



# Friends

of the SMITH COLLEGE LIBRARIES

SPRING 2008 UPDATE

## “Doing the News in the Age of New Media”

April 10, 2008, 7:30p.m.,  
Leo Weinstein  
Auditorium, Wright Hall

Join us for an in-depth conversation about the changing reality of the media today with cable television expert Susan Greene '68; *Christian Science Monitor* journalist Stacy Teicher Khadaroo '93; mediabistro.com founder Laurel Touby '85; and NPR's Ellen Weiss '81. Former CNN executive Judy Milestone '66 will moderate.

## Reading Room Fund



GETS A BOOST WITH  
*Special Gifts*  
by Ann Shanahan, FSEL Chair

Year's-end brought two very special gifts that helped move the planned Reading Room for Neilson Library closer to reality. In November, Polly Ehrgood '47 wanted to make a special gift that would have an impact on the libraries. After discussing options with library directory Chris Loring, she donated \$25,000 to advance the reading room effort. In December, a donor from California (who prefers not to be named) presented a gift of almost \$120,000 to the Libraries for the Reading Room in memory of her friend, Elizabeth Jordan '29. Miss Jordan loved the library and was a great admirer of President Neilson. These gifts bring the total raised to date to \$408,500 towards a goal of \$650,000. The College continues to seek leadership gifts in the range of \$10,000 to \$100,000 to complete the funding process. I salute everyone what has contributed to this important effort, and I urge you to consider an additional gift to support this worthy project.

The Reading Room is a key feature in the overall plan to create dynamic, attractive and comfortable spaces in the library. Over the past three years, much has been done, and I have written about some of these changes in the last newsletter: the new Information Commons and the new Studio space as well as important upgrades to the Collacott Room (periodicals) and the Browsing Room.

*Architect's rendering of the Reading Room*

The Reading Room will provide an elegant and welcoming starting point for any visit to the library. To be located at the entrance to Neilson, opposite the Browsing Room, it will also serve as a convenient destination between classes to review notes, check email and catch up on reading.

In the next issue I plan to bring you up to date on the branch libraries.



# Need help with Numbers?

## COME TO NEILSON!



QLC director Cat McCune

by Quantitative Skills Specialist Thomas Schicker and several peer tutors.

“It made perfect sense to locate the Quantitative Learning Center in Neilson,” said Director of Libraries Chris Loring. “It is part of our vision that the libraries be vital learning places, not simply warehouses for books.” The Libraries have always been a place where students come to find information, to study, reflect and write. Now, with the QLC in place and with librarians taking a lead in computer literacy instruction, students have other reasons to enter the library. This role as an academic service center works hand-in-glove with both traditional and 21st-century ways of finding and using information.

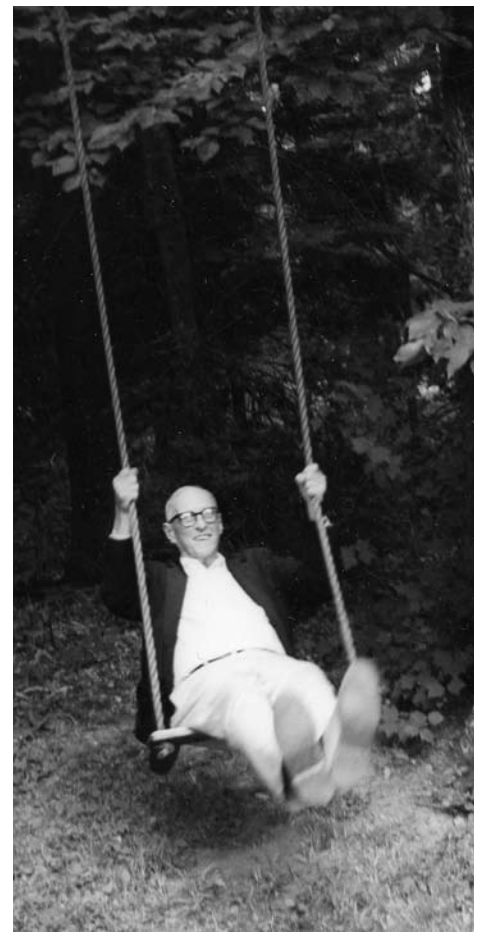
## Taking Care of Library Treasures

The Sophia Smith Collection and the Mortimer Rare Book Room recently received grants from the **FSCL Preservation Fund** to assist with the preservation of unique and rare materials. The Equal Rights Amendment Campaign Archives Project (ERACAP) contains 280 videotapes related to the struggle for passage of the ERA in the United States. These videotapes were created for two PBS documentaries about the ERA that never aired, and are therefore valuable to researchers. The tapes will be cleaned, repaired and converted to digital format.

The grant to the Mortimer Rare Book Room will be used to pay for the conservation and rebinding of Isaac Newton’s *Principia Mathematica* (London, 1713), the revised and expanded second edition of one of the greatest scientific books of all time; and *Epistole Devotissime* of Catherine of Siena, printed in Venice in 1501 by Aldus Manutius and acquired by Smith as the “One Millionth Volume” in 1987. The new bindings will be appropriate to their respective historical periods and will allow the books to be examined and exhibited.

