Thinking Ahead: Sage Prepares for Middle States Re-accreditation

It is early 2009, but Sage is already gearing up for the for a re-accreditation visit from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) in 2011. The first phase of the re-accreditation process — a research design for a self-study — is underway.

“Re-accreditation is a process that all MSCHE-accredited institutions repeat every 10 years, but it is not ‘routine’ in any other sense of the word,” said Russell Sage College Dean Sharon Robinson, who is coordinating the self-study with Daniel Lewicki, Associate Professor of Chemistry. “From a change in leadership to remarkable academic and athletic initiatives, Sage is experiencing a period of great momentum. Middle States provides an incredible opportunity for broad campus discussion of Sage’s contemporary mission and identity.”

In order to encourage all college constituencies to get involved in and excited about this project, the College threw a Middle States Kick-Off Bash in February. Alumnae can follow the developments and keep up with opportunities to contribute to the dialogue at sage.edu/middlestates.
Susan Scrimshaw Re-elected to Council of the Institute of Medicine

Interim President of The Sage Colleges, Susan C. Scrimshaw, Ph.D., has been elected to serve another term on the Council of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academies, the governing body of the IOM. Her term runs from 2009 through 2011.

The IOM is a not-for-profit, non-governmental American organization chartered in 1970 as a part of the United States National Academy of Sciences. It provides unbiased, evidence-based, and authoritative information and advice concerning health and science to policymakers, professionals, leaders in every sector of society, and the public at large with a mission to serve as adviser to the nation to improve health.

Scrimshaw and her father, Nevin S. Scrimshaw, were the first father-daughter members of the IOM. Nevin Scrimshaw is a food scientist and professor emeritus at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Joan E. Clifford ’82 Named Director of Alumnae Relations

Joan E. Clifford ’82 has accepted appointment as Director of Alumnae Relations for Russell Sage College which includes service as executive director of the RSC Alumnae Association. Prior to joining The Sage Colleges in December, she was director of the Capital District and Vermont offices of the American Diabetes Association for 13 years. She began her work in the not-for-profit sector with the American Heart Association in 1985. She lives in East Greenbush, N.Y. with her husband and 11-year-old son.

Around Campus

Scenes from Sage’s lively events calendar: The Creative and Performing Arts Department produced Little Women; WORLD students presented their research; and receptions marked the opening of the Kathleen A. Donnelly Center for Undergraduate Research and the reopening of the campus pool.
Widespread accounts of climate crisis warn about the end of Earth as we know it. Like eschatological pronouncements, descriptions of global warming raise skepticism and fear, and both can trap us in denial.

What does it mean to say that we are in denial about the crisis of climate change? The assertion dredges up the complex experience of human interdependence with nature and challenges our view of ourselves as empathic and rational human beings. In the climate crisis conversation, my focus is on the psychological side of nature — human nature.

Negation is among the earliest of human actions. As infants, we turn away and close our eyes, refuse to open our mouths or spit out; as toddlers, whatever our language, we declare “no,” and throughout our lifespan we defend against stimulation that threatens to overwhelm us by shutting down.

Saying “not me” is a primitive form of defense, along with “I didn’t do it;” “Don’t do it to me. Do it to somebody else.” This is the affective side of “no” tagging along with its rational companion, “not true,” as it spins a circle of protection around the self.

Mark Twain, recognizing our propensity for avoiding anxiety, quipped, “Denial ain’t just a river in Egypt.” In his theory of psychoanalysis, Sigmund Freud — who, by the way, admired the American wit — identified the roots of fear deep in the id, the instinctive life of the unconscious mind. As studied by Freud and later developed more thoroughly by his daughter, Anna, in The Ego and the Mechanisms of Defense, denial arises from the fear of losing what we love, what we depend upon. Surely we depend upon Earth for our most basic, physiological needs.

Anna Freud (1946) described “the struggle of the ego to protect against painful ideas and affects”—to abolish external stimuli by denial. But what is the painful idea in the climate crisis of global warming? From a psychoanalytic perspective, at the deepest extreme, it is the killing of Mother Earth. Why wouldn’t the ego protect itself against the idea of matricide? Such an unconscious fear cannot be allowed to surface, and denial does its work as a defense mechanism against this savage thought.

In the ego’s effort to keep our anxieties in check, denial draws support from the comforting force of habit. Habit, the everyday ways people in a social group make their lives, constitutes an intersection between the individual and the collective from one generation to another. In Principles of Psychology (1890), William James calls habit the “enormous fly-wheel of society, its most precious conservative agent.” The flywheel keeps us treading in our places and sustains the status quo.

Habit increases individual efficiency and effectiveness. “The more of the details of our daily life we can hand over to the effortless custody of automatism, the more our higher powers of mind will be set free for their own proper work.” Everyday decisions — what we eat, what we wear, how we get to work, how we keep house — are streamlined by habit. And we need give no account for habits so long as they flow within the mainstream of our social environment. We do not have to explain our motivations for these schedules of daily life.
Habits reflect the rituals of the social group in which we happened to be raised. Deviation from habit arises from exposure to the practices of others, to what we have access to in the market, and to identifications with particular belief systems and social groups, as we become adults. Although oversimplified, that is the story of the slow side of change in which social practices influence individual habits. No wonder, then, that we refuse even to think about the causes and consequences of climate change.

Decades of behavioral study demonstrate the recalcitrance of habit. Conditioning new responses to familiar, rather than novel stimuli, is the more difficult task. Unlearning habits is tough. Whereas James advises a full-scale assault on the most resistant behavior, Twain suggests a more cautious approach.

“Habit is habit, and not to be flung out of the window...but coaxed downstairs a step at a time.” One method of assault, punishment, can be effective, but only if it is delivered immediately, at the proper intensity, and offenders are shown what they should have done. No doubt, the 20th century behaviorist B. F. Skinner would side with Twain, arguing that reinforcement offers a more effective means of changing behavior than does punishment. Certainly, the United States’ automobile industry is learning new habits from profits lost to Japanese automakers.

Habits trap us unless crisis strikes. Crisis may arise internally as we review our decisions and commit to different choices — the stuff of individual transformation. Freud (1932) described therapy as “reclamation work;” the ego’s taking over the id “like the draining of the Zuider Zee.” Crisis may come about externally through governmental responses to disaster, war, and revolution — the stuff of economic power, social movements, and political change.

Wendell Berry (2001), in his essay, “The Idea of a Local Economy,” proposes that the “environmental crisis” is the result of conflict between the household of nature and the human household. The human household has subordinated itself to corporate entities that stand outside human experience. From Berry’s perspective, monetization as a global force destroys real wealth — health, the natural environment, freedom — and offers no protections from want or war. Will arguments such as Berry’s intensify denial as we defend against helplessness? Or will the longing for connection with Earth prevail over our excesses?

“Confronting Climate Change Denial: To Coax or Assault?” came out of a teach-in on the global climate crisis that Steven Leibo, Ph.D., professor of modern international history and politics organized last winter. The article originally appeared in Sierra Atlantic, the quarterly publication of the Atlantic Chapter of The Sierra Club. It is reprinted here with permission from the editor of Sierra Atlantic.
Mongolian Teachers Get Front Row Seats to U.S. Election via Sage

The Sage Colleges Council for Citizenship Education welcomed Mongolian teachers to the Capital Region for two weeks during the fall semester, as part of Sage’s Civics Mosaic II program funded by a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The program promotes democracy through teacher exchanges while it works with partners to improve civics education in Russia, Eurasia and the U.S.

The team of Mongolian educators spent time in classrooms at Sage, Emma Willard and local school districts. They also met representatives of New York State United Teachers (NYSUT), visited Albany headquarters for the Democratic and Republican presidential candidates, and spent the Tuesday evening, November 4 at WNYT TV News Channel 13 where they watched the presidential election results unfold.

Around the World, with Help From Sage

Beginning with the spring 2009 semester, the Katherine Disbrow Johnson RSC ’29 Memorial Travel Fund will be available to assist eligible Sage students with expenses related to studying abroad.

The fund was established in 2007 with $335,000 from the proceeds of a trust established by Katherine Disbrow Johnson. Her will stated that she believed that sending students abroad would encourage peace between nations. She traveled extensively as she grew older and worked in the travel industry.

And this fall, Sage will offer students a new approach to learning foreign languages via the Sage Language Acquisition Program (SLAP). Instead of a professor in front of a classroom, SLAP provides a mentorship collective including faculty who are professional language acquisition specialists, native-speaker language partners and research assistants, as well as specialists in language and culture.

Each course group has no more than five students. In addition to the language course, each student also gets personal attention in the one-credit Language Learning Strategies course, in which students learn to be more effective language learners. Ideal for students preparing to study abroad!

SLAP is modeled on a program at Drake University and supported with a grant from the Council of Independent Colleges. Visit sage.edu/slap for more information.

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To Spain Con Amor

Over the past four months I have been in a relationship with Spain. I love the language and the atmosphere. I love the weather and the people.

The beginning of the relationship was hard, like breaking up with a boyfriend for someone different, yet constantly comparing the new one to the guy from the past. So many of my habits were strange to Spain, and Spain’s customs were unfamiliar to me.

