Newsletter No. 5, July 2017

Dear Diploma Alumna/us

Greetings from London, where we are experiencing the consequences of the result of the referendum on EU membership last year. Political tumult is not confined to the UK, as after the UK referendum came the election of Donald Trump in the US. Certainly, something to focus the attention of all of us who have the American Studies Diploma. Recently, I read how in 1938, as the Second World War approached (in which he was killed), the English artist Eric Ravilious had “the feeling every morning on waking that something has gone wrong.” I’m sure many of us can relate to that sensation at the moment. All the more reason to cherish the international connections of the Diploma alumni group, and several of us were able to do this at the enjoyable reunion of Diploma alums at Smith in May.

Alumni Gatherings and Keeping Connected

In October 2016, nine Diploma alumnae attended the Smith-in-Europe gathering in Edinburgh. The group spanned forty years of the Diploma program from 1974 to 2014. In the photo, L to R: Florentine Helbich Am.S.Dipl ’74, Helga Bechmann Am.S.Dipl ’92, Caroline Straathof Am.S.Dipl ’85, Naima Limdighri Am.S.Dipl ’14, Andrea Clausen Am.S.Dipl ’11, Wiebke Henning Am.S.Dipl ’04, Marijn Freud Am.S.Dipl ’14, Kerstin Müller Am.S.Dipl ’14 and Julia MacKenzie Am.S.Dipl ’79. We were part of a group of about ninety Smith alumnae from across Europe who had a very enjoyable three days exploring Edinburgh and environs together, all well organized by Martha Vail ’86 and her committee of fellow Smithies who live in the area. One highlight was the collective tea on the Friday (this was a group of Smithies, after all)
at Hopetoun House. The next Smith-in-Europe get-together will take place in Brussels in the fall of 2018, and the 2020 event is already scheduled to be hosted by Smith alumnae in Paris. Please plan to attend these enjoyable weekends (and you are welcome even if you do not live in Europe – there are usually a few alums from other continents). If you live in Brussels and would like to help with organizing the event, or find out what is planned, please contact Tanja Gohlert ’00: tgohlert@gmail.com.

For those of you on Facebook, in addition to our page “Smith College Diploma in American Studies”, we have established another page “Smith College Diploma in American Studies Alums”, which is a “closed group” where you can post information and photos that will only be seen by other Diploma alumni who are members of the group. There are 70 members of this closed group at present – please apply to join. New Smith-related sites appear all the time on FB. You might be interested in “Stay with a Smithie”, where alums post about accommodation they are looking for or post a link to their Airbnb, couch surfing, VRBO listings, etc. Only Smith graduates can post and host. There is also the “Friday teas in the cloud” FB page that has become a phenomenon in the last year (there was an article about it in the Winter 2016–17 issue of the Smith Alumnae Quarterly), with over 12,000 members. Building on the tradition of Smith Friday teas, alums post only on Fridays and after stating what they are drinking (not always tea!), with a photo, they list what has gone well – BoW (Best of the Week) – or not – WoW (Worst of the Week) – frequently in somewhat confessional mode (again, this is a closed group, for which you need to apply to join).

Diploma Reunion, May 25–28, 2017

There were twenty-six Diploma alumni, plus guests, attending our reunion in May, and they ranged from Margaret Freeman Am.S.Dipl ’63 to three members of the 2012 group. People travelled from China and Japan, the West Coast of the US and several European countries. Special congratulations to Fatima Yandieva Am.S.Dipl ’00 who had to contend with Trump’s new immigration policies to come from the Ukraine. It was great to see familiar faces from the 2002 and 2012 reunions, as well as to meet alumnae who had not returned to Smith since they graduated decades ago.

