

## To the Sarah Lawrence Alumni community:

It has been enormously satisfying to serve a community and institution that has and continues to be an important part of my life. But the most fun during these last four years as your president has been enlisting your support for programs that have needed our help, and charting the progress that's been made.

The priorities have always been clear: Engage programmatically, and make a difference in ways that will support and help our students while they are in school and once they have launched into the larger world, keeping the College as the centerpiece of our efforts.

- Working with the administration, SLC alumni have brought new energy and focus to **Career Counseling**, participating in career panel discussions and groups, mentoring, offering internships and jobs.
- We've driven attendance and participation at **Reunion Weekends** to new levels, consistently increasing class gifts to the **Annual Fund**, while renewing our College experience, and reconnecting with friends and faculty on campus, in seminars, over dinner, and on the dance floor!
- In the face of heated competition for the best students, we have given the **Admission** teams, across the country, the support they've needed by staffing college fairs, speaking with and interviewing prospective students, hosting applicants and their families, and providing the breathing room that has enabled them to strategically enhance how SLC attracts and retains entering freshmen and transfer students.
- For ourselves, we have increased the number of **regional groups** that host events, offer a network of opportunities for personal/professional development, provide volunteer pursuits, support personal transitions, serve as sounding boards for ideas, and offer friendship, comfort, and refuge in the face of local disasters.

We've done a lot of very good work!

But none of this would have been possible were it not for the well organized support and efforts of the Alumni Relations team, led by Cheryl Cipro. They've provided the wisdom and logistical expertise when planning events, good humor when there were last minute changes beyond our control, insight when there was a specific need in terms of a resource or person that we were not aware of and who might be a new and useful connection or addition to the hosting team, and encouragement and an ear when new ideas for events were being entertained. Their creativity and sharp eye on the budget allowed us to work hard and have fun, with grace and style, while making it all look absolutely effortless. It is with the deepest thanks to them for their professionalism, support and guidance, without which I would not have been able to enjoy the work much at all.

To the next President, it will be your turn to make sure that alumni continue to be a part of the solution, and that you build on the foundation that has been the basis of our success. Enjoy the new relationships that will come with the job, and travel safely while you're out and about working with what's in place, and considering the new and different as you continue the work towards the future.

I wish you great success, good humor, and the hope that you enjoy the work as much as I have.

Sincerely, and best regards,

Rona Carr '74