Inauguration Weekend Events

Friday, October 18, 2013, 3:30 p.m., Friends Reading Room, Neilson Library
*Afternoon Tea Talk: Fingerprints of Smith’s Past Presidents*

Join us for a spot of tea and a talk by College Archivist Nanci Young about the challenges and accomplishments of our past presidents. View selected historical documents as well as the new permanent exhibition, “Neilson of Smith,” 1917-1939 (in the Browsing Room.)

Friday, October 18, 2013, 7:30 p.m., Sweeney Concert Hall
*Education as Inspiration: How Smith Informs Four Writers’ Lives*

A panel discussion with Cynthia L. Copeland ’82, Carole De Santi ’81, J. Courtney Sullivan ’03 and Hanya Yanagihara ’95, moderated by our own Book Maven Bethanne Patrick ’85. Cindy Copeland is the prolific author and illustrator of twenty five books for children and adults. Her latest is Good Riddance, an illustrated memoir about divorce. Carole De Santi is Vice President and Editor at Large at Viking Penguin and author of the historical novel The Unruly Passions of Eugenie R. A frequent visitor to Smith, J. Courtney Sullivan is the author of Commencement, Maine and The Engagements. She has also written for New York Magazine, Allure, the Chicago Tribune and other publications. Hanya Yanagihara is Condé Nast’s much travelled Travel Editor. Her highly acclaimed debut novel is The People in the Trees. A book signing will follow the discussion.

Coming Soon: Much More than JSTOR

Alumnae will soon be able to read a greatly expanded range of journals online via the Smith website. The Libraries will provide access by November 1 to popular scholarly journals including current issues hosted by Project Muse and Sage Publications. Meanwhile, the Friends continue to underwrite access for alumnae to over one thousand journals in JSTOR. To explore these offerings, follow the link when you log into the Alumnae Directory on the Alumnae Association’s website.

Cynthia L. Copeland ’82
Carole De Santi ’81
J. Courtney Sullivan ’03
Hanya Yanagihara ’95

If you love the Smith College Libraries, like us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/FSCLib
**News from Around the Libraries**

The Mortimer Rare Book Room was the recipient of a splendid gift from Professor Andreas Kleinert of the Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg in Germany. Professor Kleinert spent the fall of 2006 with us as the visiting Kennedy Professor of Renaissance Studies, and in teaching his course on the history of Renaissance science, he made extensive use of the libraries’ rare book collections, and brought his class to the MRBR on several occasions. Last May, Kleinert presented his first edition of Michael Eytzinger's *Nova Rerum In Europa Gestarum Historia* (1588) to Smith professors Jocelyne Kolb and John Connolly at a special ceremony at Smith’s JYA Program headquarters in Hamburg. His gift was given in appreciation for the use of rare books in the Smith curriculum.

**New Collections Open to Research**

The Sophia Smith Collection of Women’s History Archives has recently opened several new collections that document twentieth-century women’s activism. These include the papers of Mohawk midwife and environmentalist Katsi Adamson, indigenous economist Rebecca Cook, sociologist and welfare activist Guida West, Puerto Rican American community organizer Luz Rodriguez, the records of the Native American Women’s Health Education Resource Center as well as those of the National Women’s Health Network and the papers of Jeanne Noble, an early chronicler of African American women’s history. Preparation of these primary sources for public use was made possible by funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

**Letter from the Chair**

*By Jenny Frost ’78, Chair*

This is a very exciting fall at Smith. The inauguration of Kathy McCartney on October 19, as the 11th President of Smith College, will usher in a new chapter in the history of one of the most important institutions for women in the world.

Kathy will undoubtedly bring her own point of view and priorities to her leadership of Smith. For those of us who love libraries, the best news is that Kathy loves them, too! Despite the many demands on her time and steep learning curve as Kathy gets to know Smith, she has shown a steady interest in our libraries.

