



<http://alum.slc.edu/reunion>

June 4–7

# Reunion 2015



# Return to Sarah Lawrence

<b>SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES .....</b>	<b>2</b>
Thursday, June 4 .....	2
Friday, June 5 .....	2
Saturday, June 6 .....	3
Sunday, June 7 .....	3
<b>SEMINAR &amp; WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS.....</b>	<b>7</b>

*Registration form is included in this brochure.*

## Early Bird Registration Incentive!

Register before May 8 to enter the Reunion 2015 raffle!

Raffle prizes will include:

- 1st Prize: \$100 Amazon Gift Card
- 2nd Prize: \$50 Amazon Gift Card
- 3rd Prize: \$25 Amazon Gift Card

## Register for Reunion Now!

**BY FAX:** (914) 395-2518

**BY MAIL:** Reunion Weekend 2015, Office of Alumni Relations  
Sarah Lawrence College, 1 Mead Way, Bronxville, NY  
10708-5999

**ONLINE:** <http://alum.slc.edu/reunionregister>

If you have any questions about Reunion 2015, please call Alumni Relations, Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. (EST), at (914) 395-2530.



# Reunion 2015 ...

**The perfect opportunity to rediscover past friendships, renew treasured relationships, and reconnect with your SLC spirit.**

Sarah Lawrence reunions are unforgettable! From academic seminars, workshops, and local tours to cabarets, art exhibits, and dance parties, reunion weekend brings friends together to relive every aspect of their time at SLC. This year, we will also honor the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Art of Teaching Program. Join us on campus Thursday, June 4–Sunday, June 7 for a fantastic weekend that celebrates the extraordinary education and lasting friendships that characterize the Sarah Lawrence experience.

# Schedule of Activities

## THURSDAY, JUNE 4

### Early Registration

3–7 p.m., Siegel Center

### Welcome Seminar and Supper

6:30–8:30 p.m.

Heimbold Visual Arts Center

#### Critical Abilities Assessment: An Introduction to Sarah Lawrence's New Tool for Evaluation

Kanwal Singh

Associate Dean of the College

## FRIDAY, JUNE 5

### Registration

8 a.m.–7 p.m., Siegel Center

### Alumni Art Exhibit

9 a.m.–6:45 p.m.

Heimbold Visual Arts Center

### Seminars and Workshops

Session I: 9:30–11 a.m.

(For details, see pages 7–10)

### Campus Tour

10:30–11:30 a.m.

### Luncheons

11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

#### 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Lunch with President Karen R. Lawrence

#### Class of '65 and beyond

The President's House

#### Reunion Lunch Under the Tent

#### All other classes

Join classmates and faculty for lunch.

#### CCE Seminar and Lunch

#### A Legacy of Access for

#### a New Student Generation

Judith Babbitts MA '76, Dean of  
Graduate and Professional Studies  
45 Wrexham Road

### Local Tours

1:45–4 p.m.

(For details, see page 10)

#### Tour of Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture

#### Tour of the Sarah Lawrence Center for the Urban River at Beczak

### Seminars and Workshops

Session II: 2–3:30 p.m.

(For details, see pages 7–10)

### Service of Remembrance

4:30–5:30 p.m.

Marshall Field

The Sarah Lawrence community  
remembers alumni, trustees,  
faculty, and staff who passed  
away during the academic year.

### Campus Tour

5–6 p.m.

#### Reunion Cocktail Reception at the Alumni Art Exhibit

5:30–6:45 p.m.

Heimbold Visual Arts Center

### Dinners

7–9 p.m.

#### 25<sup>th</sup> Reunion Dinner with President Karen R. Lawrence

#### Class of '90

The President's House

#### Reunion Dinner and Drinks

#### Under the Tent

#### All other classes

Westlands North Lawn

### Cabaret 2015

9:30–10:30 p.m.

Reisinger Auditorium

## Late Night Events

11 p.m.

#### Screening of *The Princess Bride* Under the Tent

Enjoy drinks and snacks while  
watching this beloved classic!

#### Stargazing at SLC

Scott Calvin, Physics Faculty

Join us for late-night stargazing  
(weather permitting) and  
astronomical discussion, featuring  
SLC's 10-inch telescope! Highlights  
include Saturn, the Moon, the  
Great Hercules Cluster, the Ring  
Nebula, the Double Double star  
Epsilon Lyrae, the Wild Duck  
Cluster, colorful Albireo, and more.

## SATURDAY, JUNE 6

### Registration

8 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Siegel Center

### Alumni Art Exhibit

9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Heimbold Visual Arts Center

### Saturday Morning Exercise

8:15–9:15 a.m.