### 2007-2008 FSCL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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



### REMEMBERING FRANK ELLIS

Frank Hale Ellis, 91, the Mary Augusta Jordan Professor Emeritus of English Language and Literature died on November 16, 2007. A legendary teacher, prolific scholar, genial colleague, and avid book collector, he cast a long shadow. Although he retired in 1986, he never altered his strict weekly schedule until last year: three days a week at the college gym and seven days a week at his office in Neilson. Professor Ellis left behind many friends and admirers. He also left behind an extensive collection of books and political pamphlets from late 17th and early 18th century England. These he bequeathed to the Mortimer Rare Book Room where he held the position of Adjunct Curator of Queen Anne Pamphlets and where he took tea at four o'clock every afternoon. Memorial contributions in Frank Ellis' name may be made to the Mortimer Rare Book Room.

SEE EXHIBIT DETAILS ON PAGE 4.

# Doing the News IN THE AGE OF NEW MEDIA

The Friends spring program, which will take place Thursday, April 10, at 7:30 p.m. in Leo Weinstein Auditorium, Wright Hall, will be something of a departure from the usual fare. The evening will bring together five Smith alumnae who are—or have been—associated professionally with various aspects of the news media (which is not to say they haven't been associated with books, as well)! The subject of the panel, "Doing the News in the Age of New Media," is compelling, current and, in fact, not distant from libraries at all, given today's integration of electronic resources into library facilities and collections.

Judy Milestone '66 (right), Smith trustee, long-time CNN executive and an astute observer of the media, will moderate the panel discussion. Participants will include Susan Greene '68, former-



ly Senior Vice President at The Cable Center, University of Denver; Stacy Teicher Khadaroo '93, staff writer at the *Christian Science Monitor*; Laurel Touby '85, Senior Vice President at Jupitermedia Corporation, which last July paid \$23 million for mediabistro.com, the on- and offline "community center" for journalists and media professionals that Touby founded; and Ellen Weiss '81, Vice President for News at National Public Radio.

We expect a lively discussion that will consider issues that print and electronic media are currently facing, the demographics of their audiences and the various forms of adaptation that are required to be successful in the media marketplace today. This event has received support from the Lecture Committee, the Jacobson Center and the Career Development Office.



The Libraries' special collections draw scholars from many parts and many disciplines. Here is a sampling of recent publications that cite or reproduce materials in the Mortimer Rare Book Room, the Sophia Smith Collection or the Smith College Archives.

*The Collected Letters of Joseph Conrad: Volume 9: Uncollected Letters, 1892-1922* edited by Laurence Davies, Gene M. Moore, Owen Knowles, and J. H. Stape. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007.

*Eye Rhymes: Sylvia Plath's Art of the Visual* edited by Kathleen Connors and Sally Bayley. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007.

*Virginia Woolf and the Victorians* by Steve Ellis. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007.

*The Prince, His Tutor, and the Ripper: The Evidence Linking James Kenneth Stephen to the Whitechapel Murders* by Deborah McDonald. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland & Co., 2007.

*Mammy: A Century of Race, Gender, and Southern Memory* by Kimberly Wallace-Sanders. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2007.

*The Selected Papers of Margaret Sanger, Volume II: Birth Control Comes of Age (1928-1939)* edited by Esther Katz, Peter C. Engelman, Cathy Moran Hajo & Amy Flanders Champlain, University of Illinois Press, 2007.

*The Bloody Shirt: Terror After Appomattox* by Stephen Budiansky. New York: Viking 2008. Budiansky benefited from a Bain scholarship while conducting research in the Sophia Smith Collection on Adelbert Ames, a Union war hero who served as governor of Mississippi in the post Civil War period.

*Christian Sisterhood, Race Relations and the YWCA, 1906-46* by Nancy Marie Robertson. (Champlain, University of Illinois Press, 2007)

## Sylvia Plath 75th Year Symposium at Smith College

April 26, 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.,  
Leo Weinstein Auditorium,  
Wright Hall.

Scholars, family and friends of Sylvia Plath will gather for this special one-day symposium. Speakers will include Susan Van Dyne, Marcia Brown Stern '54, Lynda K. Bundtzen, Langdon Hammer and others. For more information, contact Karen Kukil 413-585-2908 or Aubrey Menard '08 (amenard@smith.edu or 413-585-6140) or see [www.smith.edu/libraries/info/news/](http://www.smith.edu/libraries/info/news/).

Recent Publications

## EXHIBITIONS

*In memoriam, Frank Ellis, 1916-2007,*  
Morgan Gallery, Neilson Level 1.

*Staff Picks: Library Staff and Student Favorites  
from the Mortimer Rare Book Room,*  
Book Arts Gallery, Neilson Library, 3rd floor,  
February 5 - March 23, 2008.

*“Step by Step: Photographs from Walking Unidos”  
by Stephen Petegorsky*  
Book Arts Gallery, February 5 - March 23, 2008.  
*Sponsored by the Smith Landmine Survivors Aid Organization and the  
Polus Center for Social and Economic Development.*

*“Werner Pfeiffer: Book-Objeccts & Artist Books,”*  
Book Arts Gallery, April 1-July31, 2008.  
Reception with the artist, 4p.m., April 3.

*“The Power of Women’s Voices: Selections from the  
YWCA and Voices of Feminism Oral History Project”*  
Sophia Smith Collection and College Archives Reading Room,  
Alumnae Gymnasium. Ongoing.

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 or  
413-585-2903).



### 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).

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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)*.