One of Kathy’s first requests when she visited the campus last March was for a tour of Neilson. In July, just arrived on campus, Kathy attended a meeting with the entire library staff, and then toured all of the facilities. In meeting with staff, she noted that one of her most successful and enjoyable projects at Harvard was the renovation of the Graduate School of Education library. The tour provided her with a better understanding of the challenges the libraries face as well as the opportunity to meet the incredibly talented staff.

During Inauguration Weekend, the Friends of Smith College Libraries will be in the thick of the celebrations with two must-attend events. Come sip tea and meet the Friends in the gorgeous Friends Reading Room—we’ll fill you in on all the goings on in the library world, and College Archivist Nanci Young will have some fun anecdotes about past presidents and special treasures to share. Later, on Friday evening, join us in Sweeney Auditorium for a fantastic panel, *Education as Inspiration: How Smith Informs Four Writers’ Lives.* (See page 1 for details.) This should be a delightful evening with a book-signing to follow. If you are on campus, don’t miss this!

One last request before I end, please check out our Facebook page and be sure to like us! You’ll get all the up-to-the-minute news about our events and the libraries. Don’t be shy, how can you not love a library? Be a Friend!

P.S. This is the time of year that we ask you to renew your membership – renewal notices will be mailed to you soon.

**Archives Digitization Project**

Do you love Smith history? Are you curious about Smith in times gone by? A recent digitization project has captured several key collections and made them available for online viewing. These include: Class Year Books, 1897-1933; Smith College *Monthly*, 1893-1930; the Smith College Catalogue, 1872-present; and the *Smith Alumnae Quarterly*, 1909-1934. Have fun exploring at www.smith.edu/libraries/libs/archives/findingaids

**Alumnae Oral History Project**

Since May 2010, the Smith College Archives has conducted interviews with alumnae returning for Reunion. In these videotaped oral histories, now part of the Archives’ permanent collection, alumnae recall memories of their years at Smith, from Opening Convocation and Friday teas, to life-changing Junior Year Abroad events, and Senior year reality-checks. Consider adding your stories when you return for Reunion. Excerpts from interviews can be viewed here, www.smith.edu/libraries/libs/archives/collections/alumoralhistory
The Only Constant These Days is Change!

By Christopher B. Loring, Director of Libraries

Fall is a season of change and in the Smith Libraries change abounds. Over the past two years we have reorganized our staff to prioritize service to the Smith community. Along with this reorganization and as a result of some retirements, we find ourselves hiring an entirely new leadership team. The Director of Digital Strategies and Services and the Director of Discovery and Access are in now in place; searches for the Director of Teaching, Learning and Research and the Director of Special Collections are currently underway. A key outcome of our reorganization is that we are becoming a learning organization wherein we intentionally work to continuously learn new skills, learn how to do our work better, learn from each other. We are already seeing how this approach as well as the fresh perspectives of the new senior staff members can help us better navigate the rapidly changing world of academic libraries where the digital has changed just about everything.

One area one might think would be immune to such change is special collections – rare books and archives – but this is not at all the case. What we collect, how we collect, how we reveal what we collect, how we serve students and scholars, how we preserve our collections for the future is very much bound up in the digital. Academic libraries with special collections are increasingly putting greater emphasis on those collections. As scholarly publishing shifts to digital formats, it is special collections that distinguish and set apart certain academic libraries. At Smith we have incredible special collections in the Mortimer Rare Room, in the College Archives and in the Sophia Smith Collection. The new position of Director of Special Collections will provide Smith with the leadership we need to capitalize on and strengthen these special resources. I am pleased to report that a generous alumna has issued a $1 M challenge grant to endow this new position. To learn more about this challenge, please contact Mary Irwin, Gifts & Development Officer, mirwin@smith.edu, Tel: 413-585-2903.