Silvia Beier and Enrica Maggiani both Am.S.Dipl ’91 did a magnificent job as co-chairs organizing the event and we owe them a big thank-you for taking on this task and carrying it off with such efficiency, enthusiasm and style. Thanks also go to the other members of the reunion team: the Treasurer Andrea Clausen Am.S.Dipl ’11, the Parade Chair Sylvie Castagné Haas Am.S.Dipl ’82 and the Digital Media Chair Wiebke Henning Am.S.Dipl ’04. We also enjoyed having Dorcas Ujjii ’19 from Nigeria as our student ambassador.
AMS DIPL alumni with Peter Rose prior to the Alumnae Parade (1), Yulia Saravaisky Am.S.Dipl ’04 (2), Tetsuko Yamashita Am.S.Dipl ’81 (2, 3), Limei Fan Am.S.Dipl ’87 (2), Silvia Beier Am.S.Dipl ’91 (3), Julia MacKenzie Am.S.Dipl ’79 (3), Wanli Hu Am.S.Dipl ’92 (4), Miguel Ángel Fernández Porras Am.S.Dipl ’12 (4, 7), Stefan Flickiger Am.S.Dipl ’86 (4, 6), Giancarlo Lombardi Am.S.Dipl ’91 (4), Enrica Maggiani Am.S.Dipl ’91 (and husband, Stefano) (5), Grégoire Sauter Am.S.Dipl ’96 (and wife, Amanda Shaw ’97) (5), Kyoto Kitada Am.S.Dipl ’12 (7), Antje Scherfig Am.S.Dipl ’99 (8), Karin Schmid-Gerlich Am.S.Dipl ’86 (3, 6, 8), Christiane Thurner Am.S.Dipl ’92 (8), Marijke Engel Am.S.Dipl ’94 (8), Helga Bechmann Am.S.Dipl ’92 (8), Andrea Clausen Am.S.Dipl ’11 (8), Wiebke Henning Am.S.Dipl ’04 (8)
Ling Huang Am.S.Dipl ’99 (1, 3), Tetsuko Yamashita Am.S.Dipl ’81 (1, 2), Fatima Yandieva Am.S.Dipl ’00 (2), Sylvie Castagné Haas Am.S.Dipl ’82 (2), Elisabeth Muhlenberg Am.S.Dipl ’66 (3), Antje Scherfig Am.S.Dipl ’99 (3), AMS DIPL alumni at Haven House (4), Flavien Collet Am.S.Dipl ’02 (and wife Natalie) (5), Giancarlo Lombardi Am.S.Dipl ’91 (6), Enrica Maggiani Am.S.Dipl ’91 (6, 7), Silvia Beier Am.S.Dipl ’91 (7)
Stefan Flückiger Am.S.Dipl ’86 (1), Marijke Engel Am.S.Dipl ’94 (1, 5), Karin Schmid-Gerlich Am.S.Dipl ’86 (1, 3, 5), Miguel Angel Fernández Porras Am.S.Dipl ’12 (1), Chloé Pulice Am.S.Dipl ’12 (1), Antje Scherrl Am.S.Dipl ’99 (1, 3), Christiane Thurner Am.S.Dipl ’92 (2), Helga Bechmann Am.S.Dipl ’92 (2), Wanli Hu Am.S.Dipl ’92 (2), Limei Fan Am.S.Dipl ’87 (3, 5), Tetsuko Yamashita Am.S.Dipl ’81 (3), Wiebke Henning Am.S.Dipl ’04 (3), Andrea Clausen Am.S.Dipl ’11 (and partner, Paul) (3), Elisabeth Muhlenberg Am.S.Dipl ’66 (4), Enrica Maggiani Am.S.Dipl ’91 (5), Yulia Saravaiskiy Am.S.Dipl ’94 (5, 6), Kathy McCartney (President of Smith College) (7), Peter and Hedy Rose (8)
Our theme was “Smith’s Hidden Jewel”, which is how Elizabeth Eveillard ’69, former chair of the Trustees at Smith, described the Diploma program. We had bags printed with this line and it was on one of the signs in the parade. To go with the theme, we wore sparkling jewels in the parade. Photos from the event are on the preceding pages and more can be found on our FB page and on Flickr. Please contact me for the Flickr password.

We enjoyed three days of receptions and dinners, talks and presentations about the College today and were delighted that Peter and Hedy Rose were able to join us, as well as Lane Hall-Witt and the Dean for International Study, Rebecca Hovey. Alas, Jim Hicks was away in Italy.