Sitting with my host family, a mother and four children, was hard when I missed my own parents and three sisters. But after awhile, everything about Spain started to grow on me.

I started to think the way Spain did things was better than the way I was used to. I got used to eating dinner at 10:30 at night.

Eventually I stopped leaving my room without slippers (that’s impolite in Spain!) and I sprinkled Spanish words into my conversations with Americans back home. I stopped converting temperature in Fahrenheit. The fact that everyone in Spain dresses impeccably stopped intimidating me because it meant I could never be too dressed up.

All of the students in my program learned how to get everything possible out of our classes. We knew that the phrases we learned in class would be on the lips of regular people as soon as we stepped outside of school doors. We knew we would need this information, whether going to a club or getting a haircut.

Other customs were harder to get used to. From 2 p.m. until 5 p.m., virtually everything shuts down. You can’t buy anything or do anything; you might as well stay at home and take a nap. On several occasions, I forgot all about siesta and walked 30 minutes in the midday heat to the center of Sevilla to shop. I’d arrive only to find the store closed, frustrating because I am accustomed to running errands on my own schedule. I soon learned from Spain to relax, not stress, and not to run from place to place.

That turning point in my relationship with Spain came one day when I stopped for 15 minutes to listen to a street performer playing an instrument I had never heard before. By the time I left that corner, my spirits were so much higher and I felt like all my problems were nothing to worry about; I could fix them. Another time.
by a Thread

Hailing from Troy, N.Y.—once a famous garment manufacturing center known around the world as the “Collar City” — two Russell Sage alumnae now head their own garment design businesses that span the globe.
While on vacation in Vietnam in 2006, Michele Mulligan was captivated by the gorgeous textiles. When Mulligan met a tailor—a seamstress, who supervised 10 male employees and who offered to make any type of clothing Mulligan desired—she ordered some jackets based on her own designs.

When Mulligan returned to Boston, jackets drew compliments every time she wore one.

Six weeks after her first trip, she returned to Vietnam with a business proposal for the woman who sewed the original jackets. “M and Zen” was born.

With a background in public relations and the travel industry (she continues to work as a flight attendant with American Airlines), Mulligan has done a fantastic job learning about fashion design through a combination of passion and trial and error. “Discovering my passion for design has been fun and challenging. I feel like the sky is the limit,” she said.

M and Zen jackets are based on her Mulligan’s love of Asian culture. She uses precious silk—a staple in Vietnam—and cotton and velvet. The name of her business is also inspired by Vietnam: The “M” stands for Michele, and “Zen” is a practice of the country’s main religion—Buddhism. “I wanted to incorporate East with West,” said Mulligan.

The jacket designs are named after women who have influenced Mulligan. Her favorite is the bestselling “Nora” jacket, a western-style silk jacket. “It is a lot of fun and it brings out the best in people,” she said, adding that the “Gabriel” is another favorite. “It was the first design I came up with and I feel that the jacket is what I built my business on.”

Mulligan—a Troy, N.Y. native who now lives in Boston, Mass. and La Jolla, Calif.—visits Vietnam two or three times a year to pick out fabrics at the market and meet with her tailor. Her company has grown by word-of-mouth, and her designs are available in high-end boutiques from Saratoga Springs, N.Y. to Los Angeles, Calif.
“My Sage experience prepared me for all things that came my way,” said business owner and patent holder Ronnye Shamam, from Shamron Mills Ltd.’s Manhattan headquarters. “I received my degree in Spanish and secondary education. Go figure that I’d be sitting here, an entrepreneur in the garment district!”

That capacity to adapt her education to opportunities has served Shamam well throughout her career. In the 1980s, when the manufacturing company she had been working for went bankrupt, Shamam decided to build her own business manufacturing scrub suits, hospital gowns, and other institutional garments.

“I put a phone and a filing cabinet in my den at home and shook my way into the business,” she said of Shamron Mills’ beginnings. “I was able to move into a small office, then a slightly bigger office, and a bigger office and now we occupy a whole floor in a building in New York City’s Garment Center.” Today, Shamron Mills has clients across the country and around the world, from Canada to the United Arab Emirates.

Shamam’s capacity to adapt to opportunities continues to serve her, as Shamron Mills, in addition to providing traditional hospital and medical apparel, is also called upon to develop very specific pieces to meet client needs. As a result, Shamam holds a patent on a specialty exam gown.

And Shamron Mills, like businesses everywhere, has had to adapt in a changing economy. “As American mills close, it has been harder to get fabric. Almost all fabric comes from China and Pakistan today, and we were ‘late to the party’ as far as working with them,” said Shamam who spent 10 days in China last year to source fabric and garments. Shamron Mills continues to manufacture in the U.S. as well as abroad.

Shamam, a Troy, N.Y. native, remains loyal to her alma mater. An Alumnae Association Board member, she volunteers for the Alumnae Admission Program, regularly hosts Sage phonathons at her office in New York City, and is generous with advice for RSC students who hope to own their own businesses someday: “It is very important to have a second income, or money saved to live on when you begin. If you have to take money from your new business for rent, you’re not reinvesting and growing your business,” she said. Then she added, “Network, Network, Network! It’s amazing how often Troy comes up in conversation!”
I want to wish everyone a very happy new year. This past fall brought a great deal of excitement to the Sage campus. I would like to share some highlights of our Russell Sage College Alumnae Association (RSCAA) and the College with you.

First, I am pleased to inform you that the Alumnae Association Board has welcomed five new members – Amy Wolfson Gilbert ’69; Jean Seyfried Radtke ’73; and Laura Turnbloom ’01; along with Jenny Johnson, first year representative from the Class of 2008 and Ellen Kapital, our student representative from the Class of 2009. We are thrilled to have these women join us and bring their enthusiasm and expertise as we work on your behalf for the College.

Last winter, The Sage Colleges welcomed Dan Lundquist as Vice President for Marketing and Enrollment Management. Dan has strengthened the already expert team of professionals in the Admission Office, and the result has been remarkable. The RSCAA board had an opportunity to meet with the admission staff at our November meeting and hear from Dan about the exciting changes in the current admission program. I am pleased to inform you that, in cooperation with RSC alumnae who participate in the Alumnae Admissions Program (AAP), the College has seen a significant increase in the enrollment of both first year and transfer students to Sage this year. I am pleased to report that there were 379 first year applicants of whom 125 enrolled in September! This was 1/3 more students enrolling than last fall. Transfers were also up – this year we had 285 applicants with 127 enrolling! And the best news, at least from where I sit as president of our Alumnae Association – 168 of the first year applicants came as a result of alumnae referrals and 95 of those young women enrolled at Russell Sage this fall. That means that 3/4 of the current first year class came to Sage because of what we did! All of us who staffed college fairs; met with the daughters of friends and relatives; visited high school guidance and college counselors; or just talked up Sage! We made a significant impact in the number of students who enrolled this year.

When the RSCAA board met in November it was also an Admissions weekend on campus for prospective students. The board had the opportunity to meet with high school seniors who had just completed an overnight at Sage where they also sat in on classes. Their enthusiasm was high. The seniors were excited about what they saw and most we spoke with told us that Sage was their first choice. As Sage alumnae we recommended them for the Alumnae Referral scholarship. This opportunity qualifies a student, once accepted, for a four-year scholarship up to $2,000 a year as long as they maintain their academic standing.

I am also pleased to inform you that Dani Drews, Sage’s athletic director, and her staff, have done a wonderful job expanding the College’s athletics program. Sage is an NCAA Division III school playing in the Skyline Conference. Overall Sage’s teams are doing very well. The November board weekend also included the Skyline Conference volleyball finals held this year in the Robison Gym. Following our meeting, we watched Sage win its second Skyline Conference volleyball championship title. This win again bought us a berth at the NCAA Division III championships. What does this success mean to Sage? The College’s athletics program was responsible for bringing 61 matriculated students to Russell Sage College.

The combination of the AAP and the athletic program is having a very positive impact on current overall admissions. Thank you to each of you who help Russell Sage continue to grow its admission program. I invite everyone to get involved. It’s easy to do – just e-mail the RSCAA alumnae office at rscalum@sage.edu and let us know how you would like to get involved. We will pass your information along with your desire to help. There are college fairs this spring; packets that can be delivered to your local high schools; or you can talk about Russell Sage and the wonderful educational opportunities the College presents to friends and family. You may also e-mail me at hollis.dorman@verizon.net and I will be pleased to pass your information along. Remember, Sage’s continued success depends on each of us just taking that small step of encouraging even one student to apply to Sage. Please join the RSCAA board in helping our enrollment grow.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who made their commitment to the Sage Fund for Excellence. If you have not yet made your gift this year, there is still plenty of time. Please complete the pledge card you were mailed or answer positively when one of the Sage student callers contacts you for your donation. Every gift, regardless of its size, is deeply appreciated. And remember, your financial support of Sage is vitally important to its continued growth and ability to meet the growing financial aid requests the College receives.

Thank you again for all you do. And for my fellow 4s and 9s – I look forward to seeing you at Reunion 2009 on June 5, 6 & 7!

