Spring Programs

Thursday, March 1, 2012, 4:30 P.M. | Campus Center Carroll Room
Nothing Daunted by Dorothy Wickenden
Author and executive editor of The New Yorker, Dorothy Wickenden will discuss her book Nothing Daunted: The Unexpected Education of Two Society Girls in the West. The two “society girls” are 1909 Smith alums, Dorothy Woodruff (Wickenden’s grandmother) and Rosamond Underwood. Several years ago, Wickenden came across a collection of letters that Woodruff had written home to Auburn, New York, from the small community of Elkhead, Colorado, where the two Smith friends had gone to teach in 1916. The letters became fodder for an article in The New Yorker in 2009 and then became the backbone of Nothing Daunted. 
Sponsored by the FSCL, Smith College Archives & Sophia Smith Collection

Monday, March 12, 2012, 4:30 P.M. | Neilson Library Browsing Room
Robert Darnton Lecture
Robert Darnton is Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor and University Librarian at Harvard. He will talk about the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) and future prospects for academic libraries. Darnton serves on the DPLA steering committee: he is an internationally recognized scholar of the history of the book and the literary world of Enlightenment France. 
Sponsored by the President’s Office

Monday March 26, 2012, 4:00 P.M. | Neilson Library Browsing Room
McGrath Lecture: Your hands will always be covered with ink!
Nuns, widows, mavericks & other passionate printers by Kathleen A. Walkup
Kathleen Walkup directs the Graduate Book Art Program at Mills College in California. Walkup’s teaching and writing focus on nineteenth- and twentieth-century women printers and the history and practice of typography. The McGrath Lecture in Book Arts honors the memory of local printing legend Harold P. McGrath. A reception will follow. 
Sponsored by the Mortimer Rare Book Room

Wednesday, April 4, 2012, 4:30 P.M. | Neilson Library Browsing Room
The Future for Books in the Digital Age
Michael Suarez, S.J., is Director of the Rare Book School, Professor of English, University Professor and Honorary Curator of Special Collections, all at the University of Virginia. Suarez is known to be a most engaging speaker, “a world renowned scholar, a dynamic and demanding teacher and an inventive and passionately engaged citizen,” says a colleague at UVA. He is a leading scholar of the history of the book and eighteenth century literature. 
Sponsored by the Friends of the Libraries
Noteworthy Acquisitions

Charles R. Pierce recently donated a collection of manuscript diaries, lecture notes and personal papers belonging to the late literary critic and Smith professor F. Newton Arvin. This archive is a valuable addition to Arvin’s literary papers held in the Mortimer Rare Book Room.

The beautifully illustrated facsimile edition of *The Ambonese Herbal* by Georg E. Rumphius (Yale University Press, 2010) was donated to the Science Library by Katherine and John Scarborough in memory of E. M. Beekman. Beekman translated and annotated the Dutch text and wrote the introduction to this edition.

Josten Performing Arts Library has received generous gifts from Jolene Goldenthal ’43, Peter Josten and Carol Gotwals.

Joan Lebold Cohen ’54 has donated a large collection of books, exhibition catalogs and other materials to the Hillyer Art Library. The materials all focus on the art, literature and history of Asia.

Thanks to everyone who has donated materials and funds in 2011.

FSCL News

*by Ann E. Shanaban ’59, Chair*

First, I want to mention the exciting transformation of the FSCL website (part of the overall redesign of the Libraries’ site), which was launched on January 17. We are very pleased with the metamorphosis and hope that you share our enthusiasm. In conjunction with the refurbished site, we are also introducing a new look for our newsletter and have added the handsome, updated logo designed for us by Lisa Carta, a Northampton-based graphic designer. We also want to acknowledge our seventieth anniversary! The Friends of the Smith College Libraries was founded on February 6, 1942.

We are pleased with the increasing activity on our Facebook page. One of our committee members, Bethanne Patrick, posts short book reviews and recommendations there, and we invite you, as well, to share your book and library-related thoughts and comments. We also post items of particular interest. For example, we recently noted that Sherrill Redmon, Director of the Sophia Smith Collection, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Veteran Feminists of America, which was presented, incidentally, by Gloria Steinem ’56.

I had reason, not too long ago, to visit sophia.smith.edu/blog/smithipedia, an online encyclopedia of Smith history. The project, developed by President Carol Christ with College Archivist Nanci Young and a handful of STRIDE scholars, was launched in 2008, and its content is being built over time by student researchers. Some sections, like Student Life, Academic Life and Faculty and Staff, offer extensive information; others like Smith and Politics or International Connections have less material but the site is well worth a visit. Young is anxious to expand the content. She encourages students, faculty, staff and alumnae to participate.

At a recent FSCL executive committee meeting, Information Literacy Coordinator Bruce Sajdak gave us an interesting rundown on Smith’s 35 house libraries and how they are refreshed annually. Each house orders about six titles a year, single volumes or multi-volume sets. Lists are submitted to Sajdak, who purchases the books from the Donald W. Tyler Book Fund for House Libraries. It’s quite interesting to read the “shopping list.” Here are just a few of the books that were requested for 2011: *Savage Beauty* by Alexander McQueen; *Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein; *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother* by Amy Chua; *Betty Crocker’s Big Book of Cupcakes; Cheaper by the Dozen* by Frank B. Gilbreth and Ernestine Gilbreth Carey ’29; *Civil War Trilogy* by Michael Shaara and Jeff Shaara; *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel García Márquez; and *Outrageous Acts & Everyday Rebellions* by Gloria Steinem.