In the course of the weekend we had a panel discussion with Peter, Lane and Rebecca on the proposed changes to the Diploma program. See below under “News from Northampton” for further details of these changes.

Panel discussion: Clockwise from top left: Rebecca Hovey, Lane Hall-Witt and Peter Rose; Peter Rose and Giancarlo Lombardi Am.S.Dipl ’91; Margaret Freeman Am.S.Dipl ’63; Karin Schmid-Gerlich Am.S.Dipl ’86 contributing to the discussion

We also had our “Class Meeting” and elected a new committee for 2017–22. The members are listed below and we owe them thanks for taking on (or continuing in) these roles. I agreed to continue as president only if I could be “shadowed” by two vice-presidents who could “learn the job” over the next five years (it is important that we have fresh ideas!). I am very grateful to Silvia and Enrica for agreeing to take on this role. I would also like to thank the 2012–17 committee for all their help and support over the past five years.
President: Julia MacKenzie Am.S.Dipl ’79
Vice-Presidents: Silvia Beier and Enrica Maggiani both Am.S.Dipl ’91
Treasurer: Andrea Clausen Am.S.Dipl ’11
Reunion co-chairs (for 2022): Limei Fan Am.S.Dipl ’87 and Antje Scherffig Am.S.Dipl ’99
Fundraising co-chairs: Chloé Pulice Am.S.Dipl ’12 and Gaia Cozzi Am.S.Dipl ’14
Digital Media co-coordinators: Wiebke Henning Am.S.Dipl ’04 and Lise Koning Am.S.Dipl ’15
Asia liaison co-chairs: Tetsuko Yamashita Am.S.Dipl ’81 and Ling Huang Am.S.Dipl ’99

It was decided that we would have another reunion at Smith in five years’ time (May 2022) so please start planning to come! I am sure everyone who attended this year’s gathering would say what an enjoyable and rewarding experience it is to be back at Smith with fellow Diploma alumni (and see the contributions below from Sylvie Castagné Haas Am.S.Dipl ’82 and Chloé Pulice Am.S.Dipl ’12).

News from Northampton

In May seven Diploma students graduated and we welcome them to the Diploma Alumni Group. Pictured here at Commencement are (and universities they came from), L to R: Vera Martel, Paris (Paris VII - Diderot), Alice Cozzi (sister of Gaia Cozzi Am.S.Dipl ’14), Florence; Filine Volkmann, Hamburg; Elsa Kamdem, Paris (Sciences Po); Dana Madsen, Geneva; Daniel de la Rubia, Cordoba, Spain; Célia Lucet, Paris (Sorbonne).
Changes to the Diploma Program
At the panel discussion held at reunion (see above), and in a conversation between Rebecca Hovey, Dean for International Study, and Antje Scherffigg Am.S.Dipl ’99, Helga Bechmann Am.S.Dipl ’92 and Christiane Thurner Am.S.Dipl ’92, in Hamburg on July 4, the proposed changes to the Diploma program were outlined. According to Lane Hall-Witt and Rebecca, the connection with the partner institutions with which Smith has JYA arrangements (Paris, Hamburg, Geneva, Florence and Cordoba) is critical to the continuation of the Diploma program and must be preserved. Smith has to meet their needs. Apparently, these institutions have been finding it increasingly difficult to recruit students to the program in recent years; American Studies is not as popular as it used to be – “American” does not have the appeal it once had – but they do not always understand that the program is open to students in different fields already. Smith would like to formalize the fact that the program extends beyond American Studies and in future will be open to students from any academic discipline including science and engineering (STEM). This will mean crafting the curriculum anew to make the program attractive to a range of students. In particular, the plan is to change the name of the program. Smith is having some difficulty in finding an appropriate title that meets all the criteria (apparently only certain titles fit US visa requirements). The new working title is the “Diploma Program in Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies.” It was generally agreed that this is “clunky” and Rebecca welcomed input from the Diploma alums on alternatives. At the reunion panel discussion the Diploma alums recognized that change does happen but suggested that better marketing of the program (there is no application material available on line, for example) and seeking help from the extensive Diploma network worldwide in recruiting the best international students were avenues Smith could explore to strengthen the program. The alums were also concerned that Smith might be “throwing the baby out with the bath water” and with the change of name and selection criteria the academic rigour of the existing Diploma program and its unique identity would be diminished. Rebecca said the program would remain under the umbrella of the Global Studies Center. At our “Class Meeting” it was agreed that though the title of the program will change, its alumni would be welcomed into our Diploma Alumni Group.

