**Fall Programs**

**Thursday, October 25, 4:30 P.M.**  
Neilson Library Browsing Room  
*Culture and Context: Margaret Mitchell at Smith, 1918–1919*

President Carol Christ and Susan Van Dyne, Professor of the Study of Women and Gender and Chair of the Archives Concentration, will discuss Margaret Mitchell’s year at Smith during a tumultuous time in U.S. history.

What inspired Margaret Mitchell to go to Smith? What impact could her time in the North have played in the unconventional choices she made after returning to Georgia? How do we understand her identity as a woman writer, both then and now, seventy-six years after the publication of *Gone With the Wind*? Please join us for a lively discussion about the life and literary legacy of one of the world’s most celebrated authors.

**Wednesday, November 7, 4:30 P.M., Neilson Library Browsing Room**  
*Against Wind and Tide: Letters and Journals of Anne Morrow Lindbergh, 1947-1986*

Reeve Lindbergh will read from her mother’s writings and provide a personal perspective on this, the final installment of her mother’s published diaries. Anne Morrow ’28 married Charles Lindbergh in 1929 and became a noted aviator in her own right. A poet and author of works of fiction and non-fiction, she received numerous awards for her contributions to aviation and literature. *Gift from the Sea*, published in 1955, earned her international acclaim. *War Within and Without*, the previous installment of her published diaries, received the Christopher Award in 1980. Mrs. Lindbergh had six children and died in 2001 at the age of ninety-four. Reeve Lindbergh is the author of several books for adults and children.

**Anniversaries**

Seventy years ago, the Friends organization was formed to augment the Smith library’s general collections and two special collections: rare books and the women’s history collection. This fall marks the 70th anniversary of the Sophia Smith Collection and the 50th anniversary of the Mortimer Rare Book Room in its current location. Today, the Friends continue to provide support for these collections in several ways: funding acquisitions, travel stipends for visiting scholars and preservation support for fragile manuscripts and rare books.

A reception to mark the 50th anniversary of the Mortimer Rare Book Room is planned for Friday, October 12 at 4:30 P.M. in the Book Arts Gallery, Neilson Library, Level 3.
Noteworthy Acquisitions

A gift from Ana Roig Daniel ’60 caused considerable excitement in the Libraries last spring. Daniel presented first editions of all of Jane Austen’s novels to the Mortimer Rare Book Room: Sense and Sensibility, Pride and Prejudice, Mansfield Park, Northanger Abbey, Emma and Persuasion, all published in London between 1811 and 1818. “Jane Austen constituted a big gap in our collection, and I’ve tried to fill it for years, but her works are so rare and expensive that on my own, I’ve been unsuccessful” remarked Curator of Rare Books Martin Antonetti in an interview with the Smith Alumnae Quarterly.

Hillyer Art Library recently acquired a facsimile of Splendor Solis, a magnificent late sixteenth-century German treatise on alchemy. The original hundred-page manuscript is in the collection of the British Museum. The facsimile, published in 2011 by M. Moliero, reproduces the work in its entirety and is accompanied by a full translation of the text, a history of the manuscript and an analysis of each of the paintings.

Letter from the Chair

by Ann E. Shanahan ’59, Chair

If you live in Northampton, as I do, there are two Smith events you can’t help but notice because of how they swell the city’s population: commencement and reunion in May and the opening of college in September. It’s sort of like the first daffodil or the turning of the leaves—a season has changed. And so it was this fall.

*A new event was added to this year’s orientation schedule: a well-attended “Introduction to the Libraries” specifically for parents. Families took time out from doing what my parents did some 50 years ago—carrying their daughters’ luggage and helping make their beds—to gather in the Browsing Room on the morning of August 30. They met librarians, had a “tour” of various aspects of the Libraries’ website and learned about the resources that are available to their daughters and how best to respond when they get their first frantic call for help with a research paper. In addition to the virtual tour many parents took advantage of actual tours of Neilson, Young Science, Hillyer Art and Josten Performing Arts libraries.