Introducing—briefly—the members of the Executive Committee of the Friends of Smith College Libraries:

**Elisabeth Doucett ’80:** I spent much of my time at Smith in the Hillyer Art Library. In mid-life, I gave in to the siren song of libraries (which I began to hear when I was at Smith) and became a librarian myself as director of the public library in Brunswick, Maine. This new career I began to hear when I was at Smith) and became a librarian myself.

**Jenny Frost ’78:** As an undergraduate, I had the tremendous and unforgettable honor of working with Ruth Mortimer in the Rare Book Room. I spent more time in my carrel at Neilson than I did in my room at Talbot. Reconnecting with Smith through FSCL has been a bit like returning to Neverland. With my daughter at Smith (’15), the connection is even more meaningful.

**Julie Iatron ’97:** As a librarian, I get to combine my love of libraries with my passion for teaching and learning. Serving on the FSCL Executive Committee is the icing on the cake for me—what better place for teaching and learning and libraries than Smith?

**Kate Kelly ’73:** I admire Chris Loring and the library leaders who are thoughtfully navigating a path for the libraries through current technological changes in information retrieval, reading and information storage. As a writer now running her own website www.americacomesalive.com, I share the group’s commitment to keeping libraries front-and-center for all types of information retrieval.
Optimizing Discovery

By Christopher B. Loring, Director of Libraries

Discover! That is the word that the Smith College Libraries placed over the entrance of Neilson Library last month.

Libraries truly are a place of discovery, whether it is in the course of an intellectual pursuit or purely on a whim for personal reasons. As Smithies explore the incredible resources of the Smith College Libraries, as they research and learn, they discover both something about the world of knowledge and something about themselves.

The role of librarians in this journey is to provide students with the tools to assist their discovery process. Our role as teacher is accomplished at Smith through an intense collaboration with faculty; we teach students to hone their research skills in ways that not only help them do their course work well, but also becomes a skill that they can use their entire life. The tools we provide reduce the barriers that confront students and allow them to find what they need as efficiently and as effectively as possible.

When you think about what librarians do, I don’t imagine you think of them as teachers, let alone toolmakers. Since last spring, however, that is exactly what we have been doing. And this January the fruits of this labor have been realized: embedded into the libraries redesigned website is a new Google-like service, Discover. This search tool allows students to research topics across our many licensed resources and the Five-College catalog in a single operation.

As a member of the Friends, you too have played a role in making this possible by not only helping provide the resources we have, but also by underwriting the training of our staff through the annual FSCL staff development grant. Thank you!

News from Around the Libraries

As part of a nostalgic trip to his hometown of Northampton, Peter Josten made a first-time visit to the Werner Josten Performing Arts Library, named for his father. Josten joined the army in 1945 and had not returned to the area since. He was accompanied by his next door neighbor whose daughter attends Smith. – Marlene Wong, Head, Josten Library

The College Archives welcomes back Leslie Fields ’95, our Electronic Records Archivist, who will be with us for a year, working on several projects related to College records in electronic and digital format. Leslie’s work will give us a jump-start on making selected publications and audio-visual materials available digitally, as well as managing a project to acquire, describe and provide access to certain College records that are produced electronically. – Nanci Young, College Archivist

The flag above College Hall was lowered to half-staff last month to mark the passing of Margaret E Mahoney, a trustee of Smith College from 1988-1993. In 1980, Margaret became the first woman to head a major U.S. philanthropy, the Commonwealth Fund. There, and at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, she helped redefine and re-energize American philanthropy concerning health care delivery. She accepted an invitation to place her papers in the Sophia Smith Collection in 1986 and generously contributed to their upkeep and to the SSC’s broader mission every year since. – Sherrill Redmon, Director, Sophia Smith Collection

Susan Goodman Novick ’81: I am a Certified Archivist in private practice in El Paso, TX. I enjoy learning from my colleagues on the FSCL Executive Committee and seeing all the incredible resources that the libraries provide to Smith students, faculty and staff and the greater community.

Bethanne Kelly Patrick ’85: I am an established online presence in the book and publishing world. I tweet as @TheBookMaven and run the popular promotional meme #FridayReads. I am also the author of two books from National Geographic and have published many book reviews and author interviews. I also post book recommendations from time to time on the FSCL Facebook page!

Lizanne Payne ’74: With my Smith English degree in hand, I fell into information technology and moved into the library field where I have worked for library IT vendors, then for twenty years as director of a university library consortium. Now I consult for several major library groups across the U.S. that are planning for a hybrid future combining print and digital collections.

Elisabeth M. Pendleton ’62: I am now a retired lawyer who spent ten years at the World Bank, ten years in the capital markets in London and Paris and many years living abroad. I use and support libraries wherever I am. I come from a family of Smith women who were collectors and writers and am especially interested in the special collections of the Mortimer Rare Book Room, the Sophia Smith Collection and the College Archives.

Arlene Colbert Wszalek ’83: I am a veteran media professional—advertising, production, publishing and artist management—all disciplines that involve taking words and creating from them a publication, movie or song. As an English major, I spent a great deal of time in Neilson and have been an ardent supporter of the Smith College Libraries ever since.

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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.

EXHIBITIONS

Charles Dickens at 200

Celebrating the 200th anniversary of the birth of the beloved Victorian novelist, this exhibition features a variety of his works from the Mortimer Rare Book Room. For more information, see www.smith.edu/libraries/info/news/dickens200.

Paste Papers of the Pioneer Valley

An exhibition of decorative papers, the bandiwork of some of the Valley’s premier book artists. Learn more at: www.smith.edu/libraries/info/news/pastepapers.