Rebecca promised to keep us informed as the changes become more concrete. If you have any comments about the proposed changes – or a suggestion for the new name – please contact Rebecca: rhovey@smith.edu.

Campus Regeneration
On campus the construction phase of the redesigned Neilson Library has started. The Library has closed, with the Young (Science) Library now the main library until the renovation of Neilson is completed in 2020. Maya Lin, working with design firm Shepley Bulfinch, has now revealed the new design, which involves taking down the flanking wings of the original Neilson building and constructing two “jewel boxes” on either side of the original Library. The one to the left of the main entrance will be for Special Collections, including the Sophia Smith Collection, College Archives and the Mortimer Rare Book Collection. Other changes include creating a roof-top terrace with views over the Holyoke range, a café, a sunken court
connecting the Library to Wright Hall, and an outdoor amphitheater. The Browsing Room will be kept. It is intended that the building should not be as bulky a presence as the previous one, which divided the campus like a wall. However, this does mean reduced space so several hundreds of thousands of books are being permanently removed and placed in an off-campus facility at South Hadley (shared with the other members of the Five College consortium). If you want to learn more about the new Neilson Library, see: www.smith.edu/libraries/about/new-neilson

Smith–Hamburg University Book
This summer Hamburg University Press published a book entitled *Stories from 55 Years of a Transatlantic Friendship/Geschichten aus 55 Jahren Transatlantischer Freundschaft*, edited by Jocelyne Kolb and Rainer Nicolaysen, celebrating the link between Smith and Hamburg University in the period 1961–2016. The book includes essays by Smith JYAs, directors, members of the faculty exchange and the following Diploma alumnae: Susanne Gommert Am.S.Dipl ’75, Christiane Thurner Am.S.Dipl ’92 and Christine Koglin Am.S.Dipl ’91, Helga Bechmann Am.S.Dipl ’92 and Ania Ferstl Am.S.Dipl ’07. There are also documents chronicling the beginnings of the Diploma program in 1962.

Alumni News

Miyuki van Brabant (née Yokoyama) Am.S.Dipl ’68

November 13, 1936 (Tokyo, Japan) – April 30, 2017 (Rochester, NY)

We are sorry to report the death of Miyuki van Brabant. Her first trip outside Japan was when she came to Smith in 1967. She met her Belgian husband when she was a student in the Diploma program and he was studying for his PhD at Yale. They lived in Belgium and West Berlin before moving to New York for twenty-seven years, where Jozef worked at the United Nations. Miyuki remembered how “Smith offered an ideal setting in which to study and push oneself beyond previous limits.”

Her Smith memories also included seeing David Eisenhower (grandson of President Eisenhower) and classmates from Amherst serenading Julie Nixon ’70 (daughter of Richard Nixon), who was living in Baldwin House across the road from where Miyuki lived at 8 Bedford Terrace (Dawes House). As she recalled, “it was so romantic.” (David and Julie married in 1968.)
Miyuki kept up her intellectual interests to the end of her life, and was a generous contributor to the Rose Scholarship Fund for Diploma students. She is survived by her two daughters and grandchildren.

**Elizabeth Jones** Am.S.Dipl ’68 (Manchester, UK):

I am continuing to brief myself on neuroscience developments as these increasingly impact counselling, both in practical aspects and the socio-economic context. It is fascinating in itself, as science learns more about our unity as a human being and the complex workings of our brain which is social and relational – not just a machine. The rapid increase in mental distress globally is mostly dealt with via medication, which is basically a sedative that neither cures nor treats emotional pain. It is hard for sufferers to find deep relationships of mutual trust, which is the real need. I add my small voice to those seeking to change national policies from subsidizing sedatives to enabling people to learn about self, share and contribute to life.

