Connections
Summer 2009

Sage Grads Have Success Down to a Science...

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From the President: Susan C. Scrimshaw

As we all know this is a time of great challenge for everyone, with those of us in leadership roles bearing special stewardship responsibilities. I am pleased and honored to be Sage’s ninth president and I am delighted to share with you the sense of positive opportunity and excitement that suffuses the life at our Colleges now.

Sage is a “manageably complex” institution and I am working closely with our leadership team to make the most of the legacy of my predecessors as we seek to create new opportunities in this dynamic environment. Sage has great core strengths in education, health care, liberal arts and sciences, visual and performing arts, and professional training. We are fortunate to have an educational portfolio that is diverse and relevant. We are seeking alliances with other cultural, educational, commercial, and governmental organizations that will allow us to leverage what we do so well, in ways that will benefit Sage and our community.

We are deeply involved in a strategic planning process that is bringing the Sage family together, focusing our identity, and enabling us all to envision and create new opportunities, using our legacy as a launch platform. We will take advantage of Russell Sage College’s distinctive mission as a women’s college, and Sage College of Albany’s revitalized and renewed focus on the leading edge of interdisciplinary curricula, with special emphases on studio arts and pre-professional studies in management and public policy. Our graduate programs are no less important — indeed some of the largest increase in demand has been at the graduate level, and they span both campuses while tying us to different sectors of the community.

Two specific examples of new initiatives that enhance legacy strengths with a fresh approach are the Sage Research Institute and the Sage Center for Professional, Organizational and Individual Development (think life long learning and continuing education). The Sage Research Institute will create an environment in which faculty and students doing research will supported in the creative process, interdisciplinary teamwork, proposal development and research management. The Center will provide learning and credentialing opportunities for groups ranging from high school students to retirees. A new School of the Arts will create a bridge between the visual arts in Albany and the performing arts in Troy, and create new graduate programs.

As word gets out, awareness of and appreciation for Sage is growing. A day does not go by when I don’t hear students and faculty talk about the excitement in the air, which was thrillingly palpable as I walked across the Russell Sage campus at a recent admissions open house. Sage pride is growing. We see application numbers growing briskly — even as other private colleges experience decreases in interest — and we can point to faculty and student accolades appearing in the media, with improvements to campus facilities and overall appearance serving as proof points.

As the semester wound down, at a student gathering on the Russell Sage campus, a student completing her first year said to me: “I don’t know what I’m going to do after next week, when I go home for the summer. I never had this feeling before, but I want summer to be over so that I can come back here.” That is the Sage spirit which we are seeing everywhere.

It is a challenging time to lead a college, and it is a thrilling time to be at The Sage Colleges. I have met many of you and I look forward to meeting as many more of you as possible in the years ahead. I am happy to travel to see you, but my fondest wish would be to welcome you back to campus so you can experience what I am trying to describe firsthand.
Susan C. Scrimshaw, Ph.D., Appointed Ninth President of The Sage Colleges

Global public health expert, noted scholar committed to creating a “21st Century Sage”

Susan C. Scrimshaw, Ph.D., has been selected to be the new president of The Sage Colleges. Scrimshaw, who had been interim president since July 2008, will be the ninth president since the founding of Russell Sage College in 1916.

“Susan Scrimshaw reflects the very essence of The Sage Colleges mission — the pursuit of lifelong learning, a dedication to personal and professional development, and a commitment to making meaningful contributions to the global society,” said Donna Esteves ’70, chair of The Sage Colleges Board of Trustees. “From her tireless efforts to address global healthcare issues to her well-recognized ability to bring innovative ideas from concepts to successful applications — on campuses across the country and in the world community — Susan is, without question, the individual who will ensure The Sage Colleges defines what it means to be a 21st century institution.”

A graduate of Barnard College in New York City, Scrimshaw obtained her M.A. and Ph.D. in Anthropology from Columbia University, where she was a student of cultural anthropologist Margaret Mead. At Barnard she majored in Latin American Studies and Anthropology.

“If one were to set about creating the ideal, most relevant small university for the 21st century and beyond, it would be Sage. With its blend of programs and facilities, Sage has a ‘diversified portfolio’ that makes it a strong ‘buy.’ Add our location in the state capital and Tech Valley, and our network of graduates and broad opportunities, and the proof-points speak for themselves,” said Scrimshaw. “Having the unique opportunity to be a part of this vital community during a period of transformation completely sold me. I am honored and pleased to have the opportunity to lead Sage as we continue this exciting trajectory.”

Scrimshaw has held leadership positions in higher education across the U.S. Most recently, she served as president of Simmons College in Boston. Prior to her post at Simmons, she served 12 years as the dean of the School of Public Health and professor of community health sciences and anthropology at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She has also served as associate dean of public health and professor of public health and anthropology at the University of California at Los Angeles.

An accomplished scholar, Scrimshaw’s research interests include community participatory research methods, addressing health disparities, improving pregnancy outcomes, violence prevention, health literacy, and culturally appropriate delivery of health care. She is the author of five books and numerous journal articles, book chapters and reports.

In the public health field, Scrimshaw has served with distinction on the Chicago Board of Health and the Illinois State Board of Health. She is a former chair of the Association of Schools of Public Health.

On a national level, Scrimshaw is a member of the governing council of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academies. When she was elected to the IOM in 1993, she and her father became the first father/daughter pair in the IOM. She has chaired the IOM Committee on Communication for Behavior Change: Improving the Health of Diverse Populations, and served as a member of many IOM Committees, most recently, the Committee on Health Literacy. Scrimshaw also serves as a member of the National Academy of Science Committee on Science, Engineering and Public Policy.

Scrimshaw serves in leadership capacities in numerous professional and academic organizations. She is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, as well as of the American Anthropological Association and the Society for Applied Anthropology, and is a past president of the Society for Medical Anthropology. Internationally Scrimshaw has served as president of the board of directors of the U.S.-Mexico Foundation for Science.

For her work on the health of Latino populations, she received a gold medal from former President Vicente Fox of Mexico. Her awards also include the Margaret Mead Award from the American Anthropological Association and the Society for Applied Anthropology.

Scrimshaw was born in Rochester, N.Y. and raised in Guatemala until age 16, when she and her family returned to the Boston area, where her father chaired the Department of Nutrition and Food Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She is married to Allan Stern and has one daughter, a granddaughter, a stepdaughter and a stepson.
Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand visited The Sage Colleges on May 21-22 as the guest of President Susan C. Scrimshaw and her husband, Allan Stern.

President Susan Scrimshaw and particularly her father, Nevin Scrimshaw, Ph.D., a global leader in nutrition and public health, have worked closely with the Thai Royal Family, having collaborated on projects to improve nutrition and health in Thailand.

“We are very grateful to Her Royal Highness for making time to visit Sage,” said President Scrimshaw. “We look forward to long partnerships between our communities and our educational institutions in both countries.”

While on the Russell Sage campus, Her Royal Highness attended a “Women of Influence” breakfast with Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute President Shirley Jackson and Sage Vice President for Academic Affairs Sally Lawrence; toured the Nursing Department’s Simulation Lab and the INVEST Incubator; and attended a presentation on women’s history at Russell Sage College and the WORLD program by Dean Sharon Robinson.

Often referred to as the “Princess of Technology” or the “Princess of Information Technology” because of her interests and expertise, Her Royal Highness holds several degrees in history and a doctorate in educational development. She speaks English, French and Chinese, and has studied German and Latin. She teaches and is head of the History Department at the Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy.

Go to Sage.edu and search “princess gallery” for more photos from this royal visit.
Since Professor Tom Keane was appointed director of the INVEST Incubator in 2008, the Incubator — the only such facility to be housed at a college for women nationally — has adopted a new name and recruited an additional tenant in pursuit of its mission to provide space and resources to help high-tech companies expand, while advancing Sage’s programs in science, technology and business.

The acronym INVEST remains the same, but now stands for Incubator for New Ventures in Emerging Sciences and Technologies. “It covers everything,” said Keane, explaining how replacing “nanotechnology” with “new” more accurately conveys the opportunities for scientific startups in all disciplines — from biotechnology to nanotechnology — at INVEST.

Since 2005, 12 students have interned at Evident Technologies Inc.— a pioneer and world leader in the development of quantum dots — located in John Paine Hall on Russell Sage’s campus. Keane hopes to see the number of students getting professional experience through INVEST increase to 29 by the end of the 2010 academic year, as a result of a second tenant — The Paper Battery Company — in the INVEST labs. The company — named one of the top 10 most promising Energy & Clean Technology companies at Rice University’s Alliance for Technology & Entrepreneurship Energy & Clean Technology Venture Forum last year — is developing a flexible battery made of cellulose, the same plant material that makes paper.

While the internships at INVEST have focused on Sage’s chemistry and biochemistry majors, Keane says that opportunities for students in other fields — especially business, marketing and communications — will emerge as the scientific breakthroughs from INVEST labs are commercialized.

Those students will be ready. Nanotechnology principles will be integrated everywhere at Russell Sage, from nursing classes to the WORLD courses, this fall. A National Science Foundation grant supported a student and faculty effort to adapt laboratory modules in nanotechnology for use across the undergraduate curriculum. The students’ research was summarized in a poster presentation — Technology of the Future by Women of the Future: Incorporating Nanotechnology into the Classroom — that was accepted by the 238th National Meeting and Exposition of the American Chemical Society (The meeting in Washington, D.C. is expected to attract approximately 13,000 chemists, chemical engineers, academics, and related professionals.)

“It starts with chemistry at the core, but is radiating out,” said Keane of this exposure to cutting edge science that is influencing entrepreneurship, innovation and leadership education at Russell Sage. A project to expand the incubator for non-lab-based startups and visiting entrepreneurs in Hart Hall is underway, and Keane noted the potential to develop an accelerated chemistry/MBA degree for Russell Sage women, calling it a very powerful combination.

“It is a great example of the ‘To Do’ aspect of ‘To Be, To Know, To Do,’” said Keane. “All because of an exchange between scientists, faculty and students going back and forth.”
Perfect Chemistry: Marilyn Trappiel Lukasik ’52

Marilyn Lukasik’s Russell Sage degree has served her well through multiple careers: as a chemist, a medical administrator, a security officer at Pricewaterhouse Coopers and IBM, and as a business owner today.

Lukasik is principal of MTL Security LLC in the Washington, D.C. area, which performs clearance work for corporations and the government. In her role, she protects national security by making sure that her clients’ employee clearance information is accurate and up-to-date.

