

Real Smith College alumnae notes

Sarah Smith completed medical school at UMass in Worcester and an internal medicine residency at Newton-Wellesley Hospital, and since 1988 has worked as a part-time physician in private practice in the Dover, NH area. Husband Gary is a neurologist; son Jason completed his first year of college; and daughter Sara is in high school. The family is completed by a golden retriever and two cats.

Shanice Miller made a big career change! She got hired as a professional firefighter after attending a 10-week fire academy last winter with 20 college-age kids. It was similar to military boot camp, complete with push-ups and group runs, but with live fire and cutting up cars with extrication equipment. She spent the summer working on her upper-body strength and climbing stairs with a 50-pound weight vest. After a few months of competitive written and practical skill testing at fire departments around her state and passing an intense physical test, she was offered a job in Port Townsend in September. She is the first female professional firefighter in her department. Mel now spends her days learning how to operate engines, fighting fires, and running EMS ambulance calls. After being a stay-at-home mom for eight years, it's great fun to jump into such an exciting field.

Alexis Jones writes, "Five years after moving back home to Sarasota, I am now a stay-at-home mom to my 2-year-old son, Jack. I'm still not sure how I ended up a housewife, although it probably had a lot to do with my childcare collapsing, my job stagnating, and my husband pursuing a new career. Most times I feel like I'm secretly being filmed for a bad reality show entitled *My Mother's Life*. In addition to applying my hard-earned degree to such things as laundry and trips to Target, I've been busy managing our outdoor pest infiltration. I am on a first-name basis with the Terminix man. Provoked by exhaustion, humidity, and my toddler's time-consuming neediness, I recently chopped off all my hair and now bear a startling resemblance to Sheena Easton circa 1983. It saddens me to realize that current Smith students will have no idea who I'm talking about. I love my son, I love being a mom, and most of the time I love my life. Yet I've been confounded by choices I never thought I'd have to make. Which makes me think that my personal Reunion slogan could well be – '15 Years After Smith – What the Hell Happened?'"