**Eva Amann-Brockhaus** Am.S.Dipl ’69 (Siegburg, Germany):

So far 2017 has been pleasantly uneventful on the personal level. The only truly memorable event so far has been the publication of a book by my daughter Melanie Amann, who has been working as a journalist in Berlin for Der Spiegel magazine since 2014.

Right from the start she was told to cover the newly founded right-wing party called AfD (Alternative für Deutschland) that has since managed to get into several of the regional parliaments and is now poised to make its entry into the Bundestag. When the publishing house Droemer-Knaur approached her with a book offer she took it and her publisher came up with the snappy title Angst für Deutschland, thus mimicking the party name. Melanie explains the history of the party, its predecessors on the right fringe, its ideology, its main figures and its possible success in the future. When she presented the book at the Leipzig Book Fair in April it had already begun to sell well.

If I may, I would like to draw your attention to my own book project, but have no fear, I have not written anything myself! Instead, I am looking for a German publisher who might take an interest in translating and publishing the novel Their Cemetery Sown With Corn by Frank Binder. The British author, who died in 1962, writes about his experiences as a lecturer at Bonn University in the 1930s when he witnessed the rise of National Socialism in the Rhine Country first hand. It is a fascinating novel, which deserves to be made known to a German audience. Anybody with connections to a German publishing company? I would be most grateful for a recommendation.

I wish I had been able to join those of you who attended the Diploma reunion in May to refresh memories!
Sylvie Castagné Haas Am.S.Dipl ’82 (Feldmeilen, Switzerland):

It is two months since I flew to New York, so excited about going to the reunion. And now, when I look at the pictures and see the big smiles on people’s faces, I get the feeling again that this year at Smith definitely changed my life (and not only mine it seems), and the feeling of happiness and of togetherness. I feel blessed that I had the opportunity to spend that year at Smith – with its Siberian winter – in that remote corner of Massachussetts, so far from Paris, my friends and family. A strange and new world, it became a little bit mine somehow. Standing in front of Dawes House with one of my Smith friends, I had this good feeling of being back. And already I am looking forward to returning again in five years’ time!

Ruth Oldenziel Am.S.Dipl ’82 (Amsterdam):

I have been professor of history at the Technical University of Eindhoven for the last fifteen years, combining history, innovation studies, and American Studies, writing and teaching, as well as commenting for various Dutch media when the U.S. is in the news. I am Chair of the Board for the John Adams Institute in Amsterdam, on the board of Fulbright, and the Ivy League Circle in The Netherlands (I gained a PhD from Yale in 1992), as well as being involved in an organization for refugees: TakeCare B&B. After dealing with serious issues for many years, I am in good health again, and the proud mother of a son about to enter Oxford for his PhD in Math.

Tissa Jayatilaka Am.S.Dipl ’83 (Colombo, Sri Lanka):

I am still at the United States-Sri Lanka Fulbright Commission as its Executive Director. I joined the Commission on 1 May 1989 and hence have recently completed 28 years in my post! The mandate of the Commission is to promote mutual understanding between the citizens of Sri Lanka and the United States through educational exchange. My wife, Lilani Jayatilaka, who teaches English and American Literature at a leading girls’ school, Ladies’ College, Colombo, and I have been married since 1982. Our daughter, Lara, aged 28, a graduate of the University of London, UK, is also a teacher of English Literature.

Yuan Cheng Am.S.Dipl ’87 (Beijing):

After Smith, I obtained my doctorate in Sociology from the University of Oxford and since then have been living in Beijing with my husband, who is a professor at Peking University. I have two grown-up sons, one studying
at Cambridge, England, and the other studying in Beijing, China. I have worked for Russell Reynolds Associates for the last eleven years, currently as Managing Partner for Greater China.

