

## EXHIBITIONS

*SIXTY-FIVE: The Sophia Smith Collection of Women's History Archives, 1942-2007*

Morgan Gallery, Neilson Level 1, September-December, 2007.

*The Face of Poetry*

Book Arts Gallery, Neilson Level 3, August 31-December 20, 2007

Forty-six portraits of American poets by photographer Margaretta K. Mitchell '57 are displayed with selected poems.

**Opening Reception: October 2 at 4:00 p.m.**

*Poetic Science: Bookbindings by Daniel E. Kelm*

Book Arts Gallery, September 10, 2007-January 21, 2008

This exhibition features Kelm's bookbindings done in collaboration with some of the country's best known artists, writers and publishers, including examples of tooled leather, cast paper and other inventive approaches to traditional bookbinding. This display complements the Smith College Museum of Art's exhibition "Poetic Science: Bookworks by Daniel E. Kelm."

*The Power of Women's Voices:*

*Selections from the YWCA and Voices of Feminism Oral History Project.*

Alumnae Gymnasium, September-December 2007.

The FRIENDS NEWS UPDATE is published twice yearly, once in the fall and once in the spring. Comments and suggestions may be addressed to Mary Irwin, Executive Secretary, (mirwin@email.smith.edu).



### FSCL Welcomes a New Chair

We are very pleased to announce that Ann Edwards Shanahan '59 has assumed the position of chair of the Friends of the Libraries. A second-generation Smithie, she is well known in the Smith community and among alumnae circles. Ann spent 17 years in administrative positions at Smith, becoming news director in 1975 and director of college relations in 1980. In 1986, she left Smith to take a position as dean of admissions at Salem College in North Carolina and, in 1990, she moved to the other side of the desk to become director of college guidance at the Loomis Chaffee School in Connecticut. She returned to Smith "on a temporary basis" in 1997 but stayed until 2004, retiring as Chief Public Affairs Officer. Most recently, she has been chair of the board of the Northampton Center for the Arts and a member of the city's Sustainability Project steering committee. She succeeds Sarah Thomas '70, who stepped down last fall following her appointment as Bodley's Librarian and Director of University Library Services at Oxford University in England.

# Friends

of the SMITH COLLEGE LIBRARIES

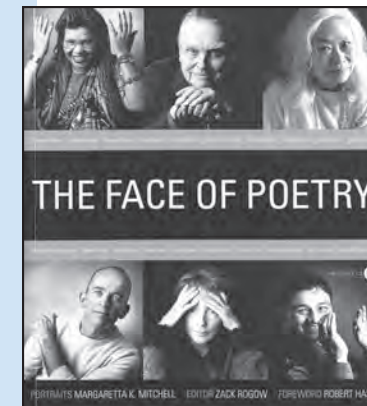
FALL 2007 UPDATE

## The Face of Poetry

EXHIBITION AND LECTURE

*A salute to the Poetry Center's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.*

**Tuesday, October 2, 4:00 p.m., Book Arts Gallery:** Exhibition opening: A reception with photographer and author, Margaretta K. Mitchell '57. Former poet laureate, Robert Hass, whose portrait is featured in the exhibition, will also be present. Sponsored by the Mortimer Rare Book Room.



**Wednesday, October 3, 4:30 p.m., Neilson Library Browsing Room:**

An illustrated talk by Margaretta Mitchell about how a passion for poetry led her to create this series of distinctive and revealing portraits. Mitchell's recent book features her luminous portraits set in conversation with each poet's poems.

Mitchell's work has appeared in numerous exhibitions and books. Her photographs are in the collections of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the New York Public Library and the International Center of Photography, among others. Her books include *Ruth Bernhard: Between Art and Life* (2000), *Recollections: Ten Women of Photography* (1979), *To a Cabin* (1973), and *Gift of Place* (1969).

## Feminists Who Changed America:

A CONVERSATION WITH AUTHOR BARBARA LOVE.

**Thursday, November 15, 2007, 7:30 p.m., Neilson Browsing Room:**

Barbara J. Love's *Feminists Who Changed America, 1963-1975*, is the first comprehensive directory to document many of the founders and leaders (including grassroots organizers) of the second wave women's movement. It tells the stories of more than 2,000 individual women and a few notable men who together reignited the women's movement and made permanent changes to entrenched customs and laws. Love has worked as an editor, writer and journalist, and is currently a member of the board of the Veteran Feminists of America. She has also written *Foremost Women in Communications* and coauthored *Sappho Was a Right-On Woman*.



