Reading Room News

Fundraising for the Reading Room has made steady progress with an additional $100,000 pledged towards the project since spring. $200,000 remains to be raised, and with assistance from a local alumna and the Office of Advancement, a big push is underway to close the gap. Your additional gift would be most welcome at this time.

The reading room is part of an important initiative to provide attractive and comfortable facilities within the library that will foster exploration, learning and cross-community interaction. Located at the library entrance, opposite the Browsing Room, the reading room will provide a convenient stopping place between classes and a destination for quiet study. For more information, see www.smith.edu/libraries/info/friends/readingroom.

FALL EVENTS

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES

October 2 at 7:00 p.m., Neilson Library Browsing Room

US News & World Report touts being a librarian as one of the best careers in 2008, stating: "Forget about that image of librarian as a mousy bookworm. Librarians these days must be high-tech information sleuths..." Come and hear alumnae librarians and archivists talk about their career experiences in diverse settings.

- Abigail Brigham '91 is a senior research librarian at CNN in New York City.
- Katharine Chandler '97 is a rare book librarian at the Philadelphia Free Library.
- Elisabeth Doucett '80 is director of the Curtis Public Library in Brunswick, Maine.
- Susan von Salis '79 is the archivist at the Harvard Museums in Cambridge, MA.
- Career Development Director Stacie Hagenbaugh will moderate the discussion.

REFLECTIONS ON TITLE IX

November 19, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.
Neilson Library Browsing Room

Sports commentator, consultant and author Andrew Zimbalist will present a talk about the history, operation and impact of this landmark legislation. Signed into law with little or no fanfare in 1972, it prohibits sex discrimination against students and employees of educational institutions. In the 36 years since it became law, Title IX has hardly ever been free of controversy. Dr. Zimbalist is Robert A. Woods Professor of Economics at Smith and co-editor with Nancy Hogshead-Makar of Equal Play: Title IX and Social Change. A book signing will follow the lecture.

Sponsored by: Friends of the Libraries and Friends of Athletics.
SMITH’S BRANCH LIBRARIES
by Ann Shanahan ’59

In our Spring 2008 Update, I promised I would report on Smith branch libraries. What I discovered visiting the Hillyer Art Library, the Josten Performing Arts Library and the Young Science Library was fascinating, but unfortunately, way beyond what I have room to report here. In addition to the impressive information technology available in all Smith library facilities, there are some extraordinary resources, remarkable statistics and unique collections associated with each of the branches.

Notable too, is the length of service of each of the branch heads: Rocco Piccinino, associate director of branch libraries and head of the science library, has been at Smith 19 years; Barbara Polowy, head of the art library, 12 years; and Marlene Wong, head of the Josten Library, 25 years.

What was most interesting to me was to observe, close up, the rapid transformation occurring today in the way information is transmitted to and accessed by students and how well and with what significant resources Smith is able to do that. Obviously, the written word—that is to say, works on paper—and classroom interchange, while still important, are substantially supplemented by videotape, microform, microfiche and film, color printers, photocopiers, in slides, DVDs, streaming audio and video for music, theatre and dance, for example, and growing collections of electronic databases, journals and other electronic resources.

Housing all of this material, the technology to access it and the configuration (and reconfiguration) of space to accommodate both independent and group study, requires constant review and, sometimes, rearrangement of branch library spaces. Space constraints require all three libraries to store less used materials off site—the most accessible one is in the former factory building on West Street that is also home to the Facilities Management Department. Other material goes to a depository in Amherst that is shared by the Five Colleges.

Some significant branch library facts:

- The Art Library is by far the largest library collection on the visual arts in the Five Colleges and, with the very notable exception of the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute Library, in Massachusetts west of Boston;
- The Science Library is the largest undergraduate science library collection in the United States;
- The Performing Arts Library is one of the largest performing arts libraries in an undergraduate college;
- During the semester, the branch libraries are open seven days a week, in excess of 90 hours a week;
- Reflecting the fact that one-third of Smith students major in the sciences (there are 16 science programs/departments), the Science Library has between 2,400 and 2,700 users in an average week and circulates 28,500 items a year;
- The Performing Arts library, with 100,000+ volumes, 60,000 recordings and 2,500 videos, is known for its Alfred Einstein Collection of source material for the study of Italian Renaissance music. (According to Grove Music Online, Einstein, who taught at Smith, was one of the greatest musicologists of his time and exerted considerable influence on musical thought in Europe and the United States.)
- The Art Library collection, with about 112,000 titles, reflects long-standing strengths of the art department curriculum: Renaissance, ancient Greek and Roman art;
- Each library provides classes that teach students how to make the most productive use of their respective resources.
With An Eye for Art (Books)

Susan E. Quantius ’79 and her husband Terry W. Hartle share an avid interest in the arts, and over the past eleven years they have provided thirty-eight major research publications for the Hillyer Art Library. The couple lives in the Washington, D.C. area where Susan is a senior staff member of the House Committee on Appropriations and Terry serves as Senior Vice President of Government and Public Affairs at the American Council on Education. Visits to museums and art bookstores often provide the inspiration for gift suggestions that are routinely passed on to Art Librarian Barbara Polowy. Susan and Terry tend to donate recent scholarly publications, particularly catalogues raisonnés (definitive compilations documenting an artist’s oeuvre.) Many of these volumes include major works in the Smith College Museum of Art by artists such as Georgia O’Keeffe, J. A. M. Whistler, Wassily Kandinsky, Paul Cézanne, and Maurice de Vlaminck. Susan and Terry’s thoughtful contributions help the art library maintain research-level collections rare in a college setting. As donors, they stay attuned to the needs of the art library, and provide a wonderful example of how our Friends make a difference to the quality and relevance of our material collections.