Hollis G. Dorman ’74
President, RSCAA
1927
Marguerite (Jiggs) Shannon Powell may be reached through her daughter at 709B Ocean Avenue, Avon by the Sea, NJ 07717.

1939 REUNION
It doesn’t seem possible that five years have gone by since our 65th Reunion. Perhaps those of us scattered around the US could bow our heads on June 6 at noon and thank Russell Sage College for being there for us so long ago. Did you know that in eight years our Russell Sage will celebrate 100 years? Some of us will be here to celebrate. At this time, however, we must say goodbye to Zelma Chapman Stillwell and Rowena Wiseman Sargent who died in 2008.

1940
Elizabeth (Betty) Moore Kane has a daughter living a few blocks away and eight cats and two dogs for company. She writes to Xoma Arsem Clark and is glad to receive the alumnae news.

1942
The doctor is pleased with the x-rays of my knee that was replaced in September and I am just beginning to walk comfortably with cane. They say age makes a difference and I turned 89 in December. Best wishes for a bright New Year.

1943
June Price and Donna Robinson Esteves ’70 at Sage’s donor recognition dinner.

1944 REUNION
Agatha (Bing) Martin Burke lives in Charlottesville, VA and had a party last September in celebration of husband’s 90th birthday. Children, grandchildren, and friends were all on hand.

Lillian Funk Kovach lives in a congenial community in Albuquerque, NM. Her son and family live nearby, and her daughter is an attorney in Pittsburgh.

Sylvia Salkin Christensen called to inform us of the death of Dora Aloi Barber last August. Dora was the widow of jazz musician Bill Barber. The class sends sympathy to their three children and to the family of Marjorie Graham Hessberg, who died last April.

Katharine (Kay) Brooks Arsem made a short move to Ashley Point, a pleasant community in Getyville, NY. Kay, always on top of things, reminds us that our 65th Reunion will be in 2010.

1945
Margaret Wiseman Sargent who died in 2008.

For name and address changes, or to obtain contact information for a classmate please contact:
Fredericka Voorhaar Slingerland Alumnae House
69 First Street, Troy, NY 12180
Phone: (518) 244-2242
Fax: (518) 244-2234
E-mail: rscalum@sage.edu

For name and address changes, or to obtain contact information for a classmate please contact:
1946
First, some sad news: Mary Ackerman Hedberg died in September after a fight with breast cancer. Her sister, Grace (Gay) Ackerman Baines ’58 reminds us that Mary graduated cum laude. Our condolences to her family.

If you want to get in touch with any of your RSC buddies, I have a list of addresses and phone numbers — and in some cases e-mail addresses.

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

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

1948
Alice Gordon Katz
3800 State Route 82
Ancramdale, NY 12503
518-590-5769

1949 REUNION
Catherine (Kit) Flannelly and her new husband live at 41265 Mayberry Ave, Hemet, CA 92544.

Marjorie Schwartz Lewis sent a newspaper article about Hannah Larmon who was featured for her collection of 200 John Deere items. Marge said she was having lunch with Elsie (Chick) Gaber Summit who was visiting a daughter in the Berkshires. Elsie plans to attend our 60th, and recently celebrated both her 80th birthday and 60 years of marriage. On a recent trip to Venice, they had planned for a gondola ride, but stormy weather prevented it from happening. She writes that children and grandchildren held a birthday and anniversary weekend in Boston which included a gondola ride on the Charles River!

Antionette (Toni) Cavaccini McDowell and husband lost their daughter in 2008. Our sympathy to Toni and her family.

Harriet (Hattie) Blank Lapkin moved to Walnut Creek, CA, close to a daughter and family. Their oldest granddaughter married in May and the grandchildren are in college or getting ready to go. Harriet and Sam are taking Spanish classes. She hopes to make our 60th.

I recently celebrated a granddaughter’s birthday, and discovered that my co-grandmother is Beverly Lockwood Hechler ’61.

Remember June 5, 6, and 7, Reunion weekend. We have a goal of $20,000 for our Reunion class gift and Betty Wiesner would appreciate $10.00 towards our McKinstry Court class brick. Her address is 116 Prospect Street, East Hartford, CT 06108. Don’t let these requests hold you back. Come join us!

Elizabeth (Jay) Lee Warren
15 E 16th Ave Apt 4
Spokane, WA 99203
509-838-2769
billandjay@hotmail.com

1950
Barbara (Bobby) Bell Bombard’s new address is 339 Solomon Ave, Clifton Park, NY 12065. Both her sons live 20 minutes away. She says, “Moving at 80 takes more energy than at 60, but I can keep up with Sage news from the daily Albany paper.”

Jeanne (Randy) Randall Mader writes that Harriet Potter DeFranco was given a lovely 80th birthday party by her three daughters, and Randy was honored to be invited. Randy has been upgrading her home in Lake Placid. She stays active with tennis and walks around Mirror Lake.

Barbara (Bret) Rosenbloom Movsky volunteers at the University of Rochester.

Diane Bault DeMille reports that after 26 years in retail, she has retired. She says, “So now it’s playtime: golf, gardening, and occasional trips.”

Nancy Gronwoldt Winter writes, “Since 1986 when we left Kingston, NY, we have lived in Mexico, New Mexico, and South Carolina and are now going back to my roots in Germantown, NY. Both our children live in the area and we are in the process of redoing my father’s packing house on the farm into a gorgeous apartment…Our address is: 1109 City Rt 8, Number 3, Germantown, NY 12526. E-mail is winter time@gtel.net.”

Jane Wardwell Roberts
PO Box 151
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603-585-6612
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1951
Rose Del Negro Weaver
401 Lexington Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20901
301-593-7320
gomma30@verizon.net

1952
Patricia Newmark McCue writes that August brought a mini-reunion of the group known as “The Lupins” at her house. Joining Pat for six happy days were Marjory Beck, Carolyn (Carol) Allen Cooney, Laura Batt Somers, Jane Scullen Bartis, Margaret Hedler Chandler, and Joyce (Joy) Eckerson Colt. Pat’s Sage roommate, Nancy Schaefer Murto visited in September and Pat hosted Sage sister Valerie Ninnis Bundred ’54 in November. Pat also wrote that Betty Christensen Jolly and her husband enjoy good health.

Janice Bender Cramer joined that elite group known as “great grandmothers” in October. Yours truly visited the new “Wild Center” in Tupper Lake, NY, with fellow museum docents. This was followed by a weekend trip to Park Ridge, NJ for my 60th high school reunion. I hope to hear from you soon.

Mary Ellen Falter Davie
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rdavie@frontiernet.net

1953
Sally Schek Mueller called to tell me that Joan Baker Curtis passed away in July. I wrote a note to the Curtis family and received this note back from Joan’s son (jocu lar@g.com). “Thank you so much for your kind note, Pat. We are having a memorial service this weekend; it would have been Joan’s 77th birthday on 15 October. We plan to honor Joan in all her roles: child, mother, student, art center director, arts patron, quilter, coach. If anyone in her Sage class has any other remembrances, please post to me.”

Janice Bowen Morris was saddened by the news of Joan’s death. “She was a widow, but was fortunate to connect with Charles, who became her significant other. They each had adult children, and he lived in Winnipeg, while she lived in Minneapolis. One month, he would come to Minneapolis for two weeks, and the next month she would go to Winnipeg. In the winters, they went to Florida together. In 2004, they came to California, and stayed with us…In 2006, Joan and Charles celebrated Joan’s 75th birthday over several days in Minneapolis, inviting people from as far away as Hawaii. In her last year, Joan had been diagnosed with cancer, and underwent treatment. She was able to attend and enjoy a festival in Winnipeg this summer. Then, while still in Winnipeg, her heart gave out. We think of her often, and we will miss her greatly.”

The class year was incorrect for Barbara Hammond Whitmarsh in the “In Memoriam” section of the fall Connections. She was listed as Class of 1957, but was a member of the Class of 1953. Our sympathy to her family and friends.

Congratulations Joan Cunmey Firra on your PhD. Her research continues and she is writing an article for publication. To celebrate, she is having a reception at her clinic in Dallas.

Ann Palumbo Toohey underwent knee replacement in May. She says, “It’s my left knee so I am able to drive. I’m starting to
walk about a mile a day to build up the muscles but the weather changes affect it. I’m getting better at predicting change than the meteorologists."

Doris Rogers Rothman and her husband were leaving for Oakland, CA to visit their kids and grandchildren.

It was good to hear from Joan Fogel Flum who lives in Boca, has four children, seven grandchildren, and celebrated her 50th wedding anniversary with a cruise from Rome to Nice.

Cecil Waldman Goldstein has lived in a condo in Florida for two years and is very happy.

Charlotte Silver Leary wrote that Marge Roe McElroy spent a few days with her in Shelburne, VT and they met Martha Klahn Shangraw, who lives in Queensbury, NY, for lunch.

Judy Spain Taber is busy with her consulting business. She coaches people on how to find jobs.

Jean Twiss Riley-Harris had a great summer and fall—a great garden and lots of company at their home in Vermont.

I got lots of responses to my e-mail asking for news and stating that my husband and I spent the summer downsizing and moving into a retirement community.

