

EXHIBITIONS

Frances Fox Piven: Scholar, Welfare Rights Activist and 2007 Neilson Professor (Morgan Gallery February-June).

"The Interest and Effort of Us All": A History of the Alumnae Association of Smith College (Alumnae Gymnasium, May 1 through August 31).

Pierre Bourdieu in Algeria: Research, Representation and Commitment (Book Arts Gallery, January 15 to March 25). Sponsored by the Louise W. and Edmund J. Kahn Liberal Arts Institute, this is the first time sociologist Pierre Bourdieu's images are displayed in North America.

Printing the Greeks: Technical and Aesthetic Considerations. Curated by Elaine Chan '07 (January 25-March 25. Mortimer Rare Book Room foyer).

The World in a Garden: Botanical Books & Prints in the Mortimer Rare Book Room (April 2-July 15. Book Arts Gallery & Mortimer Rare Book Room foyer).

Tibetan Literary Arts (Mair Room, May 1- July 31). Marking the visit to campus of His Holiness the Dalai Lama on May 9, this exhibit will illustrate the tradition of Tibetan texts related to the five sciences, with an emphasis on early Tibetan poetry. Curated by Marit Cranmer.

Parting Advice

Since life is conditioned, it has no permanence.

Since sense objects are perceptions, they have no true existence.

Since the path stage is delusion, it has no reality.

Since the ground is the natural state, it has no concreteness.

Since mind is thought, it has no basis or root.

I have yet to find any "thing" that truly exists.

Yeshe Tsogyal (8th century female poet)

NEILSON RENOVATION UPDATE

On the first floor of Neilson, phase 1 of the installation of an Information Commons is nearly complete. The construction and wiring work is finished. In the Mair Room, new furniture, a new reference desk and new carrels are expected during the semester. In the north end of the first floor, new furniture, plasma screens and media racks have been installed in the new "Studio" space. Recent work in the Browsing Room resulted in the installation of a new audio-visual system that will facilitate the many seminars and lectures given in this popular room. During interterm the Collacott Periodicals Room was completely rewired providing electrical outlets at every table for the benefit of laptop users. A working gas fireplace was also installed there for the comfort of those who like to browse on the leather couches.

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).



Friends

of the SMITH COLLEGE LIBRARIES

SPRING 2007 UPDATE

Shaping the Book: AUTHORS, AGENTS & EDITORS

Commencement & Reunion

We look forward to welcoming alumnae Friends during the Alumnae Association's 125th anniversary year reunions. Join us on May 19th for our Ivy Day reception, and on May 26th for a guided tour of the new Information Commons and the libraries' special collections.

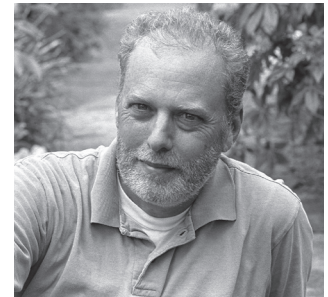
2007 ANNUAL
MEETING
THURSDAY,
APRIL 12, 2007
NEILSON LIBRARY
BROWSING
ROOM,
7:30 P.M.

Elinor Lipman, Barry Werth, Richard Todd and Jennifer Gates
in conversation with Associate Professor of English Michael Thurston.

APRIL 12, 2007, NEILSON LIBRARY BROWSING ROOM, 7:30 P.M.

Elinor Lipman is the author of *My Latest Grievance*, *The Pursuit of Alice Thrift*, *The Dearly Departed*, *The Ladies' Man*, *The Inn at Lake Devine*, *Isabel's Bed*, *The Way Men Act*, *Then She Found Me*, and *Into Love and Out Again*. She has been called "the diva of dialogue" (*People*) and "the last urbane romantic" (*Chicago Tribune*). She served on the 2006 literature panel for the National Endowment for the Arts.

Barry Werth is the author of *31 Days*, in which he takes readers inside the White House during the first month of Gerald Ford's presidency. His book, *The Scarlet Professor* about the life of Newton Arvin, was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award and won a Lambda Literary Award. Werth has also written *The Billion-Dollar Molecule* and *Damages* as well as numerous non-fiction pieces.



Barry Werth

Richard Todd has published books under his own imprint at Houghton Mifflin, where his authors include Tracy Kidder and Ann Patchett. Formerly an editor at the *Atlantic Monthly*, Todd is a contributing editor to *Preservation* magazine. His essays and cultural reportage have appeared in *The Atlantic*, *Harper's*, *The New York Times*, and other magazines.

Jennifer Gates is a partner with The Zachary Shuster Harmsworth Literary Agency of New York and Boston where she represents both commercial and literary fiction as well as a range of nonfiction. Books Gates has recently represented include: *New York Times* bestseller, *The Pentagon's New Map* by military strategist Thomas P. M. Barnett (Putnam), as well as the author's follow-up title, *Blueprint for Action* (Putnam); *Our Mother's War: American Women at Home and at the Front During WWII* by Emily Yellin (The Free Press); *And A Bottle of Rum* by travel writer Wayne Curtis (Crown). Another success, *The Pursuit of Happiness* by Chris Gardner with Quincy Troupe (Amistad/HarperCollins) recently became a major motion picture starring Will Smith (Columbia Pictures).

Goodbye and Good Luck

SARAH THOMAS!

At its November meeting, the Friends' executive committee was both sad and elated to learn that chairperson Sarah Thomas '70 was stepping down a little earlier than expected. The reason: she had just been appointed Bodley's Librarian and Director of University Library Services at Oxford University in England. Our joy for Sarah is obvious - she is one of our country's finest library leaders, and Oxford will now enjoy and benefit from Sarah's acuity, vitality, and vision. Her vision of what an academic library should be has resonated with colleagues across the country through her service on many national and visiting library committees. To those who know her personally, by reputation, or through her work, her selection as Bodley's Librarian makes so much sense.



