

I was excited to hear from **Anne-Therese Bechamps** last year, and she said that for her the highlight of 2024 was the Danube River cruise with other Woods alums. She enjoyed spending time with **Judith “Judy” Coulup Hund ’13MLD** and her husband, Mark, as well as many Woodsies from the Class of 1988, and making new acquaintances too. She highly recommends it and would love to see more classmates on a future cruise.

She was also glad for the opportunity to reconnect with **Maureen “Mo” McEvilly Carmody** at the bonfire at the SMWC Homecoming on campus in October 2024. Anne-Therese continues to serve on the Mission Advisory Board for the Sisters of Providence and has the privilege of returning to The Woods twice a year, where she is always pleasantly surprised to run into old friends.

**Elizabeth “Liz” Wallin Pawlak** reports she and her husband, Geno are doing well. She sold her orthodontist practice in Madison, Indiana, in July, but she’s still working there three days per week. Geno still sees podiatric patients 2-3 days per week. This schedule allows them to see their two children in South Carolina and Iowa and still visit more exotic locales. They went to Italy in October for Liz’s 60th birthday. They spent most of their time in Sicily—they even went back to her great grandparents’ hometown to trace her roots. She found this so emotional and awesome. They then went north to Florence. Over Christmas break the whole family went to Poland—very cold, but such a beautiful, clean and friendly country, she said. Liz claims she ate her way through both trips: wonderful food in both countries! One of my favorite parts of being class secretary is living vicariously through my classmates’ travels, and Liz never disappoints.

As she is working less, Liz is hoping to do more volunteering and lunch with friends. She mainly hears from **Margaret “Mags” Short Layne**. Liz hopes everyone is doing well!

Speaking of Mags...she wrote she cannot believe it is 2026! “We turned 60!” She said 2025 was uneventful for her in Delaware. No trips or any flashy events. In July, she got together with **Rebecca “Becky” Brown Schone** for dinner to celebrate 60. It was great to see her. On December 31, Becky's youngest (and final) daughter was married. It was a beautiful ceremony and party to start 2026. She does keep in touch with **Juliann “Julie” Polites Toth** and **Elizabeth “Liz” Wallin Pawlak** but they haven't physically seen each other in years. “I am

so blessed to still be part of the SMWC Family.” Couldn’t have said it better myself, Mags!

**Margaret “Maggie” Hess-Witucki** says living so far away from Woodsie action sometimes makes her feel like she is missing out, so she is grateful for these notes. She says thank God 2025 is over! It was a bittersweet year for her and her wife Sharon. Sweet: she retired in May and is enjoying her leisurely days of doing as she likes. Her week is filled with walks, hikes, arts and crafts, cooking and baking. Southern California has so much to offer! Maggie and Sharon have had a few trips. They went to Disneyland three times since May. (Costco had a deal.) They went to their cabin in the mountains a few times and went rock hunting with Maggie’s sister. The rock thing is not really Maggie’s thing, she says, but it allows her to hike new and interesting places. She has enjoyed the time to decorate her house for all the seasons and holidays. The neighbors tell her they enjoy seeing what I will do next. “I have to be honest, climbing ladders and in trees I am wondering how many more years I will physically be able to pull off the big decorating jobs, you know?” If any of you find yourselves in Southern California, they have plenty of room and would love to have you stay. Maggie stated she is working on improving her health and has lost some weight and feels really good. “Retirement is a good thing.”

The bitter part of her year has been dealing with some hardships with her youngest son in Utah. They have been traveling to Utah a lot this past year to help him out, and it appears the hardest part is over now. He is good and doing well now. The other stuff she reports has been hard has been watching everything with the world and inside our country. She is sure many of us are feeling the same way, and she and Sharon are looking forward to a much better year. She is happy to say all is well with the rest of the family, and she misses us all and wishes she could be home at The Woods more often. Maggie, honestly, we all would trade being in Indiana for that SoCal sunshine right about now!

**Margaret “Meg” Littlejohn Nation** is still with Washington Township schools with a focus on early childhood, which she loves. Husband Tim is at the helm of Peace Learning Center, and he is helping with the Sisters of Providence Missions Board. They feel fortunate that three of their four children are in town, with their oldest having moved to Washington, D.C. in August. **Alice Sherfick Shelton** keeps track of Meg’s parents at their mutual church “so I can ensure they are behaving!” But who’s keeping an eye on you, Meg?