Staff Changes

Chris Hannon, Deputy Director of the Libraries and Jim Mongomery, Director of Collection Services having jointly served the Libraries for a total of fifty one years, retired this year. Chris joined the Libraries in January 1991 as Head of Reference but soon came to oversee Circulation too as Head of Public Services. In 1999, she served for one year as acting director between directors Sarah Pritchard and Chris Loring. Indefatigable, forward-thinking, and always resourceful, the staff celebrated her wisdom and tremendous work ethic at a party in August.

Jim Montgomery joined the Libraries in November 1984 as a cataloger. In 1991, and for the next twenty two years, he was the steady hand at the helm of Technical Services (Acquisitions, Cataloging and Preparations.) He is remembered for Thursday morning staff meetings that helped forge a tight-knit working group around good food and celebrations of work and life events. Both he and Chris Hannon helped shape the library reorganization. The day after he retired, Jim hopped on his bicycle and rode to Seattle, blogging when he had the chance.

Newly arrived Rob O’Connell is Director of Discovery and Access and oversees Circulation, Acquisitions, Electronic Resources, Cataloging, Interlibrary Loan and Stacks Management. He comes to Smith most recently from the United Arab Emirates, where he was Head of Library Technical Services at the Higher Colleges of Technology in Abu Dhabi.

The new Director of Digital Strategies and Services, Elisa Lanzi is no stranger to Smith having served for thirteen years as Director of the Imaging Center. A national leader in visual resources, Elisa brings a wealth of experience to the position.

In Memoriam
Paul Alpers

Last May, the college community mourned the death of the distinguished scholar Paul Alpers, husband of President Carol Christ and professor-in-residence in the department of English language and literature. During his time at Smith, Professor Alpers was a frequent visitor to Neilson Library; according to his wife Carol, it was his favorite place on campus. Before she left campus, Carol presented twenty five books from his personal library to the Mortimer Rare Book Room. These include works of English and American literature as well as works by Ovid, Petrarch and Theocritus. Over the summer months, memorial gifts flowed in to the Friends of the Libraries. These gifts will be used to make a special purchase in his memory for the Mortimer Rare Book Room.

Summer Internships for Archives Concentrators

Two Archives Concentration students spent their summers working in the offices of organizations that have committed to preserving their historical files in the Sophia Smith Collection. Olivia Ruiz ’15 worked at Forward Together a multi-racial organization that “works with community leaders and organizations to transform culture and policy to catalyze social change.” Alex von Mering ’14 spent her summer at the Guttmacher Institute in lower Manhattan. Since 1968, Guttmacher has combined research, policy analysis, and public education to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights. Among the Institute’s many achievements has been its work to “put, and keep, the problem of teenage pregnancy on the map” and to establish “contraceptive equity” in private health insurance coverage.

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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 — for more information, see www.smith.edu/libraries/friends/membership.

Membership Levels

☐ $20 Student/Recent Alum  ☐ $50 Individual  ☐ $75 Family/Dual
☐ $150 Contributor  ☐ $500 Sustainer  ☐ $1,000 Patron  ☐ $2,000 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 enroll online at www.smith.edu/libraries/friends/membership.

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

EXHIBITIONS

Shirley Jones and the Red Hen Press
Book Arts Gallery, Neilson Library, Level 3
September 12 – December 20, 2013
An exhibition celebrating thirty years of books and prints created by Welsh artist and author Shirley Jones.

Changing the Shape of Women’s Lives: Contributions of Smith Women to Early Childhood Education
College Archives, Alumnae Gymnasium, Level A
October 1 – 31, 2013
In 1925 Ethel Puffer Howes, Smith class of 1891, received a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation to found an institute at Smith with the purpose of demonstrating progressive ideas on combining work and children.

Neilson of Smith, 1917-1939
Neilson Library Browsing Room
This new permanent exhibition showcases President Neilson’s activities during his time at Smith.

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.

View podcasts of past events, explore our Good Book Recommendations and send us your recommendations — all on our website, www.smith.edu/libraries/friends.