“When a company wins a new contract that is classified, the employees who are designated to work on that contract have to be investigated and if that investigation is approved, the employees are ‘cleared’” she explains. “My work is to facilitate that investigation through processing of forms and briefing the employee about government rules.”

And while her work today may seem a far cry from her chemistry major at Sage, she credits life in the laboratory with the organizational skills she needs for clearance work. “The most challenging part of (clearance work) is to be sure that nothing is forgotten and that the information is complete and accurate. A good memory and good organizational skills are vital,” she said. “The discipline of the chemistry curriculum taught me organizational skills that I have used ever since.”

Lukasik was a medical research chemist after graduating from Sage. She left the work force to raise a family, and returned to work in medical offices 30 years later. She then seized an opportunity at accounting giant Pricewaterhouse Coopers, which led to a security officer position. “I decided it would be a good fit for my skills,” she said. “The most fulfilling part of my work is getting to know many people well and knowing that they trust me as a coworker and confidant.”

When she retired from Pricewaterhouse Consulting – which had been bought out by IBM – in 2003, she began MTL Security as a part-time consulting business. She was also called back to work part time at IBM in 2006. Between the two businesses, she almost works full time again.

Lukasik – whose daughter, Elizabeth Lukasik Gram, is a member of the Class of 1984 – received Russell Sage’s Doris L. Crockett Medal in 2004. She is a former alumna trustee on The Sage Colleges Board of Trustees; a former member of the Alumnae Association Board of Directors; and is president of the Washington D.C. alumnae chapter. As a student, she was attracted to Russell Sage College because of its academic life and social life. She values the same qualities as an alumna.

“I have always felt that the education I received at Russell Sage enables me to have a varied expertise that can be used in any position,” she said, adding that she appreciates the instant rapport she feels with all Russell Sage alumnae. “Sage instills a feeling of belonging that stays with one forever. Graduates of other schools envy of our Alumnae Chapters, Reunions and sense of connection.”
Success and a Surprise: Michelle Pautler ’07

Michelle Pautler ’07 expected her Russell Sage College biology degree would help her enter a prestigious graduate program in public health – she didn’t expect it to lead to a starring role in local television commercials. But that is exactly what happened!

It began when Sage invited Pautler – an academic and athletic standout at RSC, now a graduate student at the University at Albany – to appear in its spring visibility campaign, highlighting the successful outcomes that Sage graduates enjoy (98 percent of Sage graduates are either employed or continue their studies immediately after graduation!)

“The commercial was fun,” she said. “I love telling people about Sage, and I am always willing to tell people why they should consider it. Just the other day I ran into someone who is thinking about Sage and I gave them 1,000 reasons why they should go!”

The advertising caught the eye of a production company, who sought Pautler for additional commercial work. This summer, she’ll appear in ads for a local home improvement store.

But it is her internship this summer that she is really excited about. As part of her graduate program, she’ll work at the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering at the University at Albany, researching policy issues.

“ ‘I’ll be looking into safety procedures in laboratories,’ ” she said. “It is a great opportunity at the top nanotech college in the world, right here in Albany.”

Another example of great opportunities leading to great outcomes…and surprises!

Animated Accomplishment: Cynthia Slavens ’93

At Pixar Animation Studios – the Academy Award-winning studio that brought the worlds of Toy Story, Finding Nemo, Cars, and WALL-E to life – Russell Sage College alumna Cynthia Slavens is responsible for steering Pixar’s films into distribution outlets outside of the theater, and making sure that they look and sound as good as possible in all formats.

Slavens has spent time in the spotlight, too. Before attending Sage, the Manlius, N.Y., native completed a year-long internship at the Empire State Institute for the Performing Arts at the Egg (now the New York State Theatre Institute at Russell Sage College). After graduating, she appeared in theatre productions in New York’s Capital District and in Wilmington, N.C., where she worked on television and movie projects for Screen Gems studio – and appeared as Jamie Lee Curtis’ stand-in on an alien movie!

When she moved to California, she transitioned from acting to production, working at Nickelodeon and New Wave Entertainment. She joined the post production team at Pixar in 2006.

“Our days in post production are varied – part of what makes the job so interesting. The tasks that come up on an annual basis are our new releases on DVD and Blu-ray – including Up in November of this year – but with our catalog titles in the mix, it could be anything: A Bug’s Life on Blu-ray, a new video-on-demand version of Ratatouille. You never know what request is going to be on the other end of the ringing phone,” she said.

“There’s always a new technology, always a new outlet.”

She also stepped in front of the camera again. “At Pixar, there is an amazing department called Pixar University designed with employee enrichment in mind. They offer a variety of classes – some job-related, some not,” she said. “They offered a class in Script Analysis and Character Development. I took the class, we performed a play, and within a year after that, shot a short film version of that play. That film was accepted into the Reel Women Film Festival in Los Angeles. It just goes to show you – never say ‘never!’”

Slavens credits Sage with her comfort level no matter what role she is playing in the entertainment business. “The beautiful thing about the Creative and Performing Arts department at Sage was that, because of its size, we were afforded the opportunity to try out a lot of different things. I acted, built sets, ran lights, and stage-managed,” she said. “Sage was a fantastic foundation for that crucial time in my career. Because we were encouraged to try different things and succeed, I never doubted my abilities or shied away from a job.”
Here at Russell Sage, the WORLD series is not just a baseball championship. It is also a combination of interdisciplinary courses that form the cornerstone of Russell Sage’s general education program.

An acronym for Women Owning Responsibility for Learning and Doing, the WORLD program is comprised of Women in the World (WORLD 120), which introduces students to women’s lives in different parts of the world and the economic, political and cultural forces that shape their lives; and Women Changing the World (WORLD 420), which focuses on the ways that women’s actions, both personal and political, can advance human rights, locally and globally.

Here, a rising-sophomore who just completed WORLD 120, and a recent grad who completed both courses, share how the WORLD program inspired them, challenged them, and helped each to see herself as a force for positive change in the world.

Women in the World (and Here at Sage)

The WORLD program that is part of the curriculum here at Russell Sage offers a unique experience for students. I loved the class from the very first day. The reading material was wonderful, and discussing it — as well as our experiences as women — with fellow Russell Sage students was simply fantastic. I was even more excited when I learned that Women in the World is just one half of a required program here at Sage.

The program is composed of two main classes: WORLD 120 — Women in the World — taken by first-year students and WORLD 420 — Women Changing the World — taken senior year. As a first-year English major, I’ve only taken the first class but I can’t wait to take the follow-up course during my senior year. Taking Women in the World inspired me to learn more about women and cultures around the world. I took a class on Modern China and hope to take one on Russia. The Women in the World course renewed my love of foreign cultures and helped to connect it in my new college setting.

In WORLD 120, we read about and discussed women from around the world, including the United States. My favorite book during the semester-long class was Prisoner of Tehran by Marina Nemat. It is autobiographical and tells of the time Marina spent in an Iranian prison, when she was only 16, during the Iranian Revolution. Marina was very brave for sharing her story. As she explains in the book, not many Iranians who went through similar experiences want to discuss what they went through. Before the book, Marina had not shared what happened to her, because people found her experiences troubling to listen to.

At the end of the semester we had to choose a topic to do a presentation on. I chose to do mine on the play The Vagina Monologues, because the subjects addressed in the piece are so varied. The play helps to raise awareness about women’s experiences, from the “Comfort Women” in Japan during World War II, to domestic violence. I read aloud some of
To Be, To Know, To Do

To Be, To Know, To Do. These six words have shaped my life for the past four years at Russell Sage College. I’ve learned how to be a woman of influence, to know myself and to do things that enrich my environment. Part of my education at RSC came from a required program: It’s called WORLD and there are two parts: Women in the World and Women Changing the World.

As a first-year student, I was placed in Women in the World. I figured I would be learning about famous women who changed the world. However, I was wrong. My classmates and I learned about ordinary women all over the world. I will never forget reading An American Story for the first time and thinking, “This woman, Debra Dickerson, is amazing.” and she was just a regular woman trying to find herself—like all of us. Each book we read personalized another aspect of womanhood. We had a face and a story to learn about in the books we read. This class woke up something inside me and made me realize that women have something special, something different inside them that is not always acknowledged by society, but is nonetheless important. I just couldn’t figure out what that something was.

During my senior year, I took Women Changing the World. To be honest, I thought I had bigger fish to fry than meeting for three hours once a week for a required class. I was a senior; I was applying to law school. I can get a lot done in three hours, so why would I spend it reading and discussing books that didn’t necessarily apply to my major? My answer was the realization I made my first year here at RSC.

Our final exam grade came from a group action project each student was required to partake in. The project could focus on any public issue we felt needed our attention. I wanted to focus on the Troy community, specifically young women. My group hosted a Young Women of Influence Day and invited local fourth, fifth and sixth grade girls to RSC to share in character building and self esteem workshops. The project was amazing. The students came, participated in the workshops and left us with positive feedback. They looked up to us and were grateful to spend the day with us, on our good day or the kind of day that made us matter what, whether we were having a good day or the kind of day that made us want to jump into the Hudson, we knew we could share it with our classmates and they would celebrate with us or help us out. The support my group received from our classmates made our group action project so successful. It was the same way for other groups too. I’ve never seen this happen anywhere else—ever.

The WORLD program makes us leaders by letting us be ourselves and connect to one another, know what our society is giving to us, and do what we need to, together.

Emily Eckland ’09 majored in history and political science at Russell Sage and will attend Albany Law School in the fall. She hopes to study international law and focus on human rights. At Russell Sage, she was Wool House Manager; president, Athenian Honor Society; and a member of the Women’s Association for Community and Knowledge; Sage Leaves; and Laurel Leaves. Her mother, Donna Giffune, is a member of Russell Sage’s Class of 1983. Turn to the inside back cover to read her reflection on her daughter’s graduation from Russell Sage College.
Reunion 2009 has just ended. Spirits ran high and the excitement of seeing friends again is hard to put into words. It was my 35th Reunion (has it really been that long!) and I love being back more each time I am here. Each Reunion, I get to reconnect with friends I knew and make new connections with classmates I really didn’t know during my time at Sage. I also enjoy meeting members from all the classes. This year we had four members of the Red Devil Class of 1939 here to celebrate their 70th Reunion! These women are awesome! I hope that I have their energy when it is my 70th Reunion. They followed right behind the Red Devil Class of 1959 in the parade, celebrating their 50th Reunion. Activities abounded – we had a book club discussion; health seminars led by the nutrition and nursing faculties; a mini-Founders seminar; and a golf clinic at the Neff Athletic Center. We offered Pilates, yoga, and massages. Campus and Troy tours brought lots of alumnae into places they haven’t explored in years and some new places as well. Some of the younger alumnae, in both age and spirit, went to The Ruck on 3rd Street (formerly called Sutter’s) on Friday night to party and watch their class DVDs. We honored alumnae at the volunteer luncheon, and at the annual meeting presented the Doris Crockett Medal — the Association’s highest honor — to Marilyn Miller Fowler ’69. Of course, we partied into the night on Saturday. All in all it was a wonderful Reunion filled with great memories and joyous times. Some photos are here in Connections; others are on the alumnae section of the website at www.sage.edu/rsc/alumnae or can be found on our new Reunion 2009 Facebook page. If you have Reunion photos you would like to share, please e-mail them to the Alumnae Relations office at rscalum@sage.edu. We will place as many as we can on our sites.

