Voices of Feminism Oral History Project.
The Power of Women's Voices: Selections from the YWCA and Voices of Feminism Oral History Project.

Poetic Science: Bookbindings by Daniel E. Kelm
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."

FSCL Welcomes a New Chair
We are very pleased to announce that Anne 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 to take a position as dean of admission at Salem College 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
A salute to the Poetry Center's 10th anniversary year.
Tuesday, October 2, 4:00 p.m., Book Arts Gallery: Exhibition opening. A reception with photographer and author, Margaretha K. Mitchell ’57. Former poet laureate, Robert Hass, whose portrait is featured in the exhibition, will also be present. Sponsored by the Morton Rare Book Room.

Wednesday, October 3, 4:30 p.m., Neilson Library Borrowing Room: An illustrated talk by Margaretha 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 Borrowing 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 reigned 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.
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.

New Appointments

Elizabeth Ann (Lizanne) Payne ’74 and Elizabeth 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. Elizabeth retired recently as Senior Council to the World Bank. Elizabeth previously served on the committee from 1972-1975. Her grandmother Elizabeth Cutter served as the very first committee’s president (1934-55). 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 pro “Shaping the Book: Authors, Agents & Editors”, you may now listen to the panel discussion on the website. Associate professor of English Michael Thurston-quizsed 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 Harnsworth Literary Agency. To tune in, visit http://www.smith.edu/libraries/info/events/past.html

Library News

Tibetan Literary Arts Catalog Available

Tibetan Literary Arts, an exhibition including scrolls, images, poems, flags, paintings and wrapped books, curated by Marit Crummet 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 Mortimer Rare Book Room, a long elegant space, now has an expanded gallery area that allows exhibitions of its fabulous wares.

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.

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Next on our 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 ’92 Executive Director, Alumni 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; Elizabeth Morgan Pendleton ’62; Sherrill Redmon, Coordinator of Special Collections; Susan von Salis ’79; Arlene Colbert Wozalek ’83.

UPCOMING CONFERENCE

The Power of Women’s Voices


An information Commons – A vision realized by Christi Loving, 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 rearranged 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.