### FSCL MEMBERSHIP FORM

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE SMITH COLLEGE LIBRARIES BY JOINING OR RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY. Your *tax deductible* gift will help purchase library materials, and enhance the services offered to the college community. Members of the Friends receive the *News from the Libraries*, invitations to special events, and other benefits. Visit our web site at [www.smith.edu/libraries/friends](http://www.smith.edu/libraries/friends).

#### Membership Levels:

- |  |   |   |  |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$300 Sustaining Member | <input type="checkbox"/> \$600 Benefactor   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 Patron    | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,500 Champion  |

- My/our company will match the gift.  
 I wish to make my gift in honor/in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ (if alumna)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to the Friends of the Smith College Libraries and mail to the FSCL Office, Neilson Library, Smith College, Northampton, MA 01063 or, *if you prefer*, enroll on-line at [www.smith.edu/friends](http://www.smith.edu/friends).

# My Impressions of Neilson Library

by Ann E. Shanahan



A Smith alumna and former Smith administrator, I am, as well, a long-time fan of libraries. So, when I was invited to chair the Friends of Smith Libraries executive committee, it seemed like a good fit. Although I am not a librarian, I hope I will bring to the table some background and expertise that will be useful.

In early July, I toured Neilson Library with Mary Irwin, Executive Secretary of the Friends, to see first-hand both the familiar and the new. Here are my impressions.

Although the interior of Neilson has much the same “feel” as it did in my student days, in fact, there have been significant changes made that make services, space and sophisticated electronic innovations more accessible and inviting to Smith students and faculty.

While the stacks will probably always be the stacks, at least in my lifetime, on almost every floor, there are innovations— display areas and furnishings that encourage varied forms of study, including group study rooms and quiet areas featuring comfortable upholstered chairs and tables with floor plug-ins to accommodate laptops.

Spaces that generations of alumnae would recognize immediately have definitely come into the 21st century:

- The Mair Reference Room on the main floor features a handsome new reference desk and three-dozen sleek workstations along with a significant cadre of professional and trained student staff to assist its patrons;
- The Collacott Room on the third floor, home to hundreds of periodicals and always a popular study area, is now an irresistible study space with its handsome tables, comfortable chairs and sofas, colorful display of book jackets and working gas fireplace;
- The Mortimer Rare Book Room, long an elegant space, now has an expanded gallery area that allows exhibitions of its fabulous wares;
- The Browsing Room, heavily used for lectures and seminars, now sports state-of-the-art projection and sound systems to ensure that everyone can see and hear speakers and laying to rest its “Drowsing Room” reputation.

Among the innovative transformations that acknowledge the 21st-century learning environment are:

- “The Studio,” a former stack area that offers plasma screens, media racks white boards and moveable furniture—an increasingly popular option for group study;
- The Electronic Classroom, where reference staff teach courses designed to provide students with bibliographic skills that enable them to access sophisticated research materials related to specific courses.

Next on my visitation list are the special collections and the branch libraries. In the meantime, it should be said that, although the implementation of the libraries’ current master plan has had the effect of revitalizing and transforming Neilson Library, other important projects remain to be completed; chief among them is the transformation of the current circulation workroom (immediately inside the front entrance) into a comfortable, welcoming Reading Room, “a gateway to the library’s rich resources and services.” Fundraising for this project is a major priority for the Friends.

## 2007-2008 FSCL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Ann E. Shanahan '59**, Chair; **Carrie Cadwell Brown, Ed.M '82** Executive Director, Alumnae Association; **Carol Christ**, President, Honorary Chair; **Mary S. Hinkel '73**; **Mary Irwin**, Executive Secretary; **Katharine Kyes Leab '62**; **Christopher B. Loring**, Director of Libraries; **Ann M. Martin '77**; **Lizanne Payne '74**; **Elisabeth Morgan Pendleton '62**; **Sherrill Redmon**, Coordinator of Special Collections; **Susan von Salis '79**; **Arlene Colbert Wszalek '83**.