This spring has been a very exciting time at Sage. Susan Scrimshaw’s appointment as the College’s ninth president ushers in a new direction and focus for students, faculty, staff and, of course, alumni of the entire Sage College community. For RSC alumnae, the appointment of a bright, dedicated professional woman who herself is a product of a women’s college education reinforces the College’s commitment to Russell Sage College for Women. I know when you meet her you will be as impressed as I with her warmth, outgoing personality, and most importantly, commitment to the College.

I am pleased to inform you that both applications and acceptances to Russell Sage College are up again this year. Under the direction of Dan Lundquist, VP for Marketing and Enrollment Management, and his expert team of admission professionals, we are witnessing a resurgence of interest in the College and its educational programs. I recently worked a college fair and met with so many highly qualified young
women who looked at Sage as a strong and viable educational opportunity; a place where they can grow personally and professionally. The new financial aid policy, which has been instituted this year, helps ensure that any accepted student will be able to afford a Sage education. That is made possible in two ways: the first is the hard work of the financial aid officers who work with each family; the second is each of us – Russell Sage College alumnae – who support the annual giving campaign which provides the funds necessary to help make this program a success. Please accept my sincere thanks to each and every alumna who showed her support of Sage this past year with a donation to The Sage Fund for Excellence. You are helping Sage remain the strong and vibrant school we knew and loved. And for those who have not yet added their voice to those who have supported Sage, it is never too late. Remember that no donation is too small – every dollar makes a huge difference in the life of a student at Russell Sage College.

There has also been an abundance of alumnae events taking place around the country. In addition to our already strong chapters in Northern California, Southern Connecticut and Washington D.C. which continue to host marvelous programs and annual events, such as LobsterFest each summer in Maine, we are seeing resurgence in the Boston and Worcester Mass. areas, as well as greater Hartford, Conn. Smaller events are also taking place throughout the country as local alumnae gather, catch up with one another and begin to plan for other opportunities to renew their Sage spirit. I encourage you to connect with your fellow Sage alumnae.

The Alumnae Relations office will be happy to help you in this endeavor.

One of the fun things I get to do as the Alumnae Association president is attend Baccalaureate and formally welcome the graduating seniors as members of the Russell Sage College Alumnae Association. While I placed the Association pin on the class president, members of the RSCAA board joined me by handing pins to each graduating senior as they recessed from Bush. It was great to see the pins being worn proudly on the seniors’ robes during the reception that followed.

Finally, my special thanks to our RSC Alumnae Association board and the Alumnae Relations staff. My name may be the one you see, but I do not do this work alone. Without their support and hard work we would not be accomplishing all that we are for Sage. This year, board members Jen Hummer ’01 and Jenny Johnson ’08 are stepping down. Jen has been on the board for six years and has done outstanding work for us. Jenny was our first-year alumnae representative. We wish her all the best as she begins medical school in the fall. They will be missed. And finally a thank you to Cathy Hunter-Gould ’84 on her completed term as treasurer. I look forward to Cathy’s continued involvement on the Board. Following in Cathy’s able footsteps is Belinda Rucker Hilton ’97. I welcome Belinda’s expertise and leadership as she assumes her responsibilities as our new treasurer.

My best wishes for an enjoyable summer. As always, please be in touch. My e-mail is hollis.dorman@verizon.net. I love hearing from you, so don’t be a stranger.

Hollis G. Dorman
President
Russell Sage College Alumnae Association
Reunion weekend was full of events for the returning graduates from class years ending in “4” and “9,” ranging from 1939 to 2004.

- The announcement of the Women of Influence award winners Bette H. Boatmun ’59 and Christine Werner Ward ’71.
- The presentation of class gifts, including a generous gift of $57,146 from the 50th Reunion Class of 1959 (Go Red Devils!).
- The first Reunion Book Club Discussion (about Cat’s Eye by Margaret Atwood) led by Professor David Salomon, chair of the Department of English and Modern Languages.
- Presentations by Sage faculty about INVEST; Founder’s Seminar; Developments in Nursing Practice and Nutrition; and Managing Your Financial Opportunities.
- A visit by children’s book author and illustrator Professor Matthew McElligott, who signed copies of his newest book, *The Lion’s Share*.
- Walking tours of campus led by RSC students; tours of the historic buildings of downtown Troy, led by Hudson Mohawk Industrial Gateway Executive Director P. Tom Carroll; and a tour of the Washington Park area, led by Washington Park Association President Lynn Kopka ’74.
Russell Sage College
Regional Alumnae Events

Regional Alumnae Events

**April at Olana**

- Ann Shuttleworth '65 and Sylvia Alvezi Connor '62 on a tour of Olana, the home of artist Frederic Church.
- Linda McLean '72 guided alumnae through Olana.
- Nancy Blair Myers '57, Joanne Casale Bonesteel '78, Susan Barnes Seim '78, and guests enjoy lunch at Beekman Arms in Rhinebeck, NY after touring Olana.

**Fifty Centuries of Women in Art at Worcester Art Museum**

- Alumnae and guests enjoyed lunch and a special tour of the Worcester Art Museum in March.
- Laura Kuczarski '01 and Elizabeth Cummings '40 at the Worcester Art Museum.
- Mother and daughter Jean Risley Hall '46 and Deborah Hall Hampilos '75 at the Worcester Art Museum.

**Women of Influence at the Liberty Hotel, Boston**

- Janet Jones '68, trustee of The Sage Colleges, presented Julia L. Greenstein-Bleicher '78 with the Women of Influence Award in April at the Liberty Hotel in Boston.
- Faith Rubin '67 and Diane Schuster '68 share laughs at the Boston gathering.

**More Alumnae Event Highlights**

- Katherine Hoxsie '70 and husband Joseph Kirby of Stonington, Conn., hosted a reception for President Scrimshaw and husband Allan Stern.
- Marilyn Miller Fowler '69 hosted an event at Hakone Gardens in Northern California.
- Mary Aileen Matheis '48 organized a luncheon in Southern California.
- A Southern Connecticut Alumnae Luncheon featured speaker Dan Lundquist, Vice President of Marketing and Enrollment Management.
- President Scrimshaw hosted classmates of '71 and '73 for brunch at Vail House.

**More Alumnae Event Highlights**

- Eleanor Brownsey Fladager-Biklen '40 and Elizabeth Knowles Porter '40 discuss their upcoming Reunion, June 4-6, 2010, during Leadership Day on campus.
of you who go, have a wonderful day or weekend, and for those of us who can’t, dream on.

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We are sad to announce the
death of Janet Hanley Chismark,
long-time dedicated Sagette.
She will be missed.

This is the issue of
Connections in which we can
finally report Christmas messages.
Dating of Class Notes does not
permit otherwise. Sorry! So here
go, in the order I happen to
have saved them:

Ruth Handrick Furman
hopes that I am doing well and
enjoying life. (The latter is
correct, but the former is not so
good – knee replacement recovery
continues at a snail’s pace due
partially to the peripheral
neuropathy problem.) Ruthie
writes that she is “recovering
from a fall in ‘balance’ class.”

During the fall, she sprained
a groin muscle, but this did not
hinder her trip to Virginia for
the holidays.

Ann “Ubbie” Usher McKay
says that a highlight of her year
was visiting Sage College of
Albany to meet the young man
who received the Helen Usher
Commencement Award (part of
the Usher Fund she started many
years ago). “Imagine 66 years
of working with this college I am
so proud of. As we lose family
and friends, it is even more
important to hear from you.”

An interesting letter from
Jean Sorensen Le Loup
tells she “is quite well in spite
of cardiac arrest and five weeks in
a coma in 1982. I now live in
Georgia in a garden apartment in
my daughter’s home. Because of
the brain injury, I belong to a
support group and through them
have been able to use my art on
behalf of the Brain Injury Associa-
tion of Georgia to raise funds
selling note cards. (The beautiful
card she sent was made from one
of her oils.) My volunteering cons-
ists of ‘peer visits’ to six rehabs
in the Atlanta area. I enjoy this
activity.” Since we have not heard
from Jean before, I’m including
her address: 110 Old Cartwell
Drive, Alpharetta, GA 30022.

The annual card from the
Gulf Coast, where Florence
Carter Gaylord and her husband
reside, reminds us that they are
near Gulf Shores where their three
children join them for vacations.
Flo reports that the Gulf water
is great for swimming: “Warm
enough for this ol’ gal and little
ones (great grandchildren).”

That’s all for now folks! I’ll
update you on my leg’s limping
progress and many cultural
activities (my head is still “on
straight”) at a later date.

Eleanor Jordan Mason
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Morris Plains, NJ 07950
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1943

Greetings from polar bear coun-
dry! Not much news to report this
time – where is everyone? Those
who sent holiday notes indicated
good health, satisfaction with
retirement living, happy family
gatherings and travel.

Kathleen “Kay” Perkins,
MD received the 2008 Dean’s
Award for Dedication to the
Profession of Medicine at the
West Virginia University School
of Medicine, where she is a
faculty member.

The Alumnae Office reports
that we have lost another class-
matte. Virginia Iling Fisher
passed away in 2007. Although belated,
Ann Heddens Kingston’s daughter and grandson attended Obama’s inauguration. Her son won his ninth term in the House. Ann helped make that possible by working on his campaign. Keep us posted!

Vera Cohen Lee
15 Claremont Street
Newton, MA 02458
617-965-1768
leevi@bc.edu

1947
Sylvia Saarnijoki
24 Holly House Court #4A
Litchfield, CT 06759-3616
860-567-5271
ssaarnijoki@webtv.net

1948
I had a letter from Susan Barnes Seim ’78, who is the daughter-in-law of Dorothy (Dotty) Johnson Seim. She was across the hall from Norma Erdos Bernstein and yours truly in Slocum House. Dotty and her husband moved to Kingsway Senior Apartments in Schenectady. Christmas was fun for all with their three children, spouses and seven grandchildren, ages 17 to 28. Dotty would love to hear from former classmates. Her address is: 5000 Queen Philomena Blvd. #133, Schenectady, NY 12304.