Werner Josten Library Space Named for Two Generous Friends

On May 17, 2008, a section of the Werner Josten Library stacks was named in honor of professors emeriti Dorothy Stahl and Vernon Gotwals. Carol Gotwals ’50 AM ’54 was a special guest.

Professor of Music from 1955 to 1984, Dorothy Stahl passed away in 2003 after a long and distinguished career teaching voice at Smith College. Very involved in the life of the college and her department, she appeared in every faculty show, gave numerous recitals, and served as college marshal. She published A Selected Discography of Solo Song in 1968, followed by five editions. Much of the work on these editions was done in the Werner Josten Library. The Dorothy Stahl papers are housed in the Smith College Archives.

Vernon Gotwals was professor of music and college organist from 1952 to 1984. It was he, as chair of the Department of Music, who negotiated with President Mendenhall, the re-location of the library from Sage Hall to what became the Mendenhall Center for the Performing Arts in 1968. A musicologist and Haydn specialist, he was very active on campus, providing music for major college functions and serving on many committees. He and his wife, Carol, were leadership donors for the renovation of Sage Hall in 1991. After his death in 2002, Carol Gotwals endowed a book fund in the Josten Library in his memory. This event also marked the 40th anniversary of the Library in the Mendenhall Center for the Performing Arts.

IN MEMORIUM

The Friends remember two special supporters:

Adrienne Auerswald ’43
AM ’62, Iva Dee Hiatt Professor Emerita of Music, died August 12 at Cooley Dickinson Hospital after a long illness. A beloved member of the Smith community and the Music department, Professor Auerswald joined the faculty as an Assistant Professor in 1962. She retired from the faculty in 1987 but remained a strong supporter of the Josten Library all her life.

Estelle Smucker ’31 was a career librarian who worked in Vermont, Egypt and Turkey before retiring to Bethesda, MD. She joined the Friends of the Libraries in 1986 and made annual contributions until her death last year. Her final gift came recently in the form of a bequest “in memory of Virginia Smucker ’27 for the purchase of books for the Neilson Library.”
FALL EXHIBITIONS

“Inspired Design: The Mentoring Stamp,”
Book Arts Gallery, Neilson Library Level 3

This set book exhibition features bindings by members of the New England Chapter of the Guild of Book Workers. Each binder interpreted the same text: Designing the Mentoring Stamp by Lance Hidy, which was designed and published by Michael Russem at Kat Ran Press. A full-color catalogue is available from the Mortimer Rare Book Room. The bindings are complemented by other materials on display: stamp and poster designs by Lance Hidy, postage stamps designed by type designers, and philatelic materials from the Mortimer Rare Book Room.

On Sunday, September 28 at 4 pm, in the Neilson Library Browsing Room, Lance Hidy will deliver a brief illustrated lecture, “Digital Craft,” followed by Michael Russem’s “A Primer on Postage Stamps by Type Designers.” A reception will follow. Co-sponsored by the Mortimer Rare Book Room and the New England Chapter of the Guild of Book Workers. For more information: 413-585-2906 or mrbr@email.smith.edu

Rare Book Room Materials on Loan
Materials from the Virginia Woolf Collection in the Mortimer Rare Book Room will be featured in two upcoming exhibitions:

In September 2008, The Grolier Club will present This Perpetual Fight: Love and Loss in Virginia Woolf’s Intimate Circle, an exhibit drawn from a number of private collections and from the Smith College Libraries, the Theater Collection of Harvard University, and the Berg Collection at the New York Public Library. The exhibit will include over 200 items, some of which have never before been exhibited publicly. See www.grolierclub.org for details.

A Room of Their Own: The Artists of Bloomsbury in American Collections. This significant exhibit of Bloomsbury art will celebrate the centennial of its origins. Organized by the Johnson Museum of Art at Cornell University with the assistance of the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, it will debut at Duke (December 18, 2008-April 5, 2009), then travel to Cornell University (July-October 2009), Northwestern University (January-March 2010), Smith College (April-June 2010) and Penn State University (July-September 2010). A major catalogue will accompany the exhibit.

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).

A big Thank You to all who have supported us in the past year. The Libraries’ 2007-2008 List of Donors is now available online at www.smith.edu/library/info/friends/support

Annual Dues notices will be mailed out in October. Please use the form below if you prefer to renew now. Your additional gift in support of the Neilson Library Reading Room Fund would be greatly appreciated.

FSCL MEMBERSHIP FORM

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE SMITH COLLEGE LIBRARIES BY JOINING OR RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY. Your tax deductible gift helps purchase library materials and enhances the services offered to the college community. Members of the Friends receive this newsletter, invitations to events, and other benefits. Visit our website at www.smith.edu/libraries/info/friends.

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- $600 Benefactor
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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.