

# GIFT PLANNING NEWS



~ For Smith College Gift Planning Volunteers ~

April 2020

We hope this newsletter finds you and your loved ones healthy during this very difficult time. By now you have probably read that Reunion and Commencement will not be held this May, although the college is considering a variety of possible plans to celebrate the Class of 2020's Commencement whether virtually or on-campus when the pandemic is over. As we look forward to seeing many of you on campus during Reunions, we are saddened by this news as well.

On March 31, 2020, President McCartney sent an email with a variety of news from campus, so please be sure to read it. Here are a couple of quotes from that email: "Before the seniors left, they brought a smile to my face when I witnessed them romping around campus in caps and gowns, heard their primal screams and saw photos of the student-organized commencement. There are lots of ideas on the table to celebrate and honor their accomplishments, including a virtual celebration on May 17 and an on-campus Commencement with the class of 2020 once we are on the other side of this pandemic."

## Student Emergency Aid Fund

This fund was established by the college in the wake of COVID-19 to assist students with unexpected need.

President McCartney also stated, "We talk frequently about the power of the Smith network; it has been incredibly moving to see it in action. In the two weeks since, we established the Student Emergency Aid Fund, for example, close to 500 alums, parents and friends have contributed in excess of \$66,000 to help students defray the costs associated with continuing their studies off campus. To date more than 200 domestic and international students have been helped with funds for travel, and computer and technology assistance. Thank you for caring so deeply about our students, for keeping Smith strong and for making it possible for us to fulfill our mission."

Just recently the Student Government Association transferred \$100,000 to this fund. SGA president Rosalie Toupin '20 said, "This gift is designed to help students with unexpected needs associated with disruptions to their education as a result of the transition to remote learning at Smith due to the COVID-19 pandemic."

All gifts to the Student Emergency Aid Fund will count as a gift to the Smith Fund (the annual fund). Supporting the Smith Fund is more critical than ever during these unprecedented times.

## The Grécourt Society Award

This award honors the class that has added the highest number of new members to the society since their last reunion. We still intend to grant this award (details are still being worked out) and classes have until April 30<sup>th</sup> to add new members into the society. So far, it's a close race between a few classes.

Class	New Grécourt members since last reunion (as of 4/1/20)
1950	0
1955	1
1960	5
1965	5
1970	14
1975	16
1980	14
1985	6
1990	3
1995	3
2000	1
ADA's	13

Best wishes for a safe, happy and healthy spring. Sam, Chris, Kamlyn and Deb