**Maria Price** wrote she loves simple things, “like a morning walk with you (**Chantel Hesting**), separated only by a few hundred miles but connected by the miracle of

modern technology.” (Maria was gracious enough to keep me company on my occasional two-hour long commute between my home and my office. She walked in Louisville while I zipped down the highway to Indianapolis. The time went so much faster!). Another simple pleasure for her is enjoying the University of Louisville Women's Basketball season. Fandom is really fun again this year!

She also said, “My computer-in-a-pocket iPhone also brings me loads of joy when I get sweet pics of smiling great nieces and nephews in the middle of the day. They live in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina and Alabama, so little random connections are great fun.” She especially loves the in-person connections though. “Getting together with friends for the weekend was a highlight. In addition to seeing my close friends, I caught sight of barges on the river!”

Her brothers, in-laws and friends made it to Louisville again this year to staff a pull-tab booth for the 175th Picnic to raise funds for St. Joe's Children's Home. It is inevitably the hottest weekend of the summer, and they work a LONG day (9AM - midnight), but they keep showing up and she loves them for it!

Travel has also brought her lots of joy: Charleston (visited the historic Mother Emanuel AME Church); Puerto Rico (good times on a jet ski with a 16-year-old nephew); and other regional travel to visit family. She was also at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods for the Providence Associates Annual Meeting and she is continually grateful for the Associate relationship. “Such gifts in my life are the Sisters of Providence, the beautiful Saint Mary-of-the-Woods village, and our enduring SMWC. After all, they brought me to the Class of '87.” We are all grateful to the Sisters for doing that, Maria!

**Maureen “Mo” McEvilly Carmody** wrote that 2025 was her first full year on the Alumni Board of Directors for SMWC. She was happy to have been included with the other Board members for planning inclusive alumni events. She is really looking forward to what 2026 will bring to alumni and the College! She wants to see everyone at the Onyx Gala, September 24, 2027, in Indianapolis.

She continues to live and work in downtown Chicago. She loves the city center's energy: always something happening for tourism and engaging the "locals.” We all know Mo does her part contributing to that energy!

**Rhonda Hite Smith** is enjoying her position as a part-time administrative assistant at Huntington University in the Academic Center of Excellence where she manages the tutoring program and special testing accommodations for students with

disabilities. She is also a receptionist at H&R Block in the evenings and on weekends during the first four months of the year. She decided to go skiing for her 60th birthday in March, took a tumble and tore her meniscus and ACL. That put a damper on last summer's plans, but after an injection, she and Chuck still managed to take a trip to Glacier, Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons National Parks. She still highly recommends the daily PBS show "Classical Stretch," which has really helped with her neuropathy and back issues. Glad you're still able to enjoy traveling, Rhonda!

**Lori Harris Strawn** will remember 2025 as the year her gallbladder went kaput. Less one bodily organ, she finds life infinitely better. 2025 also marked the year she gained a second great-nephew, Cooper James, joining young Henry, who has yet to succumb to her charms, but will. She is not above bribing with candy. Lori also took a job as an assistant editor with HOPE magazine, for which she is ever-thankful. She hopes the Sisters will be pleased with her work. She will do her best! As a sub-par classmate of Lori's in many an English class, I know her editing will be flawless.

**Paje Etling Felts** is very excited as **Karen Steffy-Goldberg** is planning a trip to Indianapolis in early March. The visit will also include a gathering with **Meg Littlejohn Nation, Lori Wilson O'Leary, Sally Dickson** and **Carolyn Krier Friedman**. They are hoping to hit The Woods with her, also.

Paje is also very proud of her mother, **Patricia Carbon Etling '54** who was feted by the Indianapolis Archdiocese as the 2026 Legacy Gala honoree for her amazing work co-founding and running Catholic Charities in Terre Haute, along with her husband John.

Paje wrote that all five of her kids are doing great. Her youngest is now a sophomore at Bishop Chatard. She said it's odd to just have one there! She is still lobbying for the Indiana State Bar Association and fighting the good fight for Indiana legislation. We need you, Paje!

**Catherine "Cathy" Rumschlag** is living with her dad who will be 92 in June. She is expecting identical twin girl grandbabies, Violet and Ivy, in early June, courtesy of her son Andrew and his wife, Lexy. Andrew just got a promotion at work so that Lexy will be staying home for a time with the twins. She is so excited for them!