I just learned that Joyce Cavosie Salock passed away in February. Our sympathy to her family. Her home address was: 1 Keystone Terrace, Clifton Park, NY 12065.

Sit down, take pen in hand, and write me some news!

Elizabeth (Jay) Lee Warren
15 East 16th Ave, Apt 4

1949
Louann Storms Plough writes, “George and I are really enjoying life here at Seabury Retirement Community. In 2008, we celebrated my 80th birthday with a fantastic safari in Southern Africa, a wonderful family celebration in Connecticut, and a fascinating trip to Egypt and Jordan.” Sounds like a wonderful way to celebrate!

Spokane, WA 99203
509-938-2769
billandjay@hotmail.com

Chapter. Elena (Ellie) Swett McHerron writes a newsletter for the Candida Allergy Support Group, promoting good nutrition, and mentions how nutrition has changed since a Home Economics degree in 1952. Marguerite (Rite) Norton Spollen says hello from Florida.

We extend condolences to Geraldine Backensto Weeks, whose husband passed away in October. She plans to remain in Wallingford, CT, their home of 33 years. Her children and grandchildren are throughout the world, but have been great support for her.

Elaine Hansen Cleary had a slight stroke and cardiac surgery last fall, but is on the way to resuming activities as a substitute teacher and volunteer, following two months of cardiac rehabilitation. Good for you, Elaine, any kind of rehab is hard work, but it gets you where you want to be!

Your correspondent reports that she has had a reprieve of sorts from aortic valve replacement surgery which was expected this winter but will probably take place next fall. A great amount of weight loss has helped to delay the inevitable, but Machu Picchu is definitely off my “Bucket List.”

Jane Day Lingle, I remember the box of candy we devoured on Valentine’s Day 1954! We made a game of it. We had to keep eating pieces until we correctly guessed the filling. We ate the whole box because we never got one right. Jane lives in Sanford, FL. She has four children and three of them work in the family business. They have a summer house in North Carolina and Jane is a golfer.

Joan Frumkin Martens wrote to say that New York City was experiencing the coldest days she could remember in the past several years.

I laughed when I opened up a letter from Joan Smith Doran because she sent me a picture of an ice covered tree just to refresh my memory of what a real winter is like.

Judy Spain Taber, Charlotte Silver Leary, Audrey DeSmidt Benson, Jean Twiss Riley-Harris, and I met in February for lunch in Fort Myers, FL. We had hoped that Joan Doran and Jean Armstrong Rider would join us, but Jean was ill and Joan was called home because of her sister’s illness. Audrey reported that they had an ice storm in December and
were without power for six days. Also, Jean Rider has a new address: 300 Westminster Canterbury Drive, Apt 332, Winchester, VA 22603.

Sophia Kirtsopoulos Lambros called from Marco Island where she lives from October to May. She wanted to be included in the West Coast Sage '53 lunch this year, but had a cataract removed the day before we had agreed to meet so she was unable to come.

A note from Vera Stiles Lisk said she had lost contact with classmates except for Martha Klahn Shangraw. Vera has lived in a senior citizen housing community since 1994. She has five children and nine grandchildren. Two sons live near her and three daughters settled elsewhere. She has one granddaughter married. She would like to live long enough to be a great-grandmother. On a sad note, her sister Ruth Stiles Strait '52 died in 2008. Ruth left behind her husband of 52 years, four sons, a daughter, and three grandchildren.

Nancy Phillips Wood wrote that life in their retirement community continues on an even keel. Nancy volunteers at blood drives and Charles assists in the chapel. They spent Christmas in Centreville, VA with their daughter's family. Their grandson moved to Elmira, NY. She taught in February for Afghanistan where he will lead a platoon responsible for the security of the Battalion Commander.

Congratulations to Joan Crummey Firra. She graduated in December with her Ph.D. in Physical Therapy. Her colleagues, children, grandchildren, neighbors and friends gathered for a reception. She was interviewed by the Dallas Morning News and an article appeared in the Sunday paper. She is continuing her research on the most appropriate conservative treatment of incontinence in women.

On Ground Hog Day, I received a phone call from my roommate Ailyn Terada telling me not to despair, my Christmas card for 2008 was in the mail. Her goal was to get them all out by the end of January!

Sally Schek Mueller wrote that they had a Thanksgiving celebration with children and grandchildren plus Wally's nephew whom they had not heard from in 33 years. Wally has been nominated to the New Jersey Soccer Coach Hall of Fame and will be inducted in March.

After our 53th Reunion, Andy and Barbara Parsons O'Keefe attended Andy's reunion at Holy Cross. They spend summer at their beach house in Old Lyme. Last summer they converted the deck in their Cromwell home to a sunroom. The first week it was done, a golf ball struck one of the windows. The O'Keefes feel like parents again, with an eight-week-old puppy, who is both smart and manipulative.

If you do not see your name in this column and you corresponded with me I promise it will be in the next issue of Connections. I received so many responses this time that I decided to hold some for next time. Thanks and keep the correspondence coming.

Patricia Walker Mulholland 1013 Sassarass Circle Bloomington, IN 47408 812-234-2457 jmuhilhill@indiana.edu

1954

Joseph Fisher, companion of Renee Shapiro, passed away in March. We extend our deepest condolences. I also received word of the death of Mary LaPlant Fehner in 2008. The class extends our condolences to her family.

Leila Berkowitz Schwartz 420 East 54th Street #830 New York, NY 10022 212-906-9056 leilien@aol.com

1955

The Sage Alumnae Relations Office has advised of the death Elinor Ginsburg Wisan in 2006. Our condolences go out to her family and friends.

Your correspondent regrets that there was no news to share in the winter issue of Connections. For the future, please drop me a line or e-mail anything that might be of interest to your classmates. Thank you.

Kay Brooks Blick 400 Forest Drive Springfield, NJ 07081 973-376-6091 kblickkidzpa@comcast.net

1956

Thanks to those all who sent Christmas cards. I do not think they provided any special news. If I have missed something, please forgive me. Christmas was a difficult time for me as I lost my wonderful husband, John, in October. He died very suddenly. I traveled to Seattle to be with west coast family until just before the holiday and returned in time to be with my daughter Martha and her family, who have returned from Germany. My years with John were some of the happiest in my life. I am lost without him.

The other sad news to report is that we have lost a wonderful classmate and friend. I received a heartwarming note from Phil Farnum telling me of the loss of his best pal, the love of his life, Audrey. Audrey had oral cancer which they thought she had beaten. After graduating from Sage, Audrey received her master’s degree in English at Central Connecticut State College. After raising five children, she resumed her teaching career. She was teaching up until her illness. She spent her free time with her book club, gardening, cooking and reading. She is survived by her very loving husband and children and nine grandchildren.

I guess we are reaching that stage in life where sad news surrounds us. I welcome any news from all of you. Without it, I have nothing to write.

Ellen DeLoach Van Buren 20540 Falcons Landing Circle #1107 Potomac Falls, VA 20165 703-450-4747 EllenCLV9@aol.com

1957

Irina Wilhelm 43 Young Road Augusta, ME 04330 207-622-9544 jiwilhelm@aol.com

1958

Carol Schultheis Gossweiler married Dr. Robert Gossweiler, who attended Albany Medical School. Their first baby was due on the day of our graduation from RSC, but he decided to come 16 days later. They had three more children before adopting a Korean child in 1966. Carol raised and showed champion Pug dogs and became an American Kennel Club judge. Carol treasures the card she received from Dean Crockett congratulating her and her husband on the birth of their son, inscribed “To the brave boy who spent a year in a girl’s college.”

Myrna Rothenberg Herman married Milt Herman in 1959. He is now a retired attorney. They have two children and three grandchildren, and live in Longboat Key, FL. Myrna specialized in geriatric physical therapy until retirement in 1995. “Life is good!” she says.

Millicent “Midge” Clayton Hull has five children and 10 grandchildren. She had a child care business for 20 years, and traveled with her husband to various assignments as he was career Air Force. At retirement they settled to the Washington Peninsula, where Midge sings in the Sweet Adeline Chorus, raises a step-grandson, cares for her husband’s brother and volunteers. She is active in the Mormon Church, and has excellent health and happy memories of Sage.

Mary Doyle Hunt married William Hunt who became a principal in the Albany School District. He died in 1982. She has three daughters and seven grandchildren.

Marcia Koch Hurst married Stanley Hurst, DDS in 1959. They moved to Elmira, NY. She taught in Westbury, NY and Elmira, NY and volunteered at her local hospital. The couple has three daughters: a physician, a dentist, and an attorney. They have eight grandchildren. Until her husband retired, Marcia ran her husband’s dental practice and later moved to NJ to be nearer to her children and grandchildren.

Dian Culver Jones married Bob Jones in 1958. They have two daughters, a son, and six grandchildren. Their youngest daughter is an alumna of Russell Sage’s Class of 1986. Travel has
become the emphasis in their lives since retirement. She feels fortunate to have good health and fondly remembers Rally Days, going to Albany junior year to learn anatomy by dissecting a cadaver, and living in Albany for her senior year.

Barbara Chismar Lackey married Ron Lackey in 1963 and they have two daughters and three grandchildren. Barbara received a master’s in Education and a Ph.D. in Psychology. Her career highlights include a master's in Education and three grandchildren. Barbara and they have two daughters and three grandchildren. Barbara has been president of the Teachers Union and Delta Kappa Gamma. She has been a leader of the Portland Symphony Orchestra for 25 years. Among her fond memories was when Dean Harvey fixed her up with Creel Froman for her freshman year prom date!

Carol Rapp Meisel has three children and three grandchildren. She has traveled to Nepal, India, Israel, Europe, China, New Zealand, Australia and more. She loves to paint and has entered her watercolors in local and national shows. She enjoys cycling, cross country and alpine skiing, and canoeing.

Judith Horowitz Meltzer married George Meltzer who was VP and general manager for the US Sun Life of Canada and owner of International Advisors Pension Administration Co. His sudden death by accident had a profound effect on her. Judi was county coordinator for the Dukakis presidential campaign; president of the Lynnfield, MA League of Women Voters; and on the board of the Puget Sound League of Voters. She and George had three sons and six grandchildren. Rally Day and camp memories with all the PE majors are fond memories.

Leona Strong Myers writes that her husband is deceased. Her daughter Nadine Austin was a member of the Class of 1987 at RSC. She has three grandchildren.