Nancy Wright Anderson made me laugh. “We downsized 11 years ago and I still don’t have the wall of family pictures up in the hallway that I thought I would do some day. Even after all the sales, antique dealers, Salvation Army etc., we still came with about 90 boxes of stuff that we put on shelving in the basement.”

Doesn’t that sound familiar? Rosemarie Adinolfi Hamilton wrote, “We moved five years ago into a condo and it took a year to clean out and downsize. We love it though as we can just lock up and leave… In August we went to Grand Isle, VT and spent a few days with Jean Riley Harris and her husband. We leave next month for Australia and New Zealand.”

Martha Klahn Shangraw wrote, “We were in Greece when your e-mail arrived… We flew to Athens for a couple of days, then took a cruise visiting Istanbul, and Kusadasi, Turkey and other Greek Islands… I know just what you mean about downsizing, we did it last year and that feeling in a gift shop—why buy anything when you just gave it all away?”

“I’m glad you are in your new place,” wrote Nancy Phillips Wood. “Charles and I are totally settled (although I’m still re-organizing…typical woman) and loving this living in a retirement community.”

Lucie Champagne Bryant’s news was, “Our CAROL organization is gearing up for our annual World Aids Day program and raffle. We are a non-profit and need funds to help HIV/AIDS clients of the local wellness center. Congratulations on being settled! Probably many of us have that in the future, and I know I will use you as inspiration to ‘clear out’ which is such a chore for ‘savers.’”

I called Frannie Germonprez Paterson to get Nan Schmalz Nelson’s e-mail address. The Patersons live in the same town as their older daughter. They have a granddaughter in her first year of med school.

In response to my e-mail Nan wrote, “At the moment I am in Fort Collins, CO visiting my daughter and family…I am here for a week and love the fact that it is a direct flight from Portland, OR. I made the right choice for me as I live near my oldest son and his family…We are excited that my oldest grandson has completed his tour with the Peace Corp in Kazakhstan. He will be a student at Portland State University for a Master of Public Administration. My son has remarried and I now have baby grandchildren.”

Ginny Emmons Wall had been on a church sponsored trip for seniors to the mountains. They left on September 19 and arrived at the Flat Rock Playhouse south of Asheville, NC in time for the matinee. It was Tuesdays with Morrie. “I don’t remember when I laughed and cried so much at a play. The second day we visited an apple orchard and the third day we boarded the Great Smoky Mountain Railroad for a trip to the Nantahala Outdoor Center where the Olympic athletes who do whitewater rafting train.”

Joan Frumkin Martens wrote all is well. Mary Greene Hafler says hi to everyone.

Patricia Walker Mulholland 1013 Sassafras Circle Bloomington, IN 47408 812-334-2457 jmulholl@indiana.edu

Doesn’t that sound familiar?

Nancy Blair Myers met Ann Wolcott Wheat in Hawaii this summer. They toured Pali and Lanakai Beach, after which Nancy and Richard took a cruise ship to visit all the islands.

1954 REUNION


Joan Goldberg Prager most likely will not attend Reunion because she lives in Jerusalem; but she did receive her first Connections in a few years and enjoyed it very much. Her e-mail is doanie41@yahoo.com.

Leila Berkowitz Schwartz 420 East 54th Street #30A New York, NY 10022 212-906-9056 leilen@aol.com

1955

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

1956

Ellen DeLoach Van Buren 20540 Falcons Landing Circle #4107 Potomac Falls, VA 20165 703-450-4747 EllenCLVB@aol.com

1957

Shirley Miller Takach spent May touring the British Isles. In July, they headed for Newport Beach for their son’s wedding. Shirley says our 50th Reunion was unforgetvable.

1958

I, Dorothy Muller Frost, was so proud to participate in our 50th Reunion. I am your new class correspondent with help from my cousin Diann (Dee) Allan Billing. As I have the questionnaires from Reunion, I have the heads-up on quite a few of us and hope to write about what we have accomplished over these 50 years. I have lived most of my life in North Bennington, VT, having married Dr. Oakley Frost while completing my nurses training at Albany Med. We had 10 children which was wonderful. I started working as a registered vascular ultrasonographer in Oakley’s office running a vascular lab as well as being an office nurse in a busy surgical practice when our youngest was seven. Our oldest son joined the practice. I am divorced from Oakley, but we are on good terms, and our family gets together often with spouses and 15 grandchildren.

Diann Allan Billing writes, “I, too, raised 10 children, four natural sons and six adopted. Additionally I raised two granddaughters. Most of my children are college trained and are business owners, a film producer and a teacher… I have lots to keep me occupied as I interact with my 20 grandchildren and great-grandson. It was great fun to be at Sage for the 50th…As a graduate of the Nursing program it was interesting to go back to Albany Medical Center…of the 18 graduating members of the Nursing program, 15 of us were there.”

Carolyn Coreth Alecio has four daughters and one son, eleven grands and one great-grand. She was director of nursing
in nursing homes for 25 years. She also worked for New York state in Public Health and in Medicare Maximization-Fraud in home health agencies. She went to Tuscany in October (scorpiola@hotmail.com).

Phylis Greenwald Aronovitz has two sons, one daughter and two grandsons. She lives in Broomhall, PA. She was a manager of a research grant to study the effects of combining alcoholics and drug addicts in group therapy. She participated in sociological and psychological studies at Temple University’s Institute for Survey Research in child development, older women fertility studies, labor studies, teen pregnancy, and mental health studies (rephylaronovitz@verizon.net).

Janet Thurston Chambers has two sons, one daughter, two grandsons and one granddaughter. She lives in Carlisle, CA and has camped with her family in every state (twice in Alaska)! She fondly remembers roommate Norma Jenks Hembali, who died in 2006.

Patricia Rear Clarkson has three sons, one daughter and six grandsons. She lives in Fairfax, VA and the U.S. Virgin Islands. She was present at the 102nd birthday celebration of Marguerite Shan,

Catherine Kennedy Close has three sons, one daughter and six grandsons. She lives in “Our house on the hill” that she and her husband built, although he died in 2002. Cathy couldn’t come to our 50th Reunion because she was having chemo for lung cancer, but she says she is doing okay. She says hi to anyone who remembers her, especially roommate Marguerite Schroeder Sweeney, Pat Thomas, Judith Anderson Heliwell, and Nancy Wilber Westover.

Carolina Salvatore DeMarco has two sons and four grandsons. She was an elementary teacher and on the Trenton, NJ Board of Education for 25 years. She received the Governor’s Teacher of the Year Award in 1995. She is president of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International for key woman educators and of Mercer County Retired Educators. She lives in Columbus, NJ (csdemarcoc301@yahoo.com).

Martha Baxter Enstam has three daughters and six grandsons. In 2002 she retired from the Fairfax, VA schools. She and her husband moved to Titusville, FL. In the summer they travel in their motor home.

Rita Seeley Falk lives in Great Neck, NY and has one son, two daughters and four grandsons (falk@falkassociates.com).

Margaret (Peggy) Doyle Fleming married Michael in February 1966, who practiced orthodontics next to Vail House for 40 years. They have two daughters and seven grandsons. Her daughter Margaret Fleming Fritz graduated from the Sage’s graduate Nursing program in 1996. Peggy herself worked in the Law Reporting Bureau-Court of Appeals for eight years. She lives in Loudonville, NY.

Diann Dreyer Gates and Howard (whom she met on a blind date at McMurray-Gayle House) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last August. They live in Ballston Lake, NY and have two daughters, four grandsons and two great-grandsons.

Dorothy Muller Frost lives in North Bennington, VT (502-442-2997) and enjoys the freedom to travel and play, and less homeowner responsibilities plus the guarantee of health care. How about writing me for the next Connections?

Carmela Salvatore DeMarco has two sons and four grandsons. She was an elementary teacher and on the Trenton, NJ Board of Education for 25 years. She received the Governor’s Teacher of the Year Award in 1995. She is president of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International for key woman educators and of Mercer County Retired Educators. She lives in Columbus, NJ (csdemarcoc301@yahoo.com).

Marlyou Hillsigrove Taylor, 9 La Terraza Lakeland, FL 33813 863-466-9064 doctornanny@prodigy.net

Linda Nee 101-200 Grosvenor Place Apt. 1413 Rockville, MD 20852-4621 301-493-5533 hhaven@erols.com

Sandra Houck Tiedemann 272 Patrice Terrace Williamsville, NY 14221-3922 716-632-6756 sjfristitches@aol.com

Reunion in May was lightly attended by 1963 alums, but we had a wonderful time. (I thought the class dinner setup was wonderful!) Do not pass up the chance to be part of our 50th!

Notes from the ‘63 lounge:

“As we shared wine and cheese, we’ve also shared some challenging life stories, and had lots of laughs,” said Hope Hendrickson Long. “I never had a sister, so you all are it,” said Anne Stammel Bowman. “We had a lovely day touring the beautiful Sage campus. We hope to see many more of you at our 50th,” said Olivia Ludwig Haynes. “Our classmates put life’s puzzle pieces in perspective. You missed the giggles and happy tears!” said Suzanne Blenkle Miller (She came from Missouri.) “This is my first Reunion, and I can’t believe the changes at Sage. The Sagettes put on a great concert,” said Frances Cocroft Hotaling who flew from Florida.