"I'm continuing to work as a counselor as well as a TCM (The Cortina Method) Practitioner to complete visits with my guests to resolve trauma and free them of the past. I love this!" Her sister **Julie Rumschlag '88** visits regularly from Delaware and

is retiring July 1 so she expects to be seeing her even more often. She helps Cathy care for both their parents. The Ruschlags' mom is still living alone at home but has some early signs of dementia so they're managing that as a family. Her other sister **Cynthia Rumschlag Stark '94** has been helping by providing meals and sometimes will drive up from Indianapolis for an appointment as needed, and of course, visits regularly. Cathy's daughter Cecelia is completing her residency in internal medicine and already has a five-year contract with Parkview in Fort Wayne, Indiana, to work as a hospitalist so I am looking forward to her family continuing to be in Fort Wayne. She says life is good even with its challenges! Cathy, I think we're all at the age where we have or are currently caring for parents, and our thoughts are with you. I'm so glad you have supportive sisters in your corner!

**Alice Sherfick Shelton** shared some fascinating notes and introspections on her 2025, so I'm including it verbatim here: "In 2025, I started keeping track of the letters, notes and cards I wrote and also the books I read. I found the process interesting and informative. I think the outcome suggests that what I expected to find is true — I love to read and I love to write and be in touch. I read 70 books in 2025, and I know that I stopped early in the read for two of them. Life is too short to read books that do not garner my attention. I know I read "The Covenant of Water" for the third time last year and I know I read "Overstory" for the second time. My favorite read of the year was "The Correspondent" in case anyone cares! Sometimes people ask what I like to read, and I usually respond with sharing that while I read mostly novels recommended to me by smart women, I am almost always reading something religious or spiritual and something about a contemporary subject like a political or economic matter. I am usually reading more than one thing at a time. My "long read" currently in the works is "The Thirteenth Greatest of Centuries" by James Walsh. I read about one page a day and at this rate will finish late in 2026 or early 2027. That is a great way to handle a book that might otherwise seem impossible. I read "Moby Dick", "War and Peace" and "The Catechism of the Catholic Church" using that method.

In 2025, I sent 126 notes, cards and/or letters out. At the cost of stamps today, that is a little investment! Some folks received more than one item from me in that number. I enjoy writing notes, sending articles, acknowledging gifts I have received and noting a loss in someone's life through death or otherwise. I send very, very few Christmas cards and when I do, there is a lengthy note included. I love purchasing beautiful, boxed cards from our local museum shop. When I am out of town, I enjoy finding boxes of cards in bookstores or other unique places. In a world so full of texts, social media and email I really love sharing something personal and handwritten. I enjoy receiving the same back if anyone is seeking a new hobby! I will always write back.

John and I celebrated 30 years of marriage in October and had a short trip to Maine to note the milestone. We returned to one of the cities where we spent our honeymoon. Our time away from home is usually spent at a friend's home on Lake Michigan for long weekends. I still try to get to my brother's lake home in northern Indiana when my family is there during the summer. I continue to cover the miles between Indianapolis and Saint Mary-of-the-Woods with some frequency as part of my service on the College's Board of Trustees and also in my engagement as a Providence Associate. My years of service at Marian University now number nearly 36 and I remain committed to continuing for a period to be determined when it feels time. It seems the most common question asked of those our age is "are you retired" or "when will you retire". I find those questions as irritating as I found being asked my major in college. Who cares? Ask me what I am reading, what project has my attention, what I notice on my early morning walks or what occurs to me when I awaken at 4:30 every morning.

I have noticed a few things about myself since turning 60. There are a lot of one story homes. Ibuprofen works better than acetaminophen for most pains. I have far fewer friends and much deeper friendships. You can pay neighbor kids to do almost everything you do not want to do. People smile back when I smile and frown back when I frown so I smile more. I notice dust in my house more than anyone else does. Not every thought I think needs to experience freedom and air." Alice, we could fill a whole week discussing all your points, but as to your last one: that principle alone led me to much success in my career!

**Anita Lawrence** moved to Noblesville, Indiana, right across the street from her grandchildren and their parents. "I have morning coffee before school and evening goodnight hugs. Nothing better than seeing those cute children." Amen, Anita!

I retired in December and can see no downsides to the golden years so far! I get to visit my niece and nephews as they leave the nest and start their amazing lives in new places, babysit my super cute 18-month-old great-niece 2 days a week, run errands for loved ones, decorate the home we moved into in November, have coffee dates with my siblings, do more cooking and baking, travel to visit college friends and new places, volunteer (need to fight the power now more than ever), read, and continue to discover my purpose. I'm grateful for the new online notes format so there's no longer a word limit—I mean, look at all the awesome things going on for the Class of 1987!