Barbara Malloch Peckham married Rodney Peckham in 1958. They have three sons and six grandchildren. For several years she worked as a cook and driver for Meals on Wheels. Her memories of Sage include having curfewls, that slacks and shorts were restricted, Ring Dinner, loving house mothers, and graduation day. One of her most rewarding experiences has been being a Stephen Leader which is a Christian caring ministry.

Gayle Jones Phelan married Frank Phelan in 1961 and they spent 30 years in military service. She spent 40 years teaching “all over” and was named Teacher of the Year in Tampa, FL. She counts raising eight children among her greatest achievements. She has 10 grandchildren (so far!) Fondest memories include Ring Dinner and Rally Day.

Carolyn Wentzel Nealon was born in 1959. She graduated from the University of New Hampshire in 1981. She worked as a counselor and then a school counselor. She is currently a counselor at a private school.

Linda Nee was born in 1960. She graduated from the University of New Hampshire in 1981. She worked as a counselor and then a school counselor. She is currently a counselor at a private school.

Linda Ostrom Goodwin was born in 1962. She graduated from the University of New Hampshire in 1981. She worked as a counselor and then a school counselor. She is currently a counselor at a private school.

Ronnye Berg Shamam participated in the Spinning Nation ’09 charity ride.
Sheila Feld Gordon ’62 and her husband Chuck

Ronnye Berg Shamam participated in the Spinning Nation ’09 charity ride for Athletes for a Cure and the Lance Armstrong Foundation in February. Ronnye said, “The two hour ride was amazing. I burned 658 calories and I’m not just a little tired!” She writes, “Sheila Feld Gordon ’62 and her husband Chuck spent the week of Passover in NYC with me…Chuck led the Seder both nights, assisted by my son Bill. I shopped. Sheila cooked (yeah!) Afterward, we spent a lot of time touring Chinatown, complete with facials and massages. Now I’m getting ready to travel for business and pleasure. The two highlights will be Croatia at the end of April and my sail on the HMS Bounty from NYC to Boston on July 4.”

Shari Taylor Grove
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grove@bc.edu

1965

Janie Sibley has published two books: Norse Mythology According to Uncle Einar, a humorous look at Odin, Thor and company, and The Hammer of the Smith, a historical fantasy novel set in the Dark Ages. The next will be The Divine Thunderbolt: Missile of the Gods, which will focus on the Near East, Greece, Rome, and Western Europe from earliest records to relatively modern times. Visit www.divinethunderbolt.com to take a peek. She has a spice and herb blend business (visit www.auntiecarweynspices.com), is active in medieval and Roman re-enactment, teaches arts and crafts to homeschoolers and at adult education programs, and is “chief chow chef” to a hungry tuxedo cat!

Karen Wurstlin Williams
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1966

Barbara T. Dickinson Patterson
11 Country Club Lane
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603-424-1421
bbpatternh@aol.com

1967

Bonnie Wooding Grinvalsky
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860-567-4771
spicebushfarm@aol.com

1968

I’m so glad that so many of you returned Reunion surveys. It’s great to hear of your adventures over the last 40 years!

Jean Cook Johnson is a school nurse at St. Mary’s School in Simsbury, CT and at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital Behavioral Health in Torrington, CT. Jean and her husband are proud of three children and six grandchildren.

Susan Antler Price Gins is self-employed as a certified nutritionist and was voted Best Nutritionist in Seattle, WA in 2007. Her son owns a fly-fishing business in Pennsylvania.

Judy Vandenburg Gelston was a remedial reading specialist from Skaneateles, NY. She chairs the ecumenical food pantry and is a board member of Presbyterian Manor. She and her husband have three grown children.

Nadine Stah White has lived in Scotland since 2006. A retired secondary English and Drama teacher in Saratoga Springs, NY and Oxfordshire, England, she met her husband while studying in London on a sabbatical. Nadine won a national award in the UK for a video she filmed in which her students tested disabled access at their school and in the community. She became a liaison between schools and local communities as part of an “Education

Industry Links” initiative. Nadine has also performed the autoharp for 35 years and helped set up the UK Autoharps Association (see www.ukautoharps.org.UK for photos and information). And Nadine now has her intermediate license in amateur radio!

Marcia Bourland is a consulting social worker in Chicago. She has been a medical social worker since 1970. She traveled extensively and some of her favorite places were the Greek Islands, Australia and the Norwegian fjords. She has two stepchildren and her husband teaches at the University of Chicago. She reminds us of the cotton tank suits we wore in swim class and cherishes the friendships made at Sage. I remember how I, Marsha Bor Parker and Marcia Bourland were in French and dance classes together, confusing the professors with our names!

Jane Kaufman Balis wrote from Amherst, MA where she is a reading specialist.

Judith Witbeck Dewitt, grandmother of seven, is vice-president and co-owner with her husband, of Time Frame, Inc. in Dublin, NH.

My husband and I just returned from Cancun and went on a February trip to the Dominican Republic. Our latest family addition is Gracie, a 10 pound Shih Tzu. I’m saving more Reunion survey responses for the fall issue. I look forward to hearing from you. There is sad news to report about Katrinna “Trina” Westcott Van Sickle, who passed away on March 19. Her husband wrote, “Trina died Thursday night at 8 p.m. It was peaceful and painless.

I was with her and watched her take her final breath. My plan is to cremate her and then have her interred in Vermont alongside her parents. Would you please pass this on to all of her Sage friends? All of you have been a big help over the past few years. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.” Condolences may be sent to 255 Royal Tern Rd., N., Ponce Inlet, FL 32282.

A group 1960s alums invite you to join their group on Facebook. Search Facebook groups to join “Russell Sage College Alumnae Classes of 1965-1970.” From there, you can befriend other classmates, see Reunion and other photo albums, and link to other RSC groups and web sites.

1969

Congratulations to Marilyn Miller Fowler on her selection as the Crockett Medal winner. This prestigious award was bestowed during Reunion weekend.

Wendy Fibison is the training director for over 500 post docs, post BNCs and other trainees at NIH. Her son is in a mechanical engineering program at Virginia Tech.

Jane (Jan) Goldenberg Cohen sent a photo of her family on a trip to Ireland. Jane and her husband spend time between their homes in Bethlehem, PA and Princeton, NJ. Jane is busy painting in preparation for a gallery show.

Gail Seiler Clarke sent a beautiful wedding photo of her daughter. Gail is on the mend after a broken leg from a hiking accident. She and her husband enjoy their winter getaway at their condo in Moss Creek, NC.

Martha (Muff) Fowler Englebert’s holiday card included a photo of her five grandkids and husband. She writes life is good.

Maxine Clayman Ferencz, who transferred after our freshman year, and her husband are birdwatchers and photographers. They traveled to Paris, Normandy, and then Sweden where Jon presented a paper at an international dental meeting. Maxine volunteers as a research assistant at the Museum of Arts and Design in New York City.
Sherry Scott Strammiello writes 2008 has been all about grandchildren!

Terry Wolfgang Ragazinni sent her top 10 reasons to remember 2008, including her husband’s 40th Princeton reunion; coaching her high school academic team to the Connecticut championship; a Caribbean and Bermuda cruise; a new hip; her 87-year-old mom still lives independently; her son is a member of the Tufts Cross Country team; and her older son graduated from college and has a job!

Judy Cluchey Tough, who transferred after sophomore year, writes from Texas that her children are all married and that she plans to retire from teaching in the spring.

Pamela Saboté Broughel and her husband, a retired Troy firefighter, live in Pittstown, NY. They have two daughters, one a pathologist at Memorial Sloan Kettering and one who works for the New York State Ethics Commission. Pam has three grandchildren.

Barb Blaisdell Sterrett suggested a donation of $196.90, or $1969.00 in honor of our 40th. As I’m sure most nursing majors do, she continues to be employed as a middle school resource teacher, am active in AAUW, was re-elected as a trustee at our local public library and serve as a director of the New York State Association of Library Boards.

After having won a seat in a lottery held by my congressman, I attended the inauguration of Barack Obama. It was an experience of a lifetime! In May my husband, Alan, and I will celebrate our 35th wedding anniversary. We recently traveled to China, visiting the cities of Beijing, Suzhou, Hangzhou and Shanghai."

Crystal (Kriss) Robbins Monteverd has taught physical education for 35 years at the same high school and has no retirement plans, yet. She remembers Sage Hall where she spent senior year in a tower room. She thought it a great place to live after Kellas and Slocum. I have to agree. She also has fond memories of taking the bus with the other PE majors to the Arsenal for field sports. Rally Day and Big and Little Sisters are also part of those memories.

Kathleen Ann (Katki) Schickel Razi, Ph.D. is the president of Razi and Associates and states she has a great life “that integrates my interest in education, consulting, coaching and family.” Her consulting work has taken her to Europe, Canada, and Turkey. Her family was usually able to come along. She is the director of the Master of Manage-

Despite being in a nursing home in the Bronx, she has continued to be a part of her family’s lives and shares fond memories of her. The Alumnae Office has informed me that Shirley B. Howard died in 2008. We wish her family and friends fond memories of her.

Sally Oldendorf Swierczek writes, “To date, our sons have graduated from Carnegie Mellon, Ohio Wesleyan and Georgetown universities. Our older son married in 2006 and they presented us with our first grandchild in 2008. All of this has brought new joy and contentment to our lives! I continue to be employed as a middle school resource teacher, active in AAUW, was re-elected as a trustee at our local public library and serve as a director of the New York State Association of Library Boards. After having won a seat in a lottery held by my congressman, I attended the inauguration of Barack Obama. It was an experience of a lifetime! In May my husband, Alan, and I will celebrate our 35th wedding anniversary. We recently traveled to China, visiting the cities of Beijing, Suzhou, Hangzhou and Shanghai.”

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ment program at Ursuline College in Ohio. She believes Sage led her to her interest in women’s development as well as her professional focus on women as leaders and managers.

Deborah Hathaway Rose remembers the “gate next to Ricketts Hall – the one we climbed over when we would sneak out after hours!” Her memories also include those of anti-war demonstrations and changing many rules at Sage.

Ann E. Furler Sievers is a highly regarded ENT nurse as numerous awards indicate: She received the Sigma Theta Tau-Zeta Eta Chapter Clinical Excellence Award; the Society of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Nurses Award of Clinical Excellence; and the Presidential Award for service. UC Davis and Who’s Who in Nursing, America have also recognized her. As I’m sure most nursing majors do, Ann remembers the AR at 5 a.m. before clinicals in Albany.

There is more up-to-date information of a somber note: The Alumnae Office has informed me that Shirley B. Howard died in 2008. We wish her family and friends fond memories of her.