## New Appointments

Elizabeth Ann (Lizanne) Payne '74 and Elisabeth Morgan Pendleton '62 have joined the Friends’ executive committee for a three-year term. Lizanne is Executive Director of the Washington, D. C., Research Library Consortium. Elisabeth retired recently as Senior Counsel to the World Bank. Elisabeth previously served on the committee from 1972-1975. Her grandmother Elizabeth Cutter Morrow '95 served on the very first Friends’ committee (1943-55). Priscilla Barlow '80 and Cheryl Stadel-Bevans '90 completed their terms in June. We wish them well and thank them for their service.

## Book Discussion Available On The Web

If you missed last spring’s annual lecture program “**Shaping the Book: Authors, Agents & Editors**”, you may now listen to the panel discussion on the Friends website. Associate professor of English Michael Thurston quizzed panelists about the creative process and the business of book publishing in this lively and informative session. Panelists included novelist Elinor Lipman, non-fiction writer Barry Werth, venerable book and magazine editor Richard Todd, and Jennifer Gates, a partner with the Zachary Shuster Harmsworth Literary Agency. To tune in, visit <http://www.smith.edu/libraries/info/friends/events/past.html>

## Tibetan Literary Arts Catalog Available

*Tibetan Literary Arts*, an exhibition including scrolls, images, poems, flags, paintings and wrapped books, curated by Marit Cranmer to honor the visit of His Holiness the Fourteenth Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, to Smith College on May 9, 2007, was installed in the Morgan Gallery and the Mair Room of Neilson Library, and the Hillyer Art Library foyer from early May through the summer months. Said Ms. Cranmer, “This exhibition is a modest attempt to introduce a few of the treasures within the vast and extraordinary field of Tibetan literature.” Its rich history, she said “is only recently becoming known in the West and its poetry...stands with the great world poetry of the human spirit.” A handsome publication commemorating the exhibition with scholarly essays and color images, is available for purchase for \$20 through the Friends’ Office. A webcast of the Dalai Lama’s address is available at <http://www.smith.edu/dalailama/about.php>



# Library News



## AN INFORMATION COMMONS – A VISION REALIZED

by Chris Loring,  
Director of Libraries

Five years ago the Libraries established a vision that the Smith College Libraries should be the intellectual

crossroads of the college. Essential to this vision is our goal to create inspiring physical spaces for study, collaboration and discovery. This past summer we reached a milestone by creating the Information Commons in Neilson Library.

What is an Information Commons? At its core it is a new learning environment that provides students with the library and computing facilities and assistance they need for effective study, learning and collaboration. As realized in Neilson Library this means beautiful, cherry computer carrels for solitary work; it means spacious tables equipped with large screen monitors for collaborative work; it means computers equipped with a large variety of software for work on spreadsheets, presentations or incorporating visual media into papers; it means soft comfy furniture; it means spaces to work together as a group; it means tables and chairs that can be arranged to fit the changing needs of students; and it means wireless transmitters and power outlets everywhere so that students can plug in and connect wherever they want. And it also means staff ready to direct, guide and assist students as they use the Information Commons.

I am thrilled at the transformations we have made in Neilson. We have long heard from students how they want the Libraries to be nicer, warmer and better appointed. The Information Commons is an important step forward but there is more to do. We are currently raising funds for a grand reading room at the entrance to the library. Separate group study rooms and incubator learning spaces are also on the agenda as we continue to respond to changing patterns of learning and the changing needs of our students.



## UPCOMING CONFERENCE

*The Power of Women’s Voices*  
September 28-29, 2007, Smith College.

Come celebrate the 65th birthday of the Sophia Smith Collection with speakers, music and exhibitions highlighting recent additions to our collections including Voices of Feminism, Population and Reproductive Health, and Living U.S. Women’s History Oral History Projects, the historical records of the YWCA and others. For a schedule of events, see <http://www.smith.edu/libraries/lib/ssc/events.html> or call (413) 585-2970.

Staff News

**David Podboy** recently joined the libraries as Reference/Information Commons Librarian. Before coming to Smith, David worked in reference at nearby Westfield State College. He holds a BA in philosophy from Allegheny College and earned his library degree at the University of Illinois.

**Karen Kukil**, Associate Curator of Special Collections, was co-recipient of the 2007 (Division One) Katharine Kyes Leab and Daniel J. Leab *American Book Prices Current* Exhibition Catalogue Award at ALA in June. She received the award for “No Other Appetite”: Sylvia Plath, Ted Hughes, and the Blood Jet of Poetry” which she co-authored with Stephen Ennis of Emory University. Together Kukil and Ennis curated the exhibition of the same name at The Grolier Club in New York City, fall 2005.