Judith Axler Turner and her husband announce the birth of their first grandchild, in July. Also in 2008, their daughter was married at a wedding at the National Press Club. Judith remembers going there when she first moved to DC in 1964. At that time, women reporters were allowed only in the balcony when heads of state were speaking in the ballroom.

Virginia (Ginger) McCann Giammattei and her husband live near Hershey, PA. Ginger serves as a parish nurse volunteer. They have traveled a great deal, including a cruise on the Grande Caribe, from Rhode Island to Quebec.

Arlene Given Price and Bob retired to Schoharie NY and live in the antique tavern her parents restored. They welcomed their second grandchild in October. Daughter Joanna (Sage ’96) is a psychiatric nurse practitioner in New York City.

I, Sara Derrick Norberg, have news that Michael and I sold our house and are in an apartment, waiting completion of a duplex in a life-care community in Concord, NH. We are pleased with our decision and look forward to more freedom to travel and play, and less homeowner responsibilities.

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1965

In October, Karen Fisher Feldman visited her son and family in Seattle and she and her husband took a short vacation to Vancouver, BC. She retired from teaching kindergarten and has been selling real estate in Westchester County, NY for 23 years. She feels fortunate that her daughter and family live in New York City so she gets to see some of her grandchildren often. She also loves playing duplicate bridge, a passion which began at Sage.

In December, Eileen Snow Kelly returned to the States from her second home in Mexico, and will return there for three more months in the spring.

In September, Elizabeth Susan met Wendy Djourup Apace in NY, when Wendy came off the Appalachian Trail for a hot meal. Wendy was just finishing the New York portion of the trail and moving on to the Connecticut portion.

Edith Heckeroth Miller and husband took their first cruise last September with their son's family. She said that inner passageway of Alaska was spectacular, but the New York portion of the trail attracts her daughter and family. She writes that although her 20 years on the board of directors of the RSCAA are over, she is helping the annual giving office on a project. She reconnected with Amy Gilbert Wolfson ’68 and Barbara Towne Patterson ’66, both of whom are in the area. MaryAnn, Amy, and Barbara hope to get alumnae on the trail together again to talk about our 45th Reunion and to reminisce about our last one. Karin (Brownie) Williams LaBanca ’94 planned a terrific luncheon attended by 47 alumns and guests. Hollis Dorman ’74, president of the Alumnae Association, spoke about what is going on at the College. Cynthia (Cinnie) Thompson, Sharri, Faye and I planned a fun weekend in NYC at my place the weekend of October 25. We are hoping that other classmaters will get in touch with us to plan a rousing 45th Reunion. Please send me an e-mail at ronnye@shamron.com.

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1966

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603-624-1421
bpatternh@aol.com

1967

Classmates all should have had a good year, and should send me notices with news. Our class officers should contact us with plans for the 45th Reunion in 2012.

At my organic garden, we have 17 good types of garlic. Contact me if you need any.

Mary Ann Oppenheimer and her husband live in Merrimack, NH. Mary Ann works as Statewide Director of Development for the Boys & Girls Clubs in New Hampshire. She writes that although her 20 years on the board of directors of the RSCAA are over, she is helping the annual giving office on a project. She reconnected with Amy Gilbert Wolfson ’68 and Barbara Towne Patterson ’66, both of whom are in the area. MaryAnn, Amy, and Barbara hope to get alumnae in the region together, focusing on activities outside the metro-Boston area. They are planning a spring 2009 event that they hope will attract alumnae of all ages. Anyone living in southern New Hampshire, northern Massachusetts, northern Connecticut and Rhode Island who has ideas or wants to help, please contact MaryAnn at oppfish@comcast.net.

Suzanne Demarest Yeager writes, “I have been able to connect with two former nursing classmates…In September 2007 I visited with Sharlene Male King on my way home to Pennsylvania after a meeting in Saratoga Springs, NY. Sharlene and her husband live in Clifton Park, NY… In August 2008 my husband and I shared a cottage on Seneca Lake with Martha Miller Haase and her husband. We have been enjoying these vacations together for at least 15 years. Once a roommate at RSC, now a cottage mate once a year. We have a great time!”

Cecelia Tropper Hanig sent in news: “I have lived in Poughkeepsie, NY for 35 years. Since graduation from Sage I acquired a JD as well as an LLM in corporate and business law. I am somewhat retired — left my full-time position...”

Poem to the Sage Class of ’68

By Lynne Shapiro ’68

Let’s hear it for the Sage Class of ’68
Us women in transition who turned out great.
Our careers went beyond what we thought they could be.
With children’s/students’ works a further legacy.
Leading edge Baby Boomers in over-crowded schools
Startling when we discovered, we were reigning.
New careers without Sage prep some of us tried
Schlepping to that assertiveness training.
Some may like myself have felt jealousy.
At those at the Sage we needed it.
After changes we started our senior year
When some bravely spoke up despite fear.
At reunions our ’68 spirit stays in tune
They can talk of our change-making well into June.
Our ’73 gift challenged firing faculty
Who served us well without a PhD
Some helped Upton Center troubles of ’93
Wore ball caps with white gloves at our ’98 tea.
When the library was missing all Quills of ’68
Marshas D’s sends soon it straight.
An ‘08 class dinner in the gym was not normal
So we had it moved to Kellas Formal! Yet in ’08 our class gift was the most (at $60k if I recall correctly, more than double that of the next class gift)
’68er large contributors Sage presidents do host
And of a Crockett Award winner, Janet Willis Jones, we can boast.
And ’08ers please do stay in touch
With Sage classmates you came to like so much.
Send our class correspondent your latest news.
Join Facebook ’68er friends with your photos and views.
and our “usual suspects” at Reunions at Sage (only five are left)
To share needed comfort as we age
And go through times that look to be so tough
With health care and pensions that might not be enough.
We send up balloons that soar far away
To remember classmaters who have passed away.
At some class dinners we can go around the table
To share about our lives as best we are able.
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as general counsel and vice president of a computer consulting and development company at the end of 2007. I am now a consultant with the company and working as a law guardian in family court, representing children. My husband is an attorney... We are officially empty-nesters, although we love it when the kids come home to visit. In addition to our work, we spend time sailing on the Hudson River and in the Caribbean and traveling whenever we can.”

Bonnie Wooding Grinvalsky
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1968
What fun we had at our 40th Reunion! We toured campus and loved the new athletic center. We had pilates and yoga sessions. Some even had massages! We paraded down First Street wearing blazers, holding golden balloons, and carrying our class banner. Class dinner in the Kellas Formal Lounge provided opportunity to catch up with friends.

We were proud of Janet Willis Jones who was the Doris L. Crockett Medal Recipient. Janet has worked as a surgical intensive care nurse and now is an administrator in a nursing and medical radiography program in Medford, MA. She is a trustee at Sage and was accompanied at Reunion by her husband and two daughters.

We paid tribute to the life and work of Sherman David Spector at a memorial service at which many, including Marsha Della-Guistina, recollected time spent with Professor Spector. Marsha, who holds dual citizenship with Italy, has received four national awards for documentary work. She is a professor of journalism at Emerson College.

Pamela Schwarz Marras taught in Poughkeepsie and has three grown children with her husband with whom she has traveled extensively.

Nancy Velsko Schmidt retired from teaching in Wallingford, CT. She joined other Sagettes to sing at Reunion. Nancy, my former roommate, lives close by in Southington, CT so we have lunch and shop often.

Class agent Vicki Bernstein Edelman is a practicing pediatric school based physical therapist for Bergen County Special Services. She and her husband are the proud grandparents of five.

Susan Wolfe Herron is director of the Office of Student Conduct at UPENN, disciplining students for all the things she says she did while at Sage! Sue is also a class agent.

Linda Bail is an oil painter who sells paintings! She resides in Freeport, ME from June to October and spends the rest of her creative days in Arizona. Linda reminded us to keep Katrina (Trina) Westcott VanSickle in our prayers due to Trina’s deteriorating medical condition. Jacqueline Stopa Reichart, Pam Schwarz Marras and Linda Bail cherish their visit with Trina two summers ago. Linda Bail also is happy to see Virginia (Ginger) Kimmel Herrick several times a year.

Carol Vinci TenEyck from Groton, CT joined us at dinner and has retired from teaching. She has three grown children and grandchildren.

Marie Prochazka Haruate, our new co-president along with Lynn Laskevich Smith, is a retired remedial reading teacher. Marie enjoys lots of snow days and has a granddaughter.

Sheila Dunlop Rader is director of the Media Resource Center for WNY Conference United Methodist Church in Amherst, NY. Her thoughts and prayers also are sent to her college roommate Trina.

Susan Haldeman Bishop is a supervising food inspector for New York state. She lives in Wnyantskill and has two adult children.

Class agent MaryAnn Vogian McCarthy from Glastonbury, CT is a training supervisor for Otis Elevator. She has two grandchildren.