For the past 10 years Sarah has served as University Librarian at Cornell University. "Sarah Thomas has made extraordinary contributions to Cornell University, making our library one of the most forward-looking and service-oriented university libraries in the world," wrote Cornell Provost Biddy Martin. Prior to Cornell, Sarah worked at the Library of Congress. She holds a Master of Science degree in library science from Simmons College and a Ph.D. in German literature from Johns Hopkins University. At Oxford Sarah will be both the first woman and the first non-British person to fill the most senior library post in the University, which holds over 11 million printed volumes in nearly 40 libraries including the Bodleian Library.

Our sense of loss derives, of course, from the fact that we too will miss her good counsel and fine leadership. Sarah joined the Friends of the Libraries' executive committee in 1994, writing that, "This welcome opportunity allows me to combine my love of libraries and loyalty to Smith." She served for six years, and in 2001 she was asked by Ruth Simmons to return and chair the committee. As chair, Sarah worked to raise the visibility of the libraries among alumnae. When a new reading room for Neilson Library was first proposed, she embraced the project. She has long championed the creation of vibrant library spaces, and she saw it as an ideal way both for Friends to show their support for the college and to bring about an important change in Neilson Library. To date, the Friends have raised \$220,000 for the project.

As we concluded our meeting, the Executive Committee offered a champagne toast to Sarah, wishing her good fortune and good luck across the pond. I hope you join us in wishing Sarah well. Congratulations Sarah, and Thank You.

— *Chris Loring*, DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES

Gratitude for a Very Special Gift

Notice of an anonymous gift arrived inauspiciously at the Friends office on a Monday morning last fall. Five zeros were duly counted following the \$1 — we had received one hundred thousand dollars from a mystery benefactor! How could we thank the donor? How should we use the gift? A flurry of calls to Advancement's gift office and to the bank revealed no additional information about the donor or her/his intention beyond supporting the Friends. Not many Monday mornings stand out in memory like that. After careful consideration, it was felt that such a significant gift would have the biggest impact on physical space, and so the amount was set aside for the construction of the Neilson Reading Room. This brings the total raised to date from individual Friends to \$220,000. We sincerely hope that our mystery benefactor receives this newsletter to learn how deeply we appreciate this wonderful gesture of support. Sincere thanks.

"Our goal of making the libraries the intellectual crossroads of the campus is enormously enhanced by this gift. I am grateful to the Friends for their commitment to the creation of the Neilson Reading Room and to the anonymous donor for bringing us closer to our goal."
— Susan Bourque, PROVOST & DEAN OF THE FACULTY

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

The Libraries' special collections routinely draw scholars and researchers from many parts. Some of these visitors stay awhile and become well known to staff. The following list of recent and forthcoming publications cite materials located in the Mortimer Rare Book Room, the Sophia Smith Collection or the College Archives. They provide a good indication of the breadth and variety of research conducted by our visiting scholars:

Edith Wharton by Hermione Lee (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2007).

Everyday Ideas: Socioliterary Experience among Antebellum New Englanders by Ronald J. Zboray and Mary Saracino Zboray (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2006).

Feminists Who Changed America, 1963-1975 edited by Barbara J. Love (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2006).

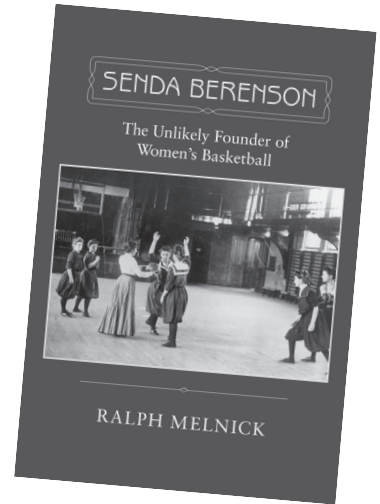
Lover of Unreason: Assia Wevill, Sylvia Plath's Rival and Ted Hughes's Doomed Love by Yehuda Koren and Eilat Negev (New York: Avalon, 2007)

Taking Assimilation to Heart: Marriages of White Women & Indigenous Men in the United States & Australia, 1887-1937 by Katherine Ellinghaus (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2006).

The Unraveling Archive: Essays on Sylvia Plath edited by Anita Helle (University of Michigan Press, 2007).

Senda Berenson: the Unlikely Founder of Women's Basketball by Ralph Melnick (MA:University of Massachusetts Press, 2007).

The Selected Writings of John Duke: 1917-1984 by Ruth Friedberg, (Scarecrow Press, 2007).



MEMBERSHIP

Thank you all for renewing your membership and enabling us to continue to provide needed support for the libraries. We enrolled many new members this fall and winter, including quite a few recent graduates. We also lost some of our old Friends whose enthusiasm and enduring interest were an inspiration. These include Ernestine Galbraith Carey '29, Florence MacDonald '32 and Doris Streenstrup '42.



FSCL MEMBERSHIP FORM

If you haven't yet renewed, here's your chance: Your *tax deductible* gift will help us purchase books and other materials, and enhance the services we offer the college community. Members of the Friends receive the *News from the Libraries*, *Imposing Evidence*, and invitations to special events. New members at the basic rates receive complimentary notecards while members at the Contributor level and above will also have a book plated in their honor. For more information, visit our web site at www.smith.edu/libraries/info/friends.

Membership Levels:

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Student/Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Active Member | <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Family/Dual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Contributor |
| <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.**