Campbell Sports Center

(For details, see page 11)

- Pilates with Allison Easter '85
- SLC Fit: A Reunion Boot Camp
- Swim Aerobics

#### Estate Planning Seminar and Breakfast

8:30–9:30 a.m.

Heimbold Visual Arts Center

Join **Blanche Lark Christerson '77**,  
Managing Director, Deutsche Asset  
& Wealth Management, to discuss  
wealth and estate planning issues.

## Alumni Association Annual Meeting Reunion Lecture

### Q&A with President Lawrence

9:45 a.m.

Heimbold Visual Arts Center

#### The Joys of Failure

Vijay Seshadri, Writing Faculty

(For details, see page 11)

### Citation and Westlands Awards Luncheon

Noon–1:45 p.m.

Westlands North Lawn

### Reunion Terrace Reception

2–2:30 p.m.

Champagne reception to celebrate  
Reunion classes inducted into the  
Reunion Terrace at Westlands.

### Class Programs and Activities

2:30–5 p.m.

Each class will gather for an  
event planned by the class  
Reunion volunteers. *Locations  
on campus to be announced.*

### Campus Tour

4–5 p.m.

### Athletics Reception and Wine Tasting

5–6 p.m.

Campbell Sports Center

### Cocktails, Dinner, and Dancing Under the Tent

6:30 p.m.–Midnight

### Midnight Breakfast

Bates Dining Hall

## SUNDAY, JUNE 7

### Champagne Brunch

9–11:30 a.m.

Siegel Center Patio





# General Information

## Housing

Returning to Sarah Lawrence means returning to dormitory living! The rooms are single dorm rooms. This means that there will only be one single bed in each room. Bathrooms are shared with other guests in your housing unit. Your room will have one set of linens and towels. If you tend to get chilly in the evening, we recommend bringing an extra blanket.

## College Bookstore

The Sarah Lawrence Bookstore, located in the lower level of Reisinger, will be open throughout the weekend for your convenience. Memorabilia, faculty and alumni publications, toiletries, and snacks will be for sale.

Friday	9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Saturday	9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Sunday	9 a.m.–1 p.m.

## Campbell Sports Center

Alumni and their guests may use the gymnasium, squash courts, running track, and pool. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Friday	Noon–5 p.m.
Saturday	Noon–5 p.m.

## Siegel Center (Pub)

A great place to meet up and visit with old friends! Please note: Food will not be available for purchase.

Friday	7:45 a.m.–Midnight
Saturday	7:45 a.m.–Midnight
Sunday	9 a.m.–Noon

## Shuttle Bus Service

Shuttle service around campus and to the Bronxville train station is available throughout the weekend.

## Esther Raushenbush Library

Alumni are welcome to visit and use the library during their stay. The annual Alumni Authors display will be located on the first floor.

Friday	9 a.m.–6 p.m.
Saturday	9 a.m.–6 p.m.

## SLC Archives

College Archives staff will be stationed at the registration room in the Siegel Center to display archival materials and answer your questions.

Friday	9 a.m.–5 p.m.
Saturday	9 a.m.–5 p.m.



## Campus Tours

Tours of the campus will be available on Friday at 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. and on Saturday at 4 p.m. Sign-up sheets will be available at the registration desk in the Siegel Center. Highlights will include Bates, the Ilchman Science Center, the Heimbold Visual Arts Center, and 45 Wrexham Road, the home for CCE, Special Programs, and the Health Advocacy and Human Genetics graduate programs.





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# The Details: Seminar, Workshop, and Tour Descriptions

## Friday, June 5

Session I: 9:30–11 a.m.

Session II: 2–3:30 p.m.

Seminars will be offered in both sessions unless otherwise noted. Locations to be announced.

### A: Back to the Garden: The Ecologies of Milton's Eden

William Shullenberger,  
Literature Faculty

In *Paradise Lost*, the visionary English poet John Milton provides a sensuous and delightful glimpse of unfallen human beings in the perfectly integrated ecosystem of paradise. In his great epic, Milton dramatizes the tragic loss of this paradise, but he also provides his readers the hope and the motivation to regain it in the here and now of our lives. This seminar will offer a study of some beautiful Edenic passages in Milton's poem, with an eye to how he challenges us to recover it as a living hope rather than to mourn it as a lost possibility.

### B: Geographies of Inequality: Planning and Politics in New York City

Samuel Stein '05, Geography Faculty  
This course will explore the ways in which cities are built, used, and changed by both policy makers and popular movements. Using the New York Metropolitan Area as the primary case study, we will look at the city as a dynamic, disputed space—a place

where social, political, environmental, and ideological differences are expressed in both the formal political sphere and in the politics of everyday life. We will ask ourselves, "How are inequalities produced and contested in an urban environment?" To answer that question, we will study the city's historical, contemporary, and future development, looking at both the hard infrastructure (such as transportation and waste management systems) that makes the city work and the soft infrastructure (such as planning and development policies) that shapes its growth.