Katherine Taylor Harvey lives in California and has a son who is a junior at USC.

Diana Lauria lives in Wallworth, NY and is a manager of planned giving for United Way. Dorothy (Dottie) Millard Anderson is a teacher in South Carolina and has one son. Dottie is our 2013 class book editor. Our Reunion co-chairs are Linda Bail, Marcia Musick Conrad, and Sheila Dunlop Rader.

Other class agents are Audrey Oxenhorn Clymer and Amy Gilbert Wollson. Amy, a new member of the Alumnae Board, is a lawyer in Nashua, NH. She attended a Southern Connecticut chapter luncheon with me and Nancy Schmidt organized by Karin (Brownie) Williams LaBanca ’94 who did a great job helping organize Reunion.

I’m happily married 23 years to my software engineer husband and have one daughter who is a college sophomore. I’m an Alumnae Admissions Rep and represent Sage at college fairs. I’ve included news from all who attended Reunion and submitted surveys. Many surveys were returned by others who couldn’t attend. I’ll include their updates in the next newsletter.

Mary Gleason met Joan Peebles and Janet Tully-Kuzman for lunch last May. Mary saw Joan at the track in Saratoga a few times, but had not seen Janet since a chance meeting at the Montreal Olympics! Janet is busy with her daughters — one of whom was recently married and the other two planning career changes. Also joining them was Mary’s “little sister” Linda McLean ’72 and Crystal Robbins Monteverde ’72.

Mary saw Sue Bodnar VanDenberg at her mother’s memorial service in Stratford, CT. Mary visited with Carol Plimpton ’71 when Carol visited her father in Lyme, CT. Carol had just retired as an associate professor at the University of Toledo.

Rosemary Vacca ’62 and Mary visited Professor Spector...
while he was in the hospital in Wallingford, CT. Mary writes, “We enjoyed talking to him and felt great empathy for his courageous year-long struggle. We knew the determination it took for Professor Spector and his wife to endure the pain and frustration with valor. We were proud to attend his memorial service last April in Stamford. We felt part of a large tribute by family and friends.”

Joanne Davis Peterson-Jones ’73, Barbara Davis Stahley, Nancy Meyer, Sarah (Sally) Atkinson Harrelson, Karolyne Armer, Diane Frantz Hart, and I spent a week on Long Beach Island on the Jersey Shore. We plan to make next year a special year with a return to LBI as well as an extra adventure in June to celebrate turning 60.

Diane Frantz Hart’s daughter returned in September from a Peace Corps experience in Burkina Faso, in western Africa.

My daughter completed her coursework for her MBA in May and was married in August. She works with Fidelity Investments in Boston. My son, a missile officer in the Air Force, was promoted to first lieutenant. He is stationed in Montana.

Since this was the year of the big 60, Susan Koneski Rancourt, Diane Kwiecienski Roberts, Sandra Joule Aimone, Peggy Sussman Poppe, Cindy Ruble Zayko, and Beverly Miller Sigg celebrated by flying to Barcelona in September! We enjoyed everything from dining to dancing in the square with the locals to taking the gondola to Montserrat to touring Tarragona and Sitges. Spain has a lot of stairs and these active 60-year-olds climbed them all!

I just received notification that Sandra Fernald Picurro passed away in 2008. Our class offers condolences to Sandy’s family.

1972

More news from the 2007 Reunion survey.

RuthAnn (Fran) Funari has retired after 34 years of teaching. During that time she initiated, developed and maintained many school-wide programs and taught graduate classes for the NYSUT Effective Teaching Program.

Marlene DeBonis Gebert is a general surgeon with Seton Home Care in Troy.

When Susan Alfred Grey answered the survey, she was librarian at the Allentown Public Library. She and Bob have lived in six states: Georgia, Maryland, New York (twice), Oregon, Washington, and Pennsylvania. They purchased an apartment in Manhattan where they hope to end up. She remembers that her favorite class was Professor Sayre’s “History of Science” and that Professor Spector’s “Russian History” made her think globally. She recalls that Freda Bailey got her through student teaching (I remember crying for eight weeks, which may explain why I didn’t go back for 30 years.)

Patricia Maiorano Johnson noted she served on the Coalition of Essential Schools Northwest Governance Board and was chairman of the Essential Schools Committee at her school. She was still enjoying teaching a 9th grade Humanities Block. She mentioned a planned trip to China. Those of us who don’t go on trips are awaiting word that the trip was outstanding.

Mary Louise Quinlan Kreidlo reported many trips to Australia. She also wrote of “fond memories of my nursing classmate, Iris Singer and our trips to Albany Medical Center.”

G. Elizabeth Mayhew wrote from Sun City, AZ. She is “a training specialist in the county courts. Recently, I took a trip to Cancun, Mexico, which was my first time in that area of Mexico. I enjoy sponsoring children in Colombia and Guatemala through Plan International.” She remembers walking to RPI for ice skating. “The view as I walked up the hill and looked back was beautiful.”

There will be more from this treasure trove in the next issue.
Cynthia (Cindy) Allen Mitchell moved two years ago to a 10-acre farm 25 minutes from her job near Baltimore as an acute care PT. They have four horses and she resumed riding after work and weekends. She commiserates with the comments from others in their sandwich generation.

To add my own note, additional evidence of the sandwich generation is in my life. My husband sold his private investigative agency this summer and got a job with an international company. My own job teaching in an associate degree nursing program is overwhelming due to the lack of nursing faculty and scrounging for clinical sites. And at the end of October, my father-in-law died with mother-in-law showing signs of dementia.

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1977

Hope everyone had great holidays and made their New Year’s resolution to e-mail me! Remember what I said when I took over this job? I’ll make things up if I do not hear from anyone!

We have plans for a trip to Hawaii to see our daughter play basketball. She is a college sophomore and basketball has always been her passion. My younger daughter is in high school and we have just started the college search.

I know that Carol Linendoll Nosal is in Illinois and her three girls are excellent swimmers. Sharon Lupardi Jaeckel is a PT in Annandale, VA. But where are Kathy Hollister Ruffino, Diane Moberg Waldner, Judy Haines Martinelli, Karen Jackson Rowntree, and Laurie Spirito?

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Our 30th Reunion was a blast for the 16 of us who attended.

Leslie Banwell Polito is married and has two sons. She is a registered nurse and assistant director of the Torrington Area Health District in Connecticut.

Susan Barnes Seim is married and has two children. She is a teaching assistant for the Brunswick Central School District.

Sara Berg Glad is married and has two children. She is a special education teacher in East Granby, CT.

Janet Blakely Rosenberg is married and has two sons. Janet is a pediatric physical therapist.

Candice D. Bredbenner is married and is an assistant professor at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

Joanne Casale Bonesteel is married with a daughter. She is on the nursing faculty at Excelsior College.

Katherine Costello Hall is married and has three children. She is a health and physical education teacher in Pennsylvania.

Laura Dechene Bessette is married and works as a school psychologist at the Franklin Essex Hamilton BOCES in New York.

Lynne Dellt Mincarelli is married and has two children. She is a special education teacher at Glastonbury High School in Connecticut.

Patricia Diliberto Maggiore is married and has three children. She works at Capital District Infectious Diseases Association in New York.

Lisa Ferraro Money has two sons. She is an English teacher in Penfield, NY.

June M. Fisher has two daughters and is a physical education teacher in Washingtonville, NY.

Laura Haid Lafford is married and has three children. She is a physical therapist in Virginia.

Barbara Jones Santa Maria is married with four children.

Robin Kneller Pleasants has
Sage Words
A sampling of recent books by alumni and faculty

In A Final Arc of Sky (Beacon Press 2009) 2008 Rona Jaffe Foundation Writer’s Award winner Jennifer Culkin ’79 offers readers a personal and dramatic look into critical care and flight nursing via a collection of essays that centers on her nearly 30 years of medical experience, including time as an emergency helicopter and flight nurse.

Esther Haskvitz, professor of physical therapy at Sage as well as an athletic trainer and exercise scientist, co-authored Applied Sports Medicine for Coaches. “The goal of the book is to teach coaches enough about sports medicine to help prevent athletes from injuring themselves on the playing field,” said Haskvitz.

In Degrees of Freedom: American Women Poets and the Women’s College, 1905-1955 (Bucknell University Press 2008), Bethany Hicok ’80 traces the influence of the women’s college on the poetic development of three American poets: Marianne Moore at Bryn Mawr, Elizabeth Bishop at Vassar, and Sylvia Plath at Smith.

Associate professor of visual arts and children’s book author and illustrator Matt McElligott has a new book called The Lion’s Share. When the ant receives an invitation to dine with the lion, she is on her best behavior. During desert, the other guests do not mind their manners, each one taking half the remaining cake as it is passed around. By the time it reaches the ant, barely a crumb is left for her to share with the King...What to do? Anyone in the market for a book about math, dessert, obnoxious animals, and the wisdom of knowing when you have enough will not be disappointed.
In January 2008, we hosted a Brazilian student ambassador for a week. She was a joy to have in our home and we had all 10 of the Brazilian kids (and the American brothers and sisters) over for a party. In October, a German student ambassador stayed with us… I’ll see you at the 30th Reunion in the spring!