**Usha Vedan Gurumurthy** Am.S.Dipl ’88 (Corpus Christi, Texas):

> My husband (Gurumurthy) passed away in 1996. In 2003 I married Ajeet Varma, and in the same year I returned to the U.S. to a teaching job in the Corpus Christi Independent School District. I have taught Social Studies and currently teach English to 11th-grade students (International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement students). I was recently awarded a PhD in Curriculum & Instruction from Texas A & M University, Corpus Christi. My two sons, Karthik and Srikanth, have completed their education: the older one is an MD and the younger one is in finance.

**Andrea Hofmann** Am.S.Dipl ’88 (Hamburg):

> In 2015, I began researching the works of the German graphic designer, political and Dada artist John Heartfield. Shortly afterwards, I became good friends with Heartfield’s grandson, John J. Heartfield, the curator of the online Official John Heartfield Exhibition. John asked me to write commentaries to enhance several pages of the exhibition, including a “Visiting Scholar’s Commentary” about the Mahnmal Friedenskreuz St. Lorenz (Memorial Peace Cross at St. Lorenz in Austria).

> With the support of the Austrian government, a group of noted artists and historians installed a tall, permanent transparent metal and fabric version of John Heartfield’s montage Deutsche Eicheln (German Acorns) directly in front of a Wehrmacht war memorial in 2016. Many locals wanted to expose the fact that the Wehrmacht unit’s reputation had been sanitized and were upset because the memorial had become a meeting place for right-wing fanatics. To learn more, please visit [www.johnheartfield.com/John-Heartfield-Exhibition/john-heartfield-art/political-posters-sale/austrian-political-art-event](http://www.johnheartfield.com/John-Heartfield-Exhibition/john-heartfield-art/political-posters-sale/austrian-political-art-event) on the John Heartfield Exhibition. I hope you enjoy the entire exhibition as much as I do.

**Marijke Engel** Am.S.Dipl ’94 (Berlin):

> I am a trained newspaper journalist – but I quit a few years ago because as a freelance writer I just wasn’t making enough money. So I started to support my husband with his business as a TV reporter. Now we own a small media production company, working for several TV stations, both public and private. At present, I am doing the research for all the stories but I am starting to produce TV features myself, too.

> My latest project has involved reaching out to the Smith community (beyond the Diploma alums) – with great success! For months and months I had been trying to research a story about modern cowboys (yes, that general). We had this wonderful assignment and I had to find a working ranch and some rodeo cowboys who would take us along and let us film. But I was getting more and more miserable at my desk in Berlin. I wrote email after email to the Montana Stockgrowers Association, to Beef Producers in Wyoming and Colorado and to the Professional Rodeo...
Association. I called them and sometimes they would say: “Oh yes, we can help you” but then never got back to me. By the time of the reunion at Smith in May I realized that there is this amazing Smith alumnæ network – so I posted on the Smith FB group of Colorado and Wyoming and a few women responded with really good ideas. On my trip out West, I stayed with a Smithie close to Denver – a wonderful woman. From there I set out to meet Dona (whose contact information was given to me by another Smithie), who breeds bucking horses and bulls in Wyoming and sets up professional rodeo shows. The giant stuffed head of her favourite bull looks down from above the fireplace at her home in Casper, Wyoming. I spent the next day at the public radio station in Laramie. A daughter of a Smithie I met at reunion works there and she introduced me to her colleagues and they gave me some more good stories. This journey was incredible and I now have enough material to do a 90-minute report instead of the original 45-minute program. Everybody was so friendly and welcoming. I feel very grateful and hope that I can give back to other Smithies. And I recommend the “Stay with a Smithie” FB page.

On another note, I took my 17-year-old-daughter Laetitia to the Diploma reunion. She loved it and plans to apply to Smith – she will need a full scholarship though. I’ll let you know what happens!

Gerben van der Marel Am.S.Dipl ’98 (New York):

After five and a half exciting years as correspondent for the Dutch financial daily Het Financieele Dagblad, I will be leaving the United States this summer. A bittersweet moment. I will be heading to Berlin, to become Germany correspondent for the coming years.

Congratulations to Corinne De Jonge van Ellemeet Am.S.Dipl ’01 who was elected a member of the Dutch parliament for the Green Left party in March 2017. This is the second Diploma alumna who is an MP. Deborah Bergamini Am.S.Dipl ’93 is a member of the Italian parliament.