Seryl Soderlind Nikolassy’s father died at the end of March. Her one wish was to be with her dad at the end, and she was. I attended the service of this charming, intelligent man whose entire family attended Sage: his wife, Dorothy Neumann Soderlind ’45 and all three daughters, Sheri, Linda Turner ’74 and Debbie Shaffer ’79.

Lynda Chodkowski Flynn 211 Longview Avenue #10 Celebration, FL 34747-5107 407-221-6285 lyndaflynn@earthlink.net

Donna Zagrobski Lirpesti 7105 Woodrise Court Fairfax Station, VA 22039-2948 703-644-2398 dlirpesti@cox.net

1975

Greetings, Class of 1975! I enjoy opening up my e-mail each night to see who has written me from our class. The last 34 years have slipped away. I heard from Kathy Healy Grose who has had wonderful work experiences, including home care, ICU, and now in a nursing home in the Bronx. She and her husband are working through their “bucket” list of travels including a trip to Denali with lots of fishing and hiking, and a trip to Africa. During her travels, she met up with Michelle Katz Hellerstein and her husband in San Francisco and did a walking tour. She had lunch with Janet Primomo Zarker who passed through New York City recently. Kathy has been taking her daughter on college visits and says it reminds her of her days at Sage!

I also heard from Denise Ziervogel Poot who expressed
1977

2009 is flying by! I actually have been sick with pancreatitis for the past eight weeks and have been in the hospital for four weeks. I have to go in again to have my gallbladder removed. I can think of better reasons to be forced to stay home! I did receive two e-mails over the past several months. One was deleted from my file and I apologize, since I do not remember who sent it.

Barbara Rich Cabot writes, “I’ve been in Portland, OR since we graduated. I went back to school in Missoula, MT in 1998 and now work as a music thanatologist. In 2001 I co-founded a non-profit organization called SacredFlight (sacredflight.org) which offers music thanatology services in the greater Portland area. Music thanatology is a sub-speciality of palliative care which unites music and medicine in end of life care. The music thanatologist utilizes harp and voice at the bedside to lovingly serve the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the dying and their loved ones with prescriptive music. You can do anything with a good liberal arts education!”

Marbry Pulver Gansle received the National Association for Girls and Women Sports Pathfinder Award at a national convention in Tampa, FL. As a physical education teacher at Shaker High School in Colonie, NY, Marbry has coached girls cross country, gymnastics, and track and field. She is the high school’s senior class advisor, ski club advisor, and serves on numerous committees. Marbry also volunteers as chairperson and coach of the open division of the Empire State Games for Track and Field. She received her master’s degree in health from Sage Graduate School.

Thanks for writing Barbara, and whoever sent me the other e-mail please resend it so I can add it to the next publication. Hope this finds everyone well. Please send me info!

Laurie Wells Cannon wrote that she and Sue Gatzert Snyder enjoyed a long overdue (23 years) reunion last July at Laurie’s home in Glen Mills, PA. They were joined by their husbands and daughters. Sue and Laurie shared many laughs reminiscing about their Sage days and both report great satisfaction with their nursing careers.

Bethany Hick’s book Degrees of Freedom: American Women Poets and the Women’s College, 1905-1955 was published by Bucknell University Press. She is an associate professor of English at Westminster College in New Wilmington, PA. Her book traces the influence of the women’s college on three American poets: Marianne Moore by Bryn Mawr, Elizabeth Bishop at Vassar, and Sylvia Plath at Smith.

1978

Bonnie Ward Kreutter 5053 Reservoir Road Geneseo, NY 14454 585-243-3076 tkreutte@rochester.rr.com

Susan Barnes Seim 370 North Pole Road Morro Bay, CA 93442 519-663-5323 suebseim@aol.com

1979

Jennifer Culkin, a writer and nurse profiled in the spring 2007 issue of Connections, won a 2008 Ronja Jaffe Foundation Writer’s Award, given annually to six women writers. It is the only national literary awards program of its kind dedicated to supporting women writers exclusively. Culkin is a critical-care RN who lives on Bainbridge Island, WA. Her book, A Final Arc of Sky was published in April.

1980

Jill Hastings Mack 39 Rocky Point Drive Bow, NH 03304-4115 603-226-2657 jmack@elliott-hs.org

Joanne Salvador 2795 NE 15th Street Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304 954-566-9965 j.m.salvador@att.net

1981

Deborah Browne 60 North Maple Street Warsaw, NY 14569-1215 585-786-3490 dbrowne@frontiernet.net

1982

Hi from Lisa in North Carolina. Nothing new here. I’m still the business officer for the Disability Determination Services office in Raleigh. Still have my bassets, who turned 7 recently! The big
news this year, so far (aside form
the Purple Cows WINNING
Rally Day!) belongs to Kathleen
Burns Meyerson. Here’s her
story…

Kathy and her family have
even more on their plates
than usual. Kathy’s husband quit
the “rat race commuting” to his
New York City job after 20 years.
After months of research, they
bought a Minuteman Press
franchise. David runs the daily
operations of the store. Kathy
continues to teach second grade,
gets a paycheck, provide the
benefits, and have a retirement
plan. Kathy’s mother has been
their main employee since they
opened on September 5, 2008.
Yup, 10 days before the big stock
market drops began. It’s been
a challenge at times, but things
are looking up. Except for the
temporary loss of their employee:
Kathy’s mother broke both bones
in her lower right leg while skiing
in March. After two surgeries,
she is on the mend. The hospital
physician therapist after her first
surgery was a Sage grad. In an
unbelievable turn of events, Kathy
broke her left foot the day before
her mother’s second surgery. She
was learning a hip hop dance
(don’t laugh!) with a group of
teachers at her school. Now, they
share an orthopedic doctor. Kathy
is in a boot cast and David had to
hire an employee for the store.

Sue Russell Grimm’s daugh-
ter is a senior in high school and
plans to attend college in the fall.
Still waiting to hear where she
will be going.

Suzanne Weber Bichler and
family are settled in Wisconsin.
In addition to a new home, they
added a new Husky dog to the mix.
Patricia Zabarouskas Bass
family fit more into 365 days
than any other family. In addition
to the many activities of her
daughters and numerous trips,
Patti is the Director of Religious
Education at her parish.

Karen Shea finished a half
marathon in 2008! You go, girl!
Her beautiful Maude is one
cute dog.

Brenda Leonard lives in
Connecticut, works hard, and
stays in touch with friends. Kathy
Collard Holzmacher’s oldest son
married his long-time girlfriend
this past summer.

Here’s the latest on-line news
from Island Impact Ministries.
Kelli Hadley Nelson and husband
are in Florida so their oldest child
can finish high school in the
United States in preparation for
college, but they are still very
active with their clinic and
ministry in the Dominican
Republic (www.islandimpact.net).

The student government of
the West Boca Raton High School
in Boca Raton, FL notified the
Alumnae Office two new faculty
members who are alumnae of
Russell Sage College: Diane
Lamperri Donnely ’82 and
Stephanie Berke Stiepleman ’87.

Please write to me or any of
the other class correspondents!
There are a few of us on Face-
book! If you’d like to join us,
it’s a fun and easy way to stay
in touch!

Lisa Abatemarco
363 Parrish Farm Lane
Benecio, NC 27504-6035
919-934-3493
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Lisa.Abatemarco@ssa.gov

Kathryn Kruser
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North Branford, CT 06471
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Joan Traver
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joaniet@emailink.net

1983

Sharon Spicer
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203-929-6706
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Marianne Davies
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Patricia Sirois Kuldeell
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Susan Golden
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smgolden@aol.com

1984

Caroline Leavitt DeCota
168 Old Wood Road
North Atteboro, MA 02760
508-695-2797
caroliner@aol.com

Robin Montplaisir Shannon
6760 Fountain Lane North
Maple Grove, MN 55311
763-555-5060
rsnpn@comcast.net

1985

Suzanne Harkness-Wood writes,
“Greetings from England! We are
here for two years with John’s
work as he consults with Rolls
Royce as they further develop
submarine technology (Rolls
builds for the Ministry of De-
fense). The girls…love their new
school, life in England, and all the
adventures that go along with it.
We’re having a great time!
Cheers!”

Virginia Carman
62 Timber Trail
South Windsor, CT 06074
860-644-9359
vcarman@cox.net

1986

Susan Warner Himes writes,
“Frank and I were married in
Niagara Falls at the Great Lakes
Garden. It was a small ceremony.
Mary Van Zutphen Hottenrott,
his wife and their son attended the event and the
dinner that was held at the
Red Coach Inn in Niagara Falls.”

Debbie Balfour Lee
185 High Meadow Drive
Southbury, CT 06488
203-254-8371
deblee123@gmail.com

Wanda Izquierdo-Ortega
29 Feustal Street
Lindenhurst, NY 11757
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Pearl Morales Jones
148 Lakota Pass
Austin, TX 78738
512-989-3348
rpmJones@hotmail.com

1987

Hello Class of 1987!

Val Huenniger completed the Las Vegas half-marathon in
December. Way to go Val! She
spent her Halloween weekend
trick-or-treating in Disneyland
with the kids.

Rebecca Thay Klasfeld is
working toward her MSW degree.
She says it’s a grueling program,
but she loves what she’s doing.
She keeps in touch with Stephanie
Berke Stiepleman and Deborah
Haizen Karpinos. Stephanie
recently became a high school
teacher. They both live in Boca
Raton, FL.

Laurie Audet Colbourn was
assigned to a new project and met
coworker Mary Beth Sayre ’80,
who was wearing a Sage ring.
They now happily sing their
way through the day
(RE-DRE-DR-EDRE) regardless
of the looks from co-workers!

Kathleen Hanrahan
Olchowski has a new apprecia-
tion for PT! While coaching her
daughter’s soccer team this fall,
she tore her ACL. The reconstruc-
tion went well and she’ll be ready
for lacrosse this spring. Coaching,
not playing!

Sandy Augustin-Collins
writes, “I coach the volleyball
team at Union College and we
had our most successful season
ever this past fall. We finished
with a record of 36-6 which was
the first time ever recording 30
wins in a season and had a .857
winning percentage which is a
program best. We also became
the winningest team in the entire
history of Union Athletics. We
won our second consecutive
Liberty League Volleyball
Championship in November!
And we were invited to the
NCAA Volleyball Championships
for just the second time in our
volleyball history.” She was also
selected as the Liberty League
Coach of the Year!

Michele Iracondo McMurray
lives in Staten Island and is a
nurse educator in a hospital
and an adjunct professor at a
community college in Brooklyn.
She became certified as an adult
health clinical nurse specialist
this past October.