*As part of orientation, entering students gathered with housemates in sessions led by faculty and administrators to discuss their “summer reading” assignment, Dreaming in French: The Paris Years of Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy, Susan Sontag, and Angela Davis, by Alice Kaplan, John M. Musser Professor of French at Yale University.

And now to move on: Those of you who visit our Facebook page (and the number of visitors is growing steadily) will want to know that, before long, we will be consolidated with several library department pages. This seems like a sensible move. It is expected that the new, all-inclusive Smith College Libraries Facebook page will have significantly more content.

Speaking of Facebook, recent posts included a segment of a review in the Wall Street Journal of Portrait of a Novel: Henry James and the Making of an American Masterpiece, by Michael Gorra of the English Department and a post related to the summer reading assignment mentioned above, in which a contributor suggested what she said is a “wonderful” book: Dreaming in Chinese, by Deborah Fallows.

2012-2013 FSCL Executive Committee

Ann E. Shanahan ’59, Chair; Elisabeth Doucett ’80; Jenny Frost ’78; Julie Iatron ’97; Susan Novick ’81; Bethanne Patrick ’85; Lizanne Payne ’74; Elisabeth Morgan Pendleton ’62; Arlene Wszalek ’83. Ex-Officio: Carol Christ, President, Honorary Chair; Christopher B. Loring, Director of Libraries; Mary Irwin, Executive Secretary.

Note for Supporters of Library Endowed Funds

The College recently changed the general “Online Giving Form” with easy to follow steps for making a donation. If you are one of those people who like to support a specific endowed fund and don’t see how to do that, note that there is a comment field under “Gift Detail” where you can insert the fund name. A Gift Accounting Office staff member will contact you to verify the fund designation.
Reflections on Reading
by Bethanne Kelly Patrick ’85, Executive Committee member, author and book critic

A bookseller friend of mine says, “Reading is a multifaceted activity.” What does that mean? And how can libraries contribute a facet (or several) to that activity?

Reading is often solitary, conducted by individuals in nooks and corners, with great pleasure, avid curiosity and deep inquiry. However, reading encompasses so much more, especially in the academic realm. Texts are shared, dissected and even changed; authors respond to questions and meet with peers and readers; critics and professors integrate books into syllabi and disseminate opinions.

And those, of course, are just a few of the actions that can result from what we call “reading.” Whether we adore traditional, printed books or try out new technologies, when we picture “reading” as just one person, one text, we miss out on the richness of what reading means to a community centered around it, as a liberal arts college is.

Reading includes curling up with a good book, but it also encompasses public readings, discussion panels, book clubs, study groups, classroom debate, peer-reviewed journal debates, reading lists... the kinds of things that libraries can develop and nurture. Our Smith libraries support all of these things, and more.

However, there’s a component essential to maintaining reading as a multifaceted activity that I haven’t mentioned: participants. A panel without an audience has no purpose, any more than does a book placed on a shelf and never perused. Getting involved with a library can be as simple as visiting and checking out a few relevant volumes. Those of us who serve on the Executive Committee of the Friends of the Smith College Libraries are involved, but we know that our level or “facet” of involvement isn’t for everyone. That’s why we strive to share the latest news about our alma mater’s libraries with you through this newsletter.

Bethanne tweets as @TheBookMaven and runs the popular promotional meme #FridayReads.

Collection-Builder Extraordinaire Retires

Sherrill Redmon retired in late August after almost twenty years as Director of the Sophia Smith Collection, the distinguished, internationally recognized archive of women’s history and social history. Since Redmon arrived at Smith in 1993, the SSC has more than doubled the number of collections to 670. In addition, a three-drawer cabinet in Redmon’s office houses folders that, over time, likely will lead to additional acquisitions. And, of course, there are many as yet unknown gifts and bequests from alumnae and others whose future contributions will further enhance the SSC.

