '14 (Hamburg):

*When I was at the Smith-in-Europe reunion in Berlin last year, I mentioned to Julia MacKenzie Am.S.Dipl '79 that besides finishing my BA in American Studies, I had done an internship at a local radio station in Hamburg to come closer to my goal of being a journalist. Right off the bat she said, “I know a Diploma alumna who is in radio in Hamburg.” She put me in touch with **Susanne Gommert** Am.S.Dipl '75, who works for NDR, one of the most influential and high-profile radio stations in Germany. Susanne and I met at the end of 2014 in Hamburg. As in most cases, talking to a stranger is kind of weird at the beginning, but we got over it fast. Susanne told me how she got into radio and journalism and how Smith was such a special experience for her as well. After finishing her American Studies she went to England to train as a journalist through the Deutsche Dienst, a German branch of the BBC. We talked about how to get into radio today. Of course Smithies talk about the gender distribution as well: at NDR sport is still very male dominated while all other sections seem to be quite female.*

Susanne and I walked to the subway together. We talked about keeping in touch with Smith friends. We said we’d keep in contact and Susanne said she’d invite me over to NDR to see the station and her work place.

We hugged. It felt good. It felt like being alumnae. We will meet again.

Fundraising Campaign

In 2014 our alumni contributed about \$3,600 to the Peter and Hedy Rose Diploma in American Studies Program Scholarship Fund, which counts towards Smith’s Women for the World fundraising campaign. Combined with the gifts made in 2013, that means we have raised about \$14,000 towards our goal of giving \$20,000 to the campaign, which runs through to December 2016.

We thank those of you who have given generously, especially on a regular basis. And remember that the number of alums who contribute is important, whatever the amount donated, as alumnae giving is one of the factors in how the college is ranked.

If you wish to contribute in 2015 (the financial year ends June 30), please see how to do so below. To date, the college has raised \$340 million (over 75 percent) towards its \$450 million goal for the Women for the World campaign.

To contribute to the Peter and Hedy Rose Diploma in American Studies Program Scholarship Fund please use Smith’s on-line gift giving website <https://www.smith.edu/future/giving/giftform.php>. Fill in the Contact Information. Then go to the “Gift Purpose” tab on the online form, click on “Other Designations” and enter the amount you wish to give (ignore the dropdown menu below). Then go to the “Gift Details” tab, click on “Comments” and type the name of the Rose Fund in the “Comments” field and include the fund number: 447951. Then fill in the Payment Information. Thank you.



THE CAMPAIGN FOR SMITH

Lost and Found Diploma Alumni

Seven “lost” alumni have been found in recent months:

Krystyna Prendowska Am.S.Dipl '65 (Krystyna Pryzbylska at Smith)
Lore Häger Am.S.Dipl '70
Miskaman Rujavichai Am.S.Dipl '70 (see entry under “Alumni News”)
Gerry Bichunsky Am.S.Dipl '80
Bernadette Spite Daoud Am.S.Dipl '80
Mirian Carballo Am.S.Dipl '85 (see entry under “Alumni News”)
Stefano Matteucci Am.S.Dipl '95

Nonetheless, there are still over fifty alumni who are considered “lost.” In the previous two newsletters I listed lost Italian, Polish and Japanese alums (some of whom have since been found), and this time I include alumni from China, Taiwan, Vietnam and South Korea in case anyone knows their whereabouts (the university is the one they attended before Smith).

China

Wei-Hui Xia Am.S.Dipl '85 (Fudan University)
Li Xiaoli Am.S.Dipl '86 (Fudan University)
Jin Li Am.S.Dipl '88 (Heilongjiang University)
Lin Zhiling Am.S.Dipl '88 (Fudan University)
Shen Yu Am.S.Dipl '89 (Shanghai International Studies University)
Yuhong Chen Am.S.Dipl '94 (Huazhong Normal University)
Yiming He Am.S.Dipl '95 (Liao Cheng Teachers' College, Beijing Foreign Studies University)
Mei Wang Am.S.Dipl '96 (Jilin University)

Taiwan

Emily Chang Wang Am.S.Dipl '67 (National Taiwan University)
Shushan Chang [Morrison] Am.S.Dipl '03 (Providence University)

Vietnam

Bich-Thu Doan Am.S.Dipl '93 (Ho Chi Minh City University)

South Korea

Young Moon Chon Am.S.Dipl '69 (Ewha Woman's University)

Please remember to send me information and *high-resolution* photos for the next Newsletter. Thank you.

On behalf of the Diploma Alumni Group Committee,

Best wishes

Julia MacKenzie Am.S.Dipl '79

President, Diploma Alumni Group

email: jcgmackenzie@yahoo.co.uk