I, Gretchen Meyer O’Connor,
am finding my way around
Chicago. I’ve driven to the city a
couple of times and I only need
my Garmin on rare occasions. I
haven’t gotten lost in a month!
We are enjoying the city and like
the village of Grayslake where
1992

Jeffrey Nicholas Sopchak was born in November to Debbie Bacon. Proud Aunt Cindy Bacon Woellmer and honorary aunts Sara Siegman Schuman, Christine Leipham MacDonald, Amanda Travis Silva, Debra Grounds Ziaja, and Beth Haiges Peduto celebrated with Debbie! The Sage girls had a small party for the RPI Fright at Cindy’s house, and talked the night away while the boys watched the game. They got together again a few weeks later at Christine’s house. Cindy is driving her boys to hockey games every weekend. Beth’s daughter is in high school trying to decide what she wants to do after graduation. The group will gather in July in Milford CT for a beach weekend.

Denise St. Gelas Caratsus writes, “It’s been a long time since being in contact with most of you. I’ve kept up with some of you by reading Connections or talking to Kathy Jo Wright Barie. I am back to living in the Albany area after moving around a bit (New Jersey, Indiana, Florida and Bucharest, Romania).” She has been married to her husband for seven years and has two children, ages 5 and 3. She is the director of a small Christian preschool and works as a private duty nurse. She continues, “I would love to hear from some of my old friends, like the ‘Kellas 2 Crazy Crew.’ I don’t know how I suddenly remembered that! I’m easy to find on Facebook, which is how I’ll be looking to find some of you too.”

1991

I hope that this finds everyone doing well. There has been some communication recently via the internet and Facebook! It is amazing how well you can keep in touch using this tool. I still like to receive snail mail should anyone like to write a card or note.

Anne Kosacheff sent a card notifying us that she moved back to the mainland USA in 2008 and now lives in Florida to complete her residency in orthotics. Anne enjoys being close to her mom and her aunts! Her e-mail is annekoz9@hotmail.com.

Monica Zimmerman has been active on Facebook and it is nice to see what she is up to from day to day! Laura Zacharewicz Gras is on Facebook, and Sue Aberdale also! I am sure there are others…just have to find them! (Class of 1990: Ann McDonald, Michele Brooks Butler, and Deborah Lismann McClelland; Class of 1993 Kimberly Lyman-Wright)

Karen O’Brien Tsourides performed the pre-game show for the Boston Celtics with a dance company she belongs to. It was quite a thrill to be dancing on that famous floor in front of a crowd. Karen heard from Mary Ann Pugliscover Niska. She lives in Longmeadow, MA and works as a private duty nurse. She continues, “I would love to hear from some of my old friends, like the ‘Kellas 2 Crazy Crew.’ I don’t know how I suddenly remembered that! I’m easy to find on Facebook, which is how I’ll be looking to find some of you too.”

1989

Elizabeth (Beth) Gehring
38 Pequot Road
Ringwood, NJ 07456
973-962-6389
bethehghering@hotmail.com

Marie Tischio Naughton
8124 Whelan Drive
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mtischio@aol.com

1990

Jill Cooper Morris
4366 Merchant Mill Terrace
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jlmorris32@aol.com

1993

Bethani Childs
35 Hamlet Street Apt 1
Nassau, NY 12123
845-386-8933
saraschuman@msn.com

1994

Mieke Coe
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585-315-1404
mieke.coe@gmail.com

Kelly Donnellan
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filmgrl@gmail.com

Hope Gerstel Stuart
22 Windmill Lane
Warwick, NY 10990
845-988-5475
hsstuart@warwick.net

1995

Hello everyone! Mark your calendars for our 15th Reunion on June 4, 5 and 6, 2010. If you’re interested in getting involved with Reunion planning, contact the Office of Alumnae Relations. Kimberly Smith Weissmuller works as the director of rehab at a local skilled nursing facility and owns her own outpatient PT office in Rome, NY. She was married three years ago and has two step-children, ages 12 and 13, two dogs and a cat. When she wrote, she was recovering from surgery to remove a non-cancerous tumor from her jaw and was planning a trip to Colorado to ski and snowmobile. We also heard from Karen Hansen Cipolla. After graduating, Karen attended the University of Bridgeport and completed the Doctor of Chiropractic program. She taught anatomy and physiology at Fairfield University and general biology at Norwalk.

1988

Andrea Annese-Como
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Kelly Brughal
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Simone Awang McDonald
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simone_mcd@yahoo.com
Karen Kinsman
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1989

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bethehghering@hotmail.com

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1993

Bethani Childs
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1994

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Community College. She is founder and president of Personal Success Education, which teaches techniques to create a positive life. She recently launched a magazine, Today’s Teen, a parent resource. Visit www.todaysteenmagazine.com.

My husband and I were blessed with a healthy little boy in February. He joins a big brother who is 5 and a sister who is 3. Keep in touch!

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rickandkate@earthlink.net

Linda Stroka Riemer
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the_riemers@yahoo.com

Rebecca Bruce
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1996
Hannah Keen Kartagener lives in Orlando, FL. She and her husband homeschool their son. She visited Sarah Beckler Web who attended Sage with us in Orlando, FL. She and her husband homeschool their son. She visited Sarah Beckler Web who attended Sage with us in Orlando, FL. She and her husband live in West Chazy, NY.

Sarah Sutherland and her husband live in Inverness, Scotland. Carrie Klusacek Watts and her husband live in West Chazy, NY. She is taking a year off from her position as a fourth grade teacher to stay home with her two sons.

Joanna Price is a nurse practitioner in the New York City area and looking to purchase her first apartment.

I, Amanda Baehre Bokus spend my time playing, living, and learning at home with my two children at our place in the woods in West Chazy, NY. I am active in our local homeschool community, promoting unschooling and child-led learning. Please contact me at bokusfam@localnet.com to have an update in the next issue.

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Lisa Graziano
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Farmingdale, NY 11735-4260
516-293-7667
lgraz96@yahoo.com

1997
Jennifer Pieper Klein wrote to share news about the birth of her two children, a daughter born in 2007, and a son born in 2008. Jennifer and husband live in Columbus, OH, where Jennifer works as Director of Energy and Environmental Policy for the Ohio Chamber of Commerce.

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Kimberly Silvernail Keane
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silver40@aol.com

Alexis Kuchins Ford
104 Rumford Ave, Apt B
Mansfield, MA 02048
508-337-9481
alexis107@yahoo.com

1998
Antoinette Nelson Eicholzer and her husband and son welcomed a baby girl in 2008. Antoinette and family live in Liverpool, NY. We see each other often. Carrie Klusacek Watts and her husband live in Inverness, Scotland. Carrie works at LifeScan Scotland as a personal assistant to the Vice President of New Products and Platforms in the Research and Development Department. They welcomed their first child in 2008.

Jennifer Horan Rivers lives in Clifton Park, NY and works as a Pediatric RN at Albany Medical Center. She and husband have three children, ages 8, 5 and 1.

I hope all is well with everyone else. Please keep me posted on any news and special events in your lives and I will pass it along to the class.

Carrie Klusacek Watts
104 Rumford Ave, Apt B
Mansfield, MA 02048
508-337-9481
alexis107@yahoo.com

1999
Gretchen Oppermann Miller lives in Richmond, VA with her children, 7 and 3. Gretchen has worked as the transitional coordinator for Riverside Regional Jail for the last year and truly enjoys the challenges that working with inmates brings. “I am in charge of the re-entry program at a local jail that houses 1,200 men and women. I work closely with case managers, counselors, and community agencies to assist returning citizens with a smooth transition back into society. My program was recently recognized in the Virginia Association of Regional Jails Newsletter which is a great honor.” Drop her an e-mail at gretchenmill@gmail.com.

Diane O’Malley ’00 tells us that she is a travel occupational therapist now: first stop, the winter in El Paso, TX! Carrie Moorhead just brought her first house, in Binghamton, NY. She chose one that needed a lot of TLC, but gallons of paint and hours of elbow grease have made it worth the effort!

Jill Desrosiers Primerano and her husband welcomed twin girls in 2008. They are doing great and adjusting to life as a family of four.

Jenny Lee Ngan is in Asia on an around-the-world trip! She left her job as an outpatient PT after seven years and is traveling and volunteering (organic farming, conservation, and physical therapy). Visit www.jenny360.com for details!

Sara Bowley Pound and her husband are the proud parents of a daughter born in January. Sara plans to take a year of maternity leave from her position as a biology teacher. The Pound family lives in Jamestown, NY.

Heather Campbell received the Employee of the Year Award at the Teresian House Center for the Elderly in Albany, NY. A physical therapist at Teresian House, she has coordinated the resident Wheelchair Superbowl for six years and annually donates many of the supplies that are needed to put on this event. Heather recently coordinated a very successful resident Olympics, and has also sponsored a staff Olympics and staff softball game.

Now that spring is here, I have added ANOTHER compost pile to the yard. Max has been a big help in the spring planting and digging! That kid loves to use the rake and shovel!

Amy Carlotta Zuckett
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814-231-8228
amy.carlotto@yahoo.com

Melissa Fields Roller
700 West Road
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roller@earthlink.net

2000
Michelle Voutour lives in Nashua, NH with her boyfriend of eight years. She works at an investment firm in Andover, MA as an administrative team leader in the IT Department, providing administrative support, and working on lots of projects. Shannon Shaver lives in Rensselaer, NY and works as a research scientist for the New York State Department of...
Health. She is also working on her master’s degree in Public Health from the University at Albany.

Elizabeth Klusacek Wendel lives in Mechanicville, NY. She has a two-year-old son and gave birth to a daughter in January. She’s a stay at home mom and keeps busy with her children.

Kelly Hust Cole lives in Albany with her husband and two step-children. She works in sales for Krackeler Scientific.

Rebecca Rickert Santoli lives in Albany with her husband and two children. She works as an executive director for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Jessica Pandori lives in Delmar, NY. She returned to Sage, obtained her masters in Nursing, and is now a NICU nurse at Albany Medical Center. She volunteers with the Make-a-Wish Foundation.

Karen McKenna Zomchek was married in 2008 in Medford, MA. They live in Nashua, NH and works as an outpatient physical therapist at Elliot Hospital in Manchester, NH.