Susanne Scharf Am.S.Dipl ’01 (Frankfurt):

In June 2015, I enjoyed two Diploma “mini reunions” here in Frankfurt: Skadi Loist Am.S.Dipl ’01 was in town for a lecture, which gave us a chance to meet up. And Tamara Melkumyan Am.S.Dipl ’01 came all the way from Yerevan to see baby Anton and me by making a detour to Frankfurt on a business trip to Vienna. It was wonderful to spend a day together and catch up in person! [Editor’s apologies for the delay in the appearance of this item.]
Amel Toumi Am.S.Dipl ’06 (Paris):

I am still teaching English, mostly in private institutions in Paris. Since my last contribution in 2015 I’ve been doing more music. About a year ago I started a duet with a bass player called Lady Sebastian and we had our first show in Paris on January 21. We do a mix of covers and of originals. If you wish to find out more you can check out my personal music page Amel Toumi Music on Facebook: www.facebook.com/Amel-Toumi-Music-1603252436618145/ and my band page: Lady Sebastian Music: www.facebook.com/ladysebastianmusic/. One of my songs was used as a soundtrack for a video by artist and photographer Véronique Durruty and was screened in a movie theater in the south of France: www.youtube.com/watch?v=RkIee47VXGY. I also wrote a song for the Acoustic Guitar Project, here’s the link: http://theacousticguitarproject.com/project/paris/amel-toumi-all-the-things-we

Chloé Pulice Am.S.Dipl ’12 (Malta):

I am living now in Malta where I teach French language at an international school. But I have also been training to become a sophrology therapist, which is similar to being a mindfulness therapist, and hope to pass the exam in Paris soon. I have two hobbies: street art (I worked for a year in a street-art gallery in Paris and I am still in touch with them) and dance. I am interested in any kind of dance as a universal way to express diversity and identity. I would like to make a series of short videos about dance diversities but it is still only a plan as I have to convince a good friend to take care of the filming and she is busy on too many projects right now.

Being back at Smith for the Diploma reunion in May brought back so many memories. These few days were emotionally intense. Meeting all those amazing international women from different countries and generations was so inspiring and it reminded me what Smith brought me in my everyday life. It made me realize how diverse our program was and the direct impact it has had on our lives. I feel so grateful to be part of this incredible adventure.

Alessio Zuri Am.S.Dipl ’16 (Turin):

After the year at Smith I resumed my master’s degree study in Economics and Management at the University of Florence; I’ll graduate this summer with a dissertation on the topic of the role of human resources in international mergers and acquisitions in the travel and tourism industry. Currently, I’m working for FCA Bank S.P.A at their HQ in Turin in the HR department.

Fundraising Campaign

The Women for the World campaign came to an end in December 2016, with a total of $486 million raised, exceeding its goal by
$36 million. The Diploma group achieved its own target of $20,000 (contributions made to the Rose Scholarship Fund for Diploma Students) as part of this wider campaign. Very many thanks to all those who contributed so generously and enabled us to reach our goal. We would like to build on this in the future and encourage everyone to make regular contributions to the Rose Fund – even a small amount like $10 a year helps.

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://give.evertrue.com/smithcollege. Enter the gift amount with your credit card information first. Then pull down the “Optional Designation” menu and write on the “Special Instructions” box provided. Type the name of the Rose Fund and include the fund number: 447951. Thank you.

Please remember to keep alumnaerecords@smith.edu informed of changes to your email and postal address. We do not want to “lose” any alumnae/i.

And please send me your professional and personal news for the next newsletter and high-resolution photos. Thank you.

Finally, I thought you might be amused by this Donald Reilly New Yorker cartoon from 1971 that a Smith ’75 friend showed me at Smith in May. The caption reads “I realize acceptance at Smith means little to you at the moment, dear, but you’ll see—you’ll meet freaks there who will be your friends for life.”

On behalf of the Diploma Alumni Group Committee,

Best wishes

Julia MacKenzie Am.S.Dipl ’79

President, Diploma Alumni Group

email: jgmackenzie@yahoo.co.uk