

# Celebrating a Quarter Century of Generosity

*The Grécourt Society honors alumnae and friends who leave Smith bequests and other forms of planned and estate gifts*

The year 2019 marks a landmark in Smith's history: the 25th anniversary of the founding of The Grécourt Society.

"An alumna once said to me, 'The Grécourt Society—isn't that for rich people?'" said Sam Samuels, Smith's director of gift planning. "Not so. The society welcomes all alumnae and friends who have named Smith as a beneficiary of their will or made some other form of planned gift, regardless of size. I am awed on a daily basis by the generosity of alumnae who make these gifts, from the very wealthy to those of more modest means."

Smith has a long tradition of planned gifts that far precedes The Grécourt Society. The college itself was founded by the bequest of Sophia Smith. Finalized in 1870, Sophia's last will and testament was a stirring and prescient manifesto, a blueprint for women's education that remains relevant today:

"I hereby make the following provisions for the establishment and maintenance of an Institution for the higher education of young women, with the design to furnish for my own sex means and facilities for education equal to those which are afforded now in our Colleges to young men. ... It is my opinion that by the education of women, what are called their 'wrongs' will be redressed, their wages adjusted, their weight of influence in reforming the evils of society will be greatly increased, as teachers, as writers, as mothers, as members of society, their power for good will be incalculably enlarged."

Many alumnae and friends have followed in Sophia's footsteps and given to Smith through their estate plans. In 1994, the college formally recognized this type of philanthropy by forming The Grécourt Society.



## WHO BELONGS TO THE GRÉCOURT SOCIETY?

**W**HEN YOU SEE a fellow alumna wearing a distinctive pin depicting the Grécourt Gates in gold against a blue background, she's one of the 2,225 living Grécourt Society members. The society also honors the 1,199 members no longer living, whose gifts have now come to Smith to create their legacies.



Their impact is profound. Over these first 25 years, Grécourt Society gifts have contributed approximately \$460 million for scholarships, professorships, buildings, general operations and many other purposes: an astonishing collective expression of support.

## FIVE THINGS MADE POSSIBLE AT SMITH BY THE GRÉCOURT SOCIETY

**1 THE CAMPUS CENTER CAFÉ.** Culinary superstar Julia McWilliams Child '34 left her Cambridge house to Smith College. The proceeds went to the Campus Center Café, serving delicious locally sourced meals.

**2 THE SHERRERD CENTER FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING.** This vital center, a resource for faculty to hone their teaching skills, was endowed through a bequest from Kathleen Compton Sherrerd '54 and John J. F. Sherrerd.

**3 THE SCHACHT CENTER FOR HEALTH AND WELLNESS.** Replacing the old infirmary, the Schacht Center was dedicated in 2015 and named in recognition of the bequest intention of Nancy Godfrey Schacht '56 and Henry Schacht.

**4 THE NANCY KRUIDENIER SHEPARD '41 SCHOLARSHIP FUND.** Shepard established a charitable gift annuity that provided her income during her lifetime, then endowed this scholarship in her name. Grateful awardee Abagael Shrader '13 is pictured here.

**5 NEILSON LIBRARY RENOVATION.** Eleanor Burton '47 left Smith a substantial unrestricted bequest. The college put some of this toward the renovation of Neilson. The ground floor lobby will be named in Burton's honor.

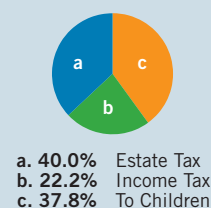


**G**récourt Society chair Pamela Smith Henrikson '62 says, "When an alumna joins The Grécourt Society and makes a deferred gift, she not only benefits the college, but often benefits herself as well." For example, you can:

- Name Smith as beneficiary of your will or trust and reduce your taxable estate.
- Establish a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust, giving you a lifetime of income and a tax deduction.
- Donate your home to Smith and retain the right to live in it. This provides a substantial tax deduction and a meaningful future gift to Smith, without changing your lifestyle.
- Many of these gifts can be counted toward class Reunion totals.

## ONE SIMPLE WAY TO JOIN GRÉCOURT

**M**any Grécourt Society members have named Smith as a beneficiary of an IRA or other retirement plan. This requires no lawyers and can save significant taxes. For example:



Janet leaves her \$100,000 IRA to her children. After estate and income taxes they may receive as little as \$37,800.



Janet instead leaves the IRA to Smith. The college is tax-exempt and receives the entire \$100,000.