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1984 REUNION
Our 25th Reunion will soon be upon us. Mark your calendars for June 5-7!

We heard from Catherine Sacco Poplaski who lives in Wilming-nton, NC. She and her husband have been married for 16 years and have three children. Cathy is a payroll /office manager for a small company and volunteers at her daughter’s school. She keeps in touch with Sue Bird and Wendy Frederick.

Penny Manly checked in to say she will be at Reunion. She will take her daughters to Vietnam in January for an Adoptive Families Homeland Journey trip through the Family Ties Program. Penny sees Elizabeth Ashley O’Connor each August. She hopes Elizabeth will fly from Colorado for Reunion.

Regina Kaufman plans to attend Reunion too!

Send your updated e-mail addresses to either Caroline or Robin so that we can keep in touch and send out timely information! Go Horseshoes!

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1987
I, Laurie Flaherty English, got my first ever letter from a classmate. Amy Mitchell Snow wanted to share news that she is “crazy” but good. She has a college freshman son, a high school freshman daughter, a middle school aged son, and a 1-year-old girl. Her husband has his second doctorate and is a DO at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital in Utica, NY. Amy teaches special education. She saw Ruth Anne Slatcher Burby and her family when they were in Utica to run the Boilermaker. She also saw Jeanne Fitzpatrick Bovenkerk and Pam Stubbs Edgar in May.

I got together with Kathy Green Paul. She and her husband and their daughters came for a night at Hampton Beach. Dawn Cope Barilli and her old roommate Teresa (Terry) Allen visited Michelle Meister Harris and her family in Mystic, CT. Terry is a PT near her home in Lowville, NY and Michelle is a school nurse. Michelle and her husband have two boys.

Mary Jo Hassett, Kathy Moore and Liz Nahley Badalamenti got together for a weekend in Chicago. They were on a mission to find cheese fries! They recommended the city for a getaway and found cheese fries and kamakazis at the Wabash Tavern. Anita Lawless adopted her 12th cat in September.

Lisa Riley and Michelle Hunt live with their dog in Ballston Spa. Lisa is a physician assistant for an orthopedic practice and is the chair-elect for the Capital Region Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Michelle teaches part time at Sage and just finished her certification in lymphodema treatment.

Deborah Richey took a group from her college to Ireland last year. They enjoyed the cities and museums, but the highlight was the Guinness Museum.

I, Gretchen, moved from Buffalo. Tim’s department at HSBC Bank centralized in their North American headquarters in Chicago and we were given the opportunity to relocate. The move came at a perfect time as our oldest was going into high school and would change schools anyway. We’ve been here three months. Our new contact information is below. Keep the e-mails coming!

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1988

Denise Belisle Jacobs is home with her three children and running her apartments. She has rediscovered her love of theatre, however, strictly backstage community theatre.

Simone Awang McDonald lives in Woodbridge, VA with two sons. She returned to work and is a security manager with a contractor that supports the EPA. She and her boys spent Kyle’s 13th birthday in New York City visiting family and Joyce Isabelle who is Kyle’s godmother.

Ivette Rodriguez Echeverria lives in Valley Stream, NY and has been married to her college sweetheart for 16 years. They have two daughters. She is a high school guidance counselor in New York City.

Jill Fox is a financial director in New York City. She bought a co-op in Queens. Hold on to your hats ladies, Joyce Isabelle is living in the ‘burbs. She bought a home in New Jersey close to Seton University. They had a great house-warming over the summer. Jill, Ivette and I had a great time.

Melody Long McWerther is a chemist at Merck. She has two boys and lives in Boyerstown, PA. Pamela Miller Covert is the director of Wolk Manor Enriched Living Community in Rochester, NY. She is married and they own a contracting business. They live in Farmington, NY and enjoy snowmobiling, NASCAR, and taking their 1987 Buick Grand National to shows.

Lori Spoon Camello lives in Sarasota, FL with her husband and two children. She is director of rehab at a skilled nursing facility. Lori said she had a great time at Reunion.

Heather Smith Carangelo lives in Clifton Park, NY with her husband, children and golden retriever. Heather works for St. Peters Hospital in the department of outpatient therapy.

Kathleen Henahan lives in Charlottesville, VA with her dog. She works at the University of Virginia in the Physical Therapy department. Kathleen will have returned from her trip to Paris by the time you read this.

Laura Osterhout Hufnagel lives in Falls Church, VA with her husband and children. Laura works for Northrop Grumman.

Donna Wojtowicz Honsinger lives in Clifton Park with her husband and two children. She is a math teacher.

Ellen Breton Kebart lives in Clifton Park with her husband and two children. She is a physical therapist for the Troy City School District. Drop her a line at kebart@nycap.rr.com.

Phoebe Parker Ostergren lives in Wethersfield, CT with her husband and two daughters. She started teaching at a pre-school in September, after her youngest started school.

Christine Maggio Vitale lives in Ann Arbor, MI. She is married, has three children, and works as a physical therapist. She said Reunion was fun and thanks everyone who planned an participated.

Jean Trask lives in Lebanon, CT with her two bichons. After 19 years of teaching, she has left the classroom to become an assistant principal.

Lisa Parkins Toth lives in Warwick, RI with her husband, three children and their golden doodle puppy. Lisa volunteers at school and church functions and as a Brownie leader. She enjoyed seeing so many people at Reunion and hopes to see more at our 25th. Contact her at LJToth@cox.net.

Katie Marino Madigan lives in Clifton Park with her husband and two sons. She is a physical therapist with the Center for Disability Services. Last summer, the family went to Washington, DC where they saw the Nationals play at JKF stadium.

Diane Theriault Harris lives in Clifton Park with her husband, daughter and sons. She has been a stay-at-home parent for 15 years.

Colleen Ponsiello Franklin lives in Clifton Park with her husband and daughters. She works part time at Sage as the director of field experiences for the School of Education.

Karen Long lives in Clifton Park and has a son. She is still in her job at RPI – almost 20 years. She is the director of admissions and still loves working in higher education in Troy! Reach her at longks@rpi.edu.

Susan Hameline Kasznay lives in Middleton, CT with her husband of 15 years and two daughters. She is a marriage and family therapist.

Suzanne Baumann Anthony has lived in Lansingburgh, NY since 1992 with her husband and four children. She is a school nurse. Suzie enjoyed visiting with Lori O’Brien Stern, Jane Taubner Barney, Elaine Reffner Teeters and Sue Hameline Kasznay, Joyann Cinti Demirs lives in Watertown, CT and is about to celebrate her 14th wedding anniversary. She has a daughter. Joyann is a diettitian with the State of Connecticut Department of Development Services.

Elaine Reffner Teeters lives in Stanford, CT with her husband. They have six children: two biological, one adopted and three foster children. She works at Darien Financial as an analyst/underwriter for financing and is a member of the city design committee for the local parks and well as active on the Board of Christian Education at their church. She can be contacted at Jd-teeters@yahoo.com.

1989 REUNION

Dianne Kwasniowski McCarthy teaches at Buffalo State College in the Elementary Education and Reading Department. She and her husband have two children. Her life consists of work and driving her children to school and activities. As Dianne put it, “Teach and taxi, that’s my life.” She is looking forward to Reunion.

Michele Gill French is still at North Warren, handling special education in her administrative duties but adding student and staff services to her plate. Her daughter began third grade and her husband works for the sheriff’s department. Michele would love to hear from anyone in the Lake George area.

Carol Lohnes MacDonald has been married for 16 years. Her twins started first grade and her house and property have shaped up nicely in the three years they have lived there.

Sheila Clancy coaches the high school volleyball team at her alma mater. She was certified as a wellness coach and has been doing some coaching at work and hopes to do some outside of work as well. Her son is 2 and talking up a storm.

Maureen Gorman Blazejeski took her daughter to Prospect Mountain in Lake George for a hiking outing with her 13-year-old. Mary Miller Kinne has a daughter who is 5 and her twins are 3. Mary works three days a week as a family nurse practitioner.

Tamara Rice Nelson, Ruth Mutch Bernhard and Holly Riddle Damiano went on their annual vacation in Myrtle Beach in August. This year Mary Orner Danielson didn’t make the trip. Holly has two boys, Ruth has three boys and Tammy has two boys and a girl. Tammy moved from Connecticut to Westchester,
NY last year and loves it. They all plan to be at Reunion next year.

Lorie Wallace Lund is busy being a soccer mom, coach and bringing her five kids to activities.

Marie met Mary Miller and Lorie for lunch in Connecticut when she was visiting family last November. Marie heard from Daryl Barbro Rue a few years ago and she was living in Orange County.

Janet Grant Murphy got together with Jen Dailey Putman for dinner at the zoo. Stephanie Simard Labutis returned to the PT world doing home care in Florida. She is busy with her two children, and going to school for her DPT.