### C: Biodiversity Within: The Human Microbiome

Michelle Hersh, Biology Faculty  
Although we might not like to admit it, our bodies are teeming with symbiotic microbes—bacterial cells outnumber our own cells by a factor of ten-to-one. Recent advances in DNA sequencing technology have allowed us to explore the biodiversity of this "rainforest within" and the ecological interactions among these organisms and our cells. How do our inner microbial communities change over our lifetimes? Can we increase the benefits they provide by eating the right foods or taking the right medicines? Can we harness the power of our microbiota to reduce obesity or fight off disease? Our microflora may hold the potential for improved health and disease treatments, but each new

journey into understanding these complex communities brings more questions than answers. In this seminar, we will discuss current research on the human microbiome at the intersection of ecology and medicine.

#### **D: From the Arab Spring to ISIS: The Middle East at a Crossroads?**

Matthew Ellis, Christian A. Johnson  
Chair in International Affairs and Middle Eastern Studies, History Faculty

In winter 2011, the world watched with bated breath as popular uprisings, first in Tunisia and then in Egypt, seemed to herald an age of great transformation across the Middle East. Now in 2015, with Iraq and Syria in shambles and ISIS making its terrifying bid for power, the trajectory of the region could not appear any more different. What happened in these three short years? What, if anything, is the relationship between the events of the so-called “Arab Spring” and the political upheaval and violence of the region at our current moment? How can a proper understanding of 20th-century Middle Eastern history (including the U.S.’s involvement in the region since World War II) help us make sense of these critical recent events?

#### **E: Drawing on Sight**

John O’Connor, Visual Arts Faculty  
In this workshop, participants will learn about the basic tools and techniques of traditional drawing, and then will apply them to the surroundings of the Sarah Lawrence campus—we’ll draw outside, from life. Experience level is completely open. If you’ve never drawn before, you’ll take the first steps toward being able to draw what you see, and if you have experience drawing, this workshop will

allow you to explore your visual environment in new and exciting ways.

#### **F: Politics as Usual, Tremor, or Earthquake? How to Make Sense of the 2014 Midterm Elections**

David Peritz, Politics Faculty  
The 2014 national midterm elections delivered a resounding victory for the Republican Party at nearly every level of government, but very little clarity about the meaning of this landslide. There was very little by way of a focused national discourse or sustained discussion of salient issues like rising inequality, global climate change, immigration reform, or the many challenges facing American foreign policy. This landslide occurred in a long-term context that in many respects seemed to favor the losing party: demographic shifts in the composition of the electorate, the partisan preferences of the newly politically active millennials, and the alignment between the policy positions of the Democratic Party and the issues identified as most urgent by most Americans. On the other hand, midterm elections, especially in the sixth year of a sitting president, have tended to favor the opposition party throughout most of the 20th century. Is the election we witnessed simply a reflection of typical dynamics of electoral politics? Did unanticipated developments in the immediate build-up to the election, especially the outbreak of Ebola and sudden emergence of ISIS, exacerbate these usual dynamics? Or, is it perhaps the case that in 2014, we began to witness the long-term effects of some underlying structural changes in American politics: changes to do with campaign

financing, political geography, and perhaps the transformation of the global economy—changes that may fundamentally alter political dynamics in the 21st century?

#### **G: Escalation, Exaggeration, and Delight: A One-Session Workshop**

David Hollander MFA ’97,  
Writing Faculty  
There is something that editors and publishers (and sometimes writing instructors) call “MFA Fiction,” a subtle variety of storytelling that seeks to reverse engineer its quiet epiphany. Such stories are often mechanically sound but bloodless; even at their best, they’re not a whole lot of fun to read. This class will attempt to inspire a more intense (and more playful) approach to the blank page. We’ll look at a couple of very short stories (maybe by Donald Barthelme and Angela Carter, though I make no promises) and discuss tonality, language, structure, and the idea that a writer’s job might be to delight more than to instruct. And then we’ll spend some time trying to do just that, via an in-class prompt or two. Bring, like, a pen and paper and stuff.

#### **H: Bullies and Their Victims: Social and Physical Aggression in Childhood and Adolescence**

Carl Barenboim, Roy E. Larsen Chair in Psychology, Psychology Faculty  
Bullying has become a hot topic in recent years, in part because we’ve come to realize that the ability to harm a person’s social relationships and social “standing”—usually through the manipulation of others—can be every bit as devastating to the victim as “old-fashioned” physical bullying. We will explore the nature of bullies

and victims, in both the physical and social sense, and the possible long-term consequences of such bullying for both the perpetrator and the picked upon. We will also talk about what can be done to help.