Redmon, a graduate of the University of Kentucky, managed a regional medical and women’s history manuscript collection at the University of Louisville for fifteen years before coming to Smith. The directorship of the Sophia Smith Collection was “my dream job,” she says, but she might not have found her way to it had her eldest daughter not come to Smith in 1990 as a first-year student. Three years later, Redmon applied for the director’s position, which was then vacant, thinking it was “a stretch.” But, as it turned out, it wasn’t a stretch at all! Continued on back...

In Memoriam

By Karen Kukil, Associate Curator of Special Collections

We note with sadness the passing of Marcia Brown Stern ’54, a disability rights activist and Smith supporter. Three weeks before she died, Marcia sent me a registered letter, which begins “What is enclosed may astonish you.” Indeed it did. The envelope included a draft of “marcia,” an unpublished poem that Sylvia Plath ’55 wrote about their sophomore year together at Smith in 1951.

Plath’s journals are filled with references to Marcia or “Marty” as she called her. Apparently, rooming together at Haven House was one of the most vital experiences of Plath’s life. Marcia donated the letters she received from Plath over the years as well as books and other materials to the Mortimer Rare Book Room. We will miss her warmth and enthusiasm.

First Fridays at Five

Area Friends may wish to tune into a new series at the Josten Performing Arts Library. First Fridays at Five takes advantage of the great acoustics in the library’s mezzanine with informal performances by its own patrons—students, faculty and staff in the performing arts. First-year Sadie Gold-Shapiro opened the series in September with a winsome ukulele/voice set for Groove, a Smith a cappella group. Smith’s Wailing Banshees, led by faculty flautist Ellen Redman, will appear October 12. November brings a site-specific dance improvisation by MFA student Eliza Larson. A performance reading by Andrea Hairston, Professor of Theatre and Afro-American Studies, with original bluegrass music by Pan Morigan, fills out the year.
**EXHIBITIONS**

**A Room of Our Own:**
**Fifty Years in the Mortimer Rare Book Room**
Book Arts Gallery, Neilson Library, Level 3
August 27–December 20, 2012

**Taking the Archives Public:**
**Capstone Projects by Students in the Archives Concentration Program.**
Alumnae Gymnasium, Level A. May 5–October 22, 2012

“Smith’s Distinguished Women of Science” by Wendy Essery AC ’12
“A War Against Poor Women is a War Against All Women”: Guida West and the War Against ‘So-Called Welfare Reform’” by Ellice Amanna AC ’13

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**Collection-Builder Continued...**

Clearly, Redmon has been an outstanding administrator of, and advocate for, the Sophia Smith Collection and has very much enjoyed her years at Smith, but when I spoke with her in mid-August she was beginning to think ahead to projects on her “bucket list.” She says she has “been writing a journal since I was twelve, and I’m going to try to make something of it.” Also, she plans to “bring order out of the chaos” of three personal storage units that are awaiting her attention; she’s going to do some work on a family genealogy; and she’s interested in traveling in Canada. And then there are the handsome bookmarks she has been making since grade school. She works on them in the evenings when she’s watching films on television and gives them away to friends.

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**Thank You One and All**

In the last fiscal year, thanks to your contributions, the Friends raised over $70,000 to benefit the Libraries. We are grateful to everyone who contributed funds and materials. The FY 2012 list of donors has been posted to our website at: www.smith.edu/libraries/friends/membership/donors

To our anonymous donor: please know that the Libraries staff is deeply grateful for your most generous donations over the last couple of years.

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**Access to JSTOR**

We continue to provide access for all alumnae to JSTOR. This digital archive offers over one thousand full-text journals in the humanities, social sciences and sciences. To explore the offerings, follow the link when you log into the Alumnae Directory on the Alumnae Association’s website: alumnae.smith.edu.

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**The FRIENDS NEWS UPDATE**

is published twice yearly, in the fall and in the spring. Comments may be sent to Mary Irwin, Friends of the Smith College Libraries, Neilson Library, Smith College, Northampton, MA 01063, telephone: (413) 585-2903 or email: mirwin@smith.edu. Visit us online at www.smith.edu/libraries/friends.

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**FSCL MEMBERSHIP FORM**

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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/libraries/friends.

☐ I wish to receive this newsletter and all correspondence via email.