

A Link or a Lifeline: EmmaLink Serves Young Alumnae

For a third year, the Alumnae Association Council has offered graduating seniors a bridge from their Emma years to college by linking them with alumnae who live nearby. The chief goal of EmmaLink is to make the transition from secondary school to college as smooth and pleasant as possible, but the AAC also hopes the program will help newly-minted alumnae to keep touch with Mt. Ida as well.

Thus far, about ten students from each of the classes of 2006, 2007, and 2008 asked to have an alumnae contact in her college area. EmmaLink doesn't prescribe how often alumnae should be in touch. For some, it may mean just an initial call in the fall to welcome a young alum and offer local knowledge about restaurants, arts events, or whatever might make a college student's life easier. Or, it could be an offer to meet for coffee or join a family dinner.

Betsy Johnson '73 signed on to EmmaLink in 2006. Wisa Kitichaiwat '06, who came to Emma from Bangkok, Thailand, was starting her undergraduate career at Williams College. "I'd meet her at a coffee shop for the first couple of years, just to check in with her and see how she was doing. One time, she and her Thai friends—not all of them at Williams—came to our house and cooked a Thai dinner for us. It was an incredible spread, and Wisa was incredibly hungry for some Thai food. It was great that they could get together and share something from home with each other...and with us!" Betsy reports that the dinner was a great way to expose her teenage sons to another culture.

Having someone to call has been a big help to Wisa. When she needed some extra hands and muscle to move into her dorm room this past fall, Betsy got the call and rose to the occasion. There were some nice surprises, too. "I think she really missed Emma, so we even went to *Revels* together once," Betsy chuckles, sounding delighted to share the quintessential Emma experience with Wisa.

→ For more information on EmmaLink, please contact the Alumnae Relations Office at alumnae@emmawillard.org or (518) 833-1787.





01 Zoe Foss '05, Jenn Ulicnik, Kelly McDonald '05, Maureen Harrison, and Sarah Fuhrman '08 at a Young Alumnae Social in Boston

02 Carla Sabloff Smith '74, William Smith, Beverly Burke Gunther '60 in October at *Mt. Ida: History in the Making* in Washington, DC, featuring Associate Head of School Trudy Hanmer P'05.

03 Jane Phelan '03, Jamila Best '06, and Fae Jencks '06 at the DC event

04 Susan Williams O'Sullivan '65 and Linda Remington Dietel '48, P'76,'81 at the DC event.



05 The Boston Emmies alumnae club gathered for a brunch at Bonnie Scott Jelinek '63's home in Wellesley. Pictured here: Deborah Frease Geraghty '88, Bonnie Scott Jelinek '63, Ann Beach '76, P'05,'09,'12, and Susie Hunter '68

06 Following a tour of *theanspace-whatever* at the Guggenheim Museum in December, Ruth Scott Eyre '44 hosted a reception for alumnae and parents. Shanti Nagel '98, Francesca Periconi '98, Genevieve Hendricks '97, and Marlena McNamee '98.



07 Shown here: Ellen Phillips Wales '61, Ruth Scott Eyre '44, Camille Didier P'11, and Margaret Allen '86 at the reception in New York in December.

08 In November, alumnae and parents gathered over tea in Chicago to hear Associate Head of School Trudy Hanmer read from the first chapter of her book on the history of Emma Willard School. Judith Wilkinson '56, Dede Poppen Zwilling '56, and Martha Glick McAllister '56

09 Shown here: Michelle Gonzalez '01 and Jamie Adkins Baxter '61 at the Chicago event

10 Suzanne Longley '94, Christine Acker Haight '66, P'88, Edith Haight Stewart '88, and Eve Gibson Pytel '94 at the Chicago event



11 The LA Emmies alumnae club gathered to discuss *Three Cups of Tea* over tea at Sue Blackwell McNamara's '57 home in Los Angeles in November.