#### **I: “It Was Just Yesterday”: Sharing Sarah Lawrence Life Stories**

Mary Porter, Anthropology Faculty  
With Reunion come reminders of the passage of time, as we reconcile the faculty, friends, and buildings in front of us with the images that we remember. Nostalgia and awareness of time passing are inevitable whether graduation was five years ago or fifty. In cultural anthropology, we construct life histories with all sorts of people; this process allows us to learn about those individuals and about the times and places through which they live. In this seminar, we will draw on the participants’ memories to generate a collective alumni life history. Through this practical task, we will address such questions as: What do our memories contribute to our current sense of self? How is our awareness of time signaled? What is our sense of the changing world in relation to our sense of a changing person? At what age are we “aging”? Alumni of all ages are invited to join the seminar. Participants will be asked to fill out a short “Memory Sheet” before they come to Reunion and to bring with them a snap shot of themselves when they attended Sarah Lawrence.



### J: Finding Courage to Maintain the Art of Teaching

Mary Hebron, Interim Director of the Art of Teaching Program  
Featuring Select Art of Teaching Alumni  
*"We must dare to learn how to dare in order to say no to the bureaucratization of the mind to which we are exposed every day."* — PAULO FREIRE

Over our 30 years, the aim of the Art of Teaching Program has been to foster and preserve the authority of teacher knowledge built through observing and documenting children engaged in meaningful activity, while at the same time assisting teachers to negotiate increasingly restrictive federal, state, and local mandates. What is needed to maintain the art in teaching—to hold firm to values of agency and art for children, teachers, and schools? What is the cost to children and society if we do not maintain these values? In this session, we will hear from teachers in public and independent schools on how they are finding the courage to get to know the children they teach so that they can support each one to be her/his own agent as person, thinker, and learner and, in so doing, "say no to the bureaucratization of the mind."

### K: The Big Idea: Class of 2005

(afternoon only)  
Ryan Takemiya '05, Shelley Feuer '05, Jason Gaines '05, Samantha Stark '05, Vanessa Gardner '05 MS '10, and Caitlin Rufo-McCormick '05  
In the 10 years since graduation, what have we done with ourselves? Turns out, quite a bit: we have written theses, started nonprofits, and had some pretty Big Ideas. In this session, six members of the Class of 2005 will present their Big Ideas

since graduation. Representing six disciplines, the presenters will each have 10 minutes to give the "TED-style" talk of their lives (so far). Come find out what your classmates have been up to and how their Big Ideas have been changing the world for the better! Featuring: Ryan Takemiya (Asian-American Studies), Shelley Feuer (Cognitive Psychology), Jason Gaines (Theology/Philosophy), Samantha Stark (Media), Vanessa Gardner (Genetic Counseling), and Caitlin Rufo-McCormick (Education).

### Tour of Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture

1:45–4 p.m.  
Van leaves from Westlands Gate  
Learn the history and mission of Stone Barns. The farm is dedicated to promoting sustainable, community-supported agriculture and local food. As part of a larger effort to enrich environmental studies on campus, Sarah Lawrence College and Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture are exploring ways to work together to promote sustainable food practices and production. This will be a private tour. Wear comfortable walking shoes.

### Tour of the Sarah Lawrence Center for the Urban River at Beczak (CURB)

1:45–4 p.m.  
Van leaves from Westlands Gate  
Explore the College's academic research facility on the banks of the Hudson River at Habirshaw Park. The center features a welcoming riverfront lawn, an easily accessible tidal marsh, and a beach used for river exploration and seining. SLC CURB provides a broad educational

platform, establishes a Hudson River research program, and incorporates service learning and citizen science projects in the Yonkers community.

## Saturday, June 6

### Pilates

Allison Easter '85  
8:15–9:15 a.m.  
Join Allison Easter '85, a fitness professional and former dancer with over 20 years of experience teaching private one-on-one fitness sessions, Pilates, and group fitness classes at prominent health and fitness clubs in New York City. Yoga asanas, Laban/Bartenieff mobility exercises, and other modalities may also be incorporated into this full body workout. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned athlete, the class is designed so that participants work at a safe and challenging level.

### The Joys of Failure

Vijay Seshadri, Writing Faculty  
9:45 a.m.  
"Try again. Fail again. Fail better," Samuel Beckett famously advises in *Worstward Ho*. What is the useful, as opposed to the typically mordant Beckettism, of his advice? This talk will examine the profundity of failure and the triviality of success.







Photography by Chris Taggart, Dana Maxson, Quyen Nguyen, and Manal Abu-Shaheen '03.