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1991
As of our last column and my plea to obtain e-mail addresses I heard from a classmate we have not heard from in years! Monica Zimmerman writes, “I’m in Chapel Hill, NC. Ya can’t complain about being eight miles from UNC, 20 miles from Duke, and 30 miles from NC State. It’s sort of a hippie, liberal, organic center for the state. It’s as close as I’ll ever get to my home, New Orleans, while in the state of North Carolina.” Monica is working on her doctorate, and indicates that it is not as daunting as some might think, as we were exposed to all of the major issues in our program at RSC (thanks Russell Sage PT Department!). Monica wrote that there are not many days that go by that she does not think of Sage. Her e-mail is SporzTP@ncrr.com.

In October, Sandy Massing Pristas and family joined Diane Gallo Weir’s family in New York to attend the walk-a-thon for Juvenile Diabetes. The kids had a blast and Di and Sandy got a kick out of reminiscing about Setters, Elda’s, the 100 daze party, the Halloween parade and our wacky costumes.

LindaAnn Thorburn writes that she saw Tammy Martin Drosielski and Laura Blomgren MacKenzie at Tammy’s birthday in 2008. In June, Linda adopted the two girls she was fostering. Linda hears from Leah Epstein, who lives in Colorado.

Karen O’Brien Tsourides writes, “I have been in keeping up with Christine Grudecki, Mairead Kissane Smialek, Elizabeth Bartolomeo Edwards, Anita Conrow and Dara Niad Siegel on Facebook. Christine, Anita and Mairead live in the Chicago area. Christine runs an IT recruiting firm. Mairead works part-time and has two children. Dara had her second son in July. In July, Pam Miller Wilkowsik, Sharon Faria Manion and I got together at my house for a few days. We had fun on the Boston Duck Boat tour. Pam lives in Lancaster, NY with husband and three sons. Julie Davis Dillon resides in Burnt Hills, NY and claims she is now the shortest one in her family as both her children are taller than her.”

I had dinner with MaryKate Hedderman while I was in New York in October. She is holding down the fort at the University at Albany with the Women’s Sports Division. Our roommate Beth Kelley Morandi was unable to make it but we keep in touch with her!

I marked my 10 year anniversary with RehabCare in 2008. Hard to believe I have stayed with one company for that many years.

Please forward me your e-mail address so I can solicit information for our next deadline.

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1994 REUNION
Veronica Kosich, Esq. received her LLM in Estate Planning and Elder Law in 2008 from Western New England College School of Law. It was a great program and she is steering her practice to specialize in this area of the law.

In June, Tanya Frantsov Scott, Penny Smith Kozak, Suzie Pulk Loefler and MaryLynn Hartman Doff met in Lake George for their annual getaway. It was a fun, relaxing time sleeping in, enjoying cocktails and reminiscing about Sage!

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1995
Hello Red Devils! Please take a minute to send a note or e-mail and let us know what you’ve been up to! There is one correction from the previous class notes: Kerry Firmin Smith did not move to New Jersey, but relocated to Panama City, FL. She was in her hometown of East Greenbush, NY this summer and fall. We enjoyed our weekly play dates with her 3-year-old son and she also met up with Deborah Brownell Foley, Samantha Anderson Marocco and Michele Hines Kilmartin while she was in town. Samantha Anderson Marocco attended a DPT course at Sage with Kerri Preston in October. Kerry is a physical therapist for Albany Medical Center in their outpatient and Cardiac Rehab departments.

Paula Morro-Wrafter traveled to Hawaii this summer with her husband and two children to visit Amy Crowell Schultz. Amy and her family were living in Oahu while her husband was stationed in Pearl Harbor. Amy stays home with her children. They now live in the DC area.

My fellow correspondent Linda Stroka Riemer and her family live in DuPont, WA. They have been sightseeing, getting the kids started in new schools and playing sports. They have enjoyed living in a different part of the country. Her husband is
being deployed to Iraq so keep him in your thoughts!

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1999 Reunion

Reunion is coming, Reunion is coming…are you in? Troy is the place to be June 5-7, 2009!

In case you haven’t heard, Facebook is the new hot thing! It’s been so great to reconnect with so many Devils! For those of you who haven’t checked it out, please do! For those who have checked it out and are slightly addicted, send me a message if you aren’t receiving e-mail from me regarding Connections submissions!

Meredith Clark Barton and her husband welcomed Andrew Scott in 2008.

Kathleen Dowling Laza and her family survived Hurricane Ike. They had lots of house damage but everyone was safe.

1999

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2001

Michelle Fage ’01 and Jennifer Portillo-Shores ’00 reunited at the NKOTB Reunion Tour in Boston in September.

Sarah Oudelker was married in September in Rutland, VT. The couple took a honeymoon trip to China Lake, ME.

Marisa Benson Sica and her husband welcomed a baby girl in 2008. She was born in Tampa, FL where the couple resides.

Mackenzi Sneddon Perigolotti and her husband welcomed a baby girl and celebrated their fourth anniversary in 2008.

Marissa Squicciarini lives in Orange County, NY and teaches high school English. She teaches a senior elective course on women’s literature and women’s studies which was inspired by her time at RSC. She also coaches varsity competitive cheerleading.

Christy Crandall Lill and her husband welcomed a daughter in July.

Jenna Dempsey married Kyle D’Addario in Baltimore in October.

Melissa Corriveau purchased a condo in October in Naugatuck, CT. Her new address is 111 Mallane Lane, Unit 7A, Naugatuck, CT 06770.

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Approximately 76 Sage College employees are also Sage graduates. Watch this space in each issue of Connections, as an alumnus employee shares her thoughts on what made Russell Sage a great place to learn, and what makes it a great place to work.

“What I loved most about my Russell Sage experience as a student would have to be the traditions: Junior Ring Dinner, sweaters, Big and Little Sisters, and of course Rally! I enjoy working at Sage, in the Institutional Advancement Office, because it allows me to assist in keeping those traditions alive for alumnae returning for Reunion as well as for future Russell Sage College alumnae!”

— Courtney M. Martin ’05
(now attending Sage Graduate School!)
Administrative Assistant, Leadership Gifts and Planned Giving

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2002
Jessica Stonitsch Dillon graduated from the University at Albany with a master’s degree in Social Work in 2008. Jess works at Greene County Mental Health Center. She can be reached at: 2329 3rd Ave, Apt 2, Watervliet, NY 12189 or harpersfancy@yahoo.com.

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2004 REUNION

Rosa Swartz Osstrander ’04, Professor Eileen Brownell, Paloma Cuprill ’03, and Chryseant Keil Scholz ’03 at Kathy Sherman Beardsley’s wedding in August.

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“From a Sage Degree to a Sage Employee”

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Kerianne Clark '05, SGS '08 married Samuel Silver SCA '08 in 2008 in Sturbridge, MA. Jessica Wilson was maid of honor and Tara Wise '04 was a bridesmaid.

Jessica Wilson graduated from Manhattan College with an M.S. in Environmental Engineering. She is in a PhD program in Environmental Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

Andrea Laurencell teaches English at three community colleges.

In July, yours truly shifted departments at Sage. I now work for the offices of Planned Giving and Leadership Gifts.

Elaine Klingbail '05, SGS '07 was married in 2008 in West Leyden, NY. Jillian Vescovi '05 and SGS '07 and Carla Pasquarelli '07 attended.

In September, Jillian Vescovi, Stephanie Winne, and Eleni Karolis joined faculty, staff and students to say goodbye to Aggie. It was a beautiful memorial. On October 19 Stephanie Winne welcomed a son – congrats Steph!

Beginning May 1, all gifts the Class of 2005 makes to the annual fund will go toward our class gift at Reunion 2010! In fact several of our classmates including myself will be attending a Reunion 2010 planning meeting in April...has it really been five years?

Russell Sage and Sage Graduate School alums at Christel Curits Milkowski's wedding included Allie McLean, Christianna Grinter '06 and SGS '07; Pamela Mintzer '08; Carly Capitula SGS '07; Christina Powers; Katie Peletz '06 and SGS '08; Shealene Whitney '04; Kristina Smeragulio '08; Ollire “Posie” Dunn '07; Jona Favreau '08; Kimberly Worebey '08, and Dana Mainella '06 and SGS '07.

2006

2007

2008

Jenny Johnson has been accepted to medical school at Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine. Congratulations, Jenny!
Hello, My Name is Sage

An informal poll around campus revealed a number of children with Russell Sage connections, named either “Sage” or “Troy.”

Clint Ballinger, CEO of Evident Technologies at the INVEST at Sage nano-science business incubator has a son Troy and a daughter Sage.

Retired Professor Sam Hill has two grandchildren who have those names.

Athletics director Dani Drews’ daughter’s middle name is Sage and she shares a birthday with Margaret Olivia Slocum Sage.

La Sagrada Familia, Barcelona, Spain

In this installment of class notes, alumnae write of making unexpected Russell Sage connections everywhere from the Montreal Olympics (see Class of 1970) to family birthday parties (see Class of 1949). Where is the most unexpected place you have made a Sage connection? Write to connections@sage.edu and we’ll feature some of your stories in a future issue!
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For more information contact Paula Bentley at The Sage Colleges at 518.244.4581 or bentlp@sage.edu

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more info.
call the Alumnae Relations Office at (518) 244-2242
www.sage.edu/rsc/alumnae/reunion/index.php