Jennifer Porfilio Shores was married in 2008. They spent their honeymoon on a cruise to Alaska, and visited Anchorage, Denali National Park, and Vancouver, BC. Heidi Sharp DeFlorio and Dana Burkowski Gentile served as bridesmaids. The wedding day would not have been complete without Sages in attendance, including Angela Westhead Powers, Karen McKenna Zomchek, Britteny Lemoine Cappiello, Michelle Katzenberger Nowakowski, Emily Eshleman-Wood, Amy Tracy Ward, Little Sister Shannon O’ Hara Regner and Daniel Houlihan.

Christina Grab Kirkwood and husband welcomed their first son in 2008. She works in Cambridge, MA as a learning disabilities specialist.

Sarah Carroll Aluck and husband welcomed their second daughter in 2008.

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grabklast@yahoo.com
Karen McKenna Zomchek
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Karlyn78@aol.com

2001
Lisa Brown Martone and her husband welcomed their first daughter in January.

Christine Hugaboom Muenzen and her husband welcomed their second daughter in March. All are doing well in New Jersey.

Heather May and husband welcomed a baby boy in 2008, and reside in Ballston Spa, NY.

Marissa Squicciarini attended her fourth “Prideworks Youth Conference” with the students in the Gay Straight Alliance club that she co-advises.

Welcome home to Megan Whitted Mackiewicz! She and her husband are living in Virginia after two years in Amsterdam.

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crandall@nycap.rr.com
Heather May Koleszar
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heathermay01@hotmail.com
Michelle Fage
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Melissa A. Corriveau
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missarose@aol.com

2002
Melissa Callaghan
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coachcallaghan@yahoo.com
Julie Christopher
9 Bramble Wood
Clifton Park, NY 12065-1679
518-216-9136

2003
Tiffany Magnino Grygus will start her third season of coaching volleyball this fall. Her junior varsity team won their division last fall and went to the local playoffs for the first time. She serves on the Alumnae Board and loves the chance to get back to Sage frequently.

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schner@sage.edu

Jeanette Hallock
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Valatie, NY 12184-3825
halloj@sage.edu

Shelley Emmons
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Amston, CT 06231

Elizabeth Keating
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518-664-4226
keatie@sage.edu

Elizabeth Stilan Willis
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518-377-0769
stilae@sage.edu

Jessica Lelizia O’Brien
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Columbia, MD 21046
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jessica.lelizia@gmail.com

2004
Jenny Wolfe ’05, Shameka Robinson, Anna Quinones ’06, Crisan Scala Crozziolo, Maya Little, Roni Schneider ’03, Jami ’04, and Lianna Scull ’04 at Crisan’s wedding.

Crisan Scala Crozziolo was married on a beautiful summer evening in 2008. Crisan teaches in Newburgh, NY and volunteers in community based programs. She can be contacted at 210 Pressler Road, Wallkill, NY 12589.

Michelle O’Brien lives in Sandisfield, MA and works as RN at Yale New Haven Hospital.

Julia Hillie Dardia
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Heather Nadeau
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Scarborough, ME 04074-9320
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nadeah@sage.edu

Julia Stevens
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2005
Steffanie Winnie, Jillian Vescovi, Kristy Quackenbush, and Keri Widman VanNatten shared dinner and met Steffanie’s baby, Brady, born in September

Karla Velez and Allison Dragotto at the Trevi Fountain in Rome, Italy

Allison Dragotto RSC ’05, SGS ’08 and Karla Velez visited Italy in February. Florence, Siena, San Gimignano, Pisa and Rome were among their destinations. I understand a trip to Ireland is planned in 2010, and if all goes as planned I, too, will be going! In April, Allison began a new position at Sage as the coordinator of Corporate, Government, and Foundation Relations. She received The Sage Colleges Champion of Character Award at the Academy for Character
Education Awards Banquet in March. Congratulations Allison!

Kerianne Clark Silver RSC '05, SGS '08 works at Excelsior College as an academic advisor in the School of Liberal Arts. She tells me she really enjoys her new position.

Rebecca Mazurowski Hammond and husband recently moved to Los Angeles and I hear they love it.

Big congratulations to our grandlittles, the Blue Angels of 2009 on their graduation! With their graduation comes the Blue Angel Class of 2013, and yours truly will be their class advisor. Remember next year will be our fifth Reunion! Keep an eye out for more information via mail, e-mail and Facebook.

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Keri Widman VanNatten  
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2009  
Helen Hammond Dornish  
3/28/2008  
Helen Hammond Dornish  
3/28/2008  
1937  
Celia Haber Sahr  
3/28/2008  
1939  
Polly Johnson Dolber  
12/14/2008  
Grace Adams Palm  
3/21/2009  
1940  
Evelyn Brownell Kosowsky  
2/25/2009  
1941  
Constance Harrington Parker  
1/23/2009  
Grace Edick Vooys  
4/9/2009  
1942  
Janet Hanley Chismark  
2/26/2009  
1943  
Virginia Illing Fisher  
3/31/2007  
Joyce Overton Atherton  
8/28/2008  
Maudalene A. Kavulla  
6/9/2008  
1944  
Dorothy Morley Diggins  
2/28/2009  
1945  
Dora Alois Barber  
8/20/2008  
Wanda Garcia Cabrera  
10/19/2007  
1947  
Marilyne Eiseman Carpenter  
12/20/2008  
1948  
Joyce Cavosie Salocks  
2/10/2009  
1950  
Mary White Harriott  
12/24/2008

Dear Russell Sage College,  
My mother, Marjory Macrae Joseph '32, left us in 1981, but her memories and stories of Russell Sage are fresh in our minds. She left a loving husband, four children, three grandchildren and a brother.

In May 2009, I visited Russell Sage’s campus for the first time. As I walked along mother’s footsteps, I could picture her as a young, energetic woman anxious to learn, and experience life. I still recall the enthusiasm in her voice as she spoke about her summer residency in Ollerup, Denmark, which was just before the 1929 Wall Street Crash. After graduating in the 14th Sage class, she taught in Harrison, N.Y. and later dedicated her life to raising her children. She was a wonderful mother, avid reader, very active in women’s issues at church and a true friend.

In her heart, Mother never left Russell Sage. Her relationships with classmates were lifelong. She eagerly looked forward to class reunions, gathering up her friends one-by-one and catching up on their life stories when journeying back to Russell Sage. She cherished college years in Troy and later spent over 40 years in a town by the same name, but this time Troy, Penn.

Visiting with staff and students and walking amidst the brownstones was thrilling and inspired by the genealogical interests shared with my uncle and mothers’ brother, Franklin Joseph.

Arthur Hamlin  
St. Petersburg, Florida

In Memoriam
Twenty-one years ago, I watched my little girl take her first steps across our living room floor. I stood at the opposite end of the room, cheering her on, holding my arms out to her as she approached. As she reached my arms, I held her, hugged her, kissed her and gave her words of praise.

Around noon on May 9 of this year, at the RPI Field House, I had the great pleasure of watching this same little girl walk across the stage in full graduation regalia, with a diploma in her arms and magna cum laude in History and Political Science to her credit. Although, I was not at the other end of the stage, holding out my arms to coax her to me, I was in the audience, proud and in awe of the young woman she has become.

It continues to amaze me in moments such as these that so many memories come flooding into my brain. In the time it took Emily to walk from one end of the stage to the other, I watched her take her first steps, go to kindergarten, play the clarinet, perform the lead role in Out Town, graduate from high school, move into Kellas, make life-long friends, become president of the Athenians, and call to tell me she was accepted to Albany Law School.

I was keenly aware of my own journey through Emmy’s life as well. I smiled and clapped at her clarinet playing, boasted of her acting talent to family and friends, and watched as she was inducted into Athenians. I knew what she was feeling at graduation, because I walked across a similar stage 26 years earlier as a Sage graduate. I knew her excitement, her anxiety, her hope and her fears. I remembered watching alumnae invade the Sage campus during graduation weekend and thinking how “old” they looked and imagined that I would never look or act like that when I returned for Reunion. Alas, I sighed, time passed much too quickly.

Re-living college through my daughter’s years at Sage was educational for me. I learned that college students are much more sophisticated than I was back then. I learned that college students are much more mobile, opinionated, and motivated to change the world, than I remember being. I also was glad to see that some things stayed the same...excellent professors, small classes, Sage traditions...and I felt proud.

You are probably thinking that Emily took an hour to cross the stage for me to have so many reflections in that time. The fact is, I have been reflecting about Emily and Sage and me for quite a while. I have smiled, and cried, and felt very, very grateful for this wonderful, shared experience. I know that Emily will do great things in her life, because she has received great learning at Sage.

Perhaps someday, just maybe someday, she and I will have another shared experience...the opportunity to sit in the audience, and remember, and watch another extraordinary Sage woman take a life changing walk across that special stage.

Donna L. Giffune ’83 is the mother of Emily Eklund ’09

Speakers Inspire Graduates at Sage’s 93rd Commencement

Byllye Y. Avery, a women’s health activist and MacArthur Genius Grant recipient, and John Prendergast, a human rights activist and author of Not on Our Watch: The Mission to End Genocide in Darfur and Beyond with actor Don Cheadle, addressed more than 800 graduates – including 215 from Russell Sage College – at Sage’s 93rd Commencement ceremony on May 9.

Avery – who had celebrated her 50th college class reunion the previous week – referenced Martin Luther King, Jr.’s remarks at her own graduation from Talladega College when she urged graduates to, “Spend lots of time on redemptive love. Prepare yourselves, and make an impact on the world.”

Prendergast saluted Russell Sage’s commitment to community service; to educating women of influence; and to fostering lifelong bonds through traditions such as Big Sisters/Little Sisters before reminding graduates, “Believe in yourself and dreams come true. It’s not the reverse.”

Sage President Susan C. Scrimshaw, presiding over her first commencement as the president at Sage, opened the ceremonies by encouraging graduates to, “Be generous with your knowledge. Mentor, share your ideas liberally. Around the world, education is a precious commodity. Use what you know and make a difference in your communities and in the world.”

For more photos or to order your own DVD of the commencement ceremony visit Sage.edu and search “commencement.”
Carrie Cokely ’97 writes, “I was teaching at Meredith College, the largest women’s college in the Southeast, and was serving as a class advisor for the class of 2008. One of the students asked where I went to college, since I had mentioned that I went to a women’s college in the Northeast. When I said ‘Russell Sage,’ she told me that her grandmother also graduated from Russell Sage. I met her grandmother at an award ceremony… We talked about our rings and blazers/sweaters and agreed that we would take our picture together at her granddaughter’s Class Day which was the following month… Her name is Janet Fuller Werndli ’55.”
You are invited to the inauguration of The Sage Colleges’ ninth president, Susan C. Scrimshaw, Ph.D. on Friday, October 23, 2009. For more information visit Sage.edu/inauguration.