Upcoming Events

Thursday, April 10, 4:30 p.m., Neilson Browsing Room

The Inaugural Enid Epstein Mark '54 Lecture

Enid Mark, a very good friend of the Libraries and a former member of the Friends' Executive Committee, was an important graphic artist who excelled in combining her drawings, photographs and computer skills to create rich illustrations for her own books. In 1986, Enid, with the assistance of then-curator of rare books Ruth Mortimer, created a wonderful artist's book, *The Bewildering Thread*. This was the first in an acclaimed series of finely-wrought books to be published under her ELM Press imprint over the next 24 years, until her death in 2008.

Now an annual lecture on the Book Arts and Poetry will honor Enid's life and work. This has been made possible by a gift, for that purpose, from her husband, Eugene Mark. We are very pleased to announce that the inaugural lecture will be given by the learned and delightful Mark Dimunation, Chief of the Rare Book and Special Collections Division of the Library of Congress. His talk will focus on one of the key features of Enid's *oeuvre*: “Single Voice, Many Hands: the Nature of Vision and Collaboration in Contemporary Book Arts.”

A gala reception will follow.

Wednesday, April 16, 7:30 p.m., Weinstein Auditorium

Report from the Front Lines: Gender, Sexuality and Immigration Reform

Marielena Hincapié of the National Immigration Law Center and Miriam Yeung of the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum will consider history, memory and the role of gender in today's struggles around citizenship status and the sustainability of immigrant communities. Sponsored by the Sophia Smith Collection.

A Special Benefit for Alumnae

One facet of life at Smith that recent graduates say they miss is easy access to scholarly journals. Fortunately, scholarly publishers are now beginning to include alumni in academic licensing contracts. The Libraries are delighted to be able to offer alums the e-resources of Project Muse with hundreds of current, full-text journals in the humanities and social sciences from over 120 publishers; Sage Knowledge with hundreds of e-books and e-reference sources, largely in the social sciences; and Sage Journals, which provides access to humanities, social sciences and science journals from Sage Publications, a leading independent academic and professional publisher. All are available once you login on the Alumnae Association’s website.

Alumnae access to JSTOR is still fee-based, and the Friends continue to underwrite this popular service. Read more about library services for alumnae at www.smith.edu/libraries/services/alumnae.
FSCL News
By Jenny Frost ’78, Chair

One aspect of the work of the Friends of the Libraries’ Executive Committee is to build connections between the libraries and the various communities that make up the Smith universe. While fundraising is certainly a motivation for this outreach, perhaps the most important outcome of our efforts is to foster a better understanding of the exceptional resources as well as the opportunities for learning that the Libraries provide: for students, for faculty, and increasingly, for alumnae too. (see Page 1.)

Historically, we have focused our outreach on the alumnae community. This is, of course, terribly important. We want alumnae to understand and feel excited (as we are!) about what is happening on campus at the libraries. But we have also focused more recently on building connections with current students. Today’s students are, after all, the alumnae of the future.

To this end, we recently co-sponsored “I Love My Library Day” with the College Archives. Despite cancellation of the original date due to one of this year’s major snow storms, the re-scheduled events took place February 14 in all of the campus libraries. There were library teas, cupcake decorating, photo booths, button-making and a performance, “My Josten Valentine: Songs from the Heart.” Love-themed exhibits exploring courtly love, the art of love, the language of love and the chemistry of love enlivened the four libraries through the month of February. The celebration was initially conceived of as an opportunity for current students to realize how important the libraries are to their academic lives. This goal was achieved. But “I Love My Library Day” also became a giant Valentine Thank You from the students to the library staff who make the libraries both function and vibrate with life. It was a dramatic reminder of the irreplaceable role the Libraries play in the life of Smith as both a learning institution and a community. The celebration extended to the virtual world of social media as well. See more photos on our Facebook page and watch the video “Why I Love the Libraries” on the SmithCollegeLibraries You Tube channel.

New Arrivals at the Sophia Smith Collection

The Sophia Smith Collection continues to expand its holdings documenting the breadth of women’s experiences. Among the wealth of new materials received this past year are the papers of four important feminist activists. Swanee Hunt, who will be awarded a Smith honorary degree at Commencement this year, is, among other things, a former U.S. ambassador, founding director of the Women and Public Policy Program at Harvard, and co-founder of the Hunt Alternatives Fund which works to strengthen youth arts organizations, support leaders of social movements, combat human trafficking, and increase philanthropy. Virginia “Ginny” Apuzzo has dedicated her life to gay and lesbian issues, working on civil rights, health care, HIV/AIDS, and the concerns of aging members of the LGBT community. For more than three decades, Miriam Ching Yoon Louie has worked to advance movements of women of color, immigrant women workers, and grassroots Asian communities. The Papers of Puerto Rican writer Rosario Morales (1930-2011) document her many writing projects as well as work as a feminist and Marxist activist. [MG]
A Key Role of Libraries: Stewardship of the Records of Knowledge

By Christopher B. Loring, Director of Libraries

Academic libraries, librarians and archivists have many roles. We collect and provide access to knowledge, however it is manifested; we collaborate with faculty to teach students research skills, we provide services and physical spaces that support faculty teaching and research and student learning and creativity. One fundamental role we have is to act as stewards of the “records of knowledge.” Prior to the digital revolution, those records were largely physical: books, periodicals, archival materials, film, LPs, CDs, etc. Now that the records are both physical and digital, librarians are working hard to be responsible stewards in both spheres.

At Smith we have focused our preservation efforts largely on the unique materials held in our special collections. We pay close attention to the environmental conditions in which these materials are housed. We digitize audio and video media that are at risk of deterioration in their original formats. We also digitize heavily used materials so that the originals can be protected from the wear and tear of frequent use.

Recently we have been sharpening our focus on the digital material in our archives, as well as capturing the output of our faculty, students and staff, that is now born digital. This effort, digital preservation, requires that we develop policies, strategies, infrastructure and actions to ensure long term access to digital content.

It’s helpful therefore that Smith participates in national preservation efforts. We are, for example, a lead participant in a Mellon Foundation-funded planning effort to develop strategies for the shared stewardship of unique and significant, but less frequently used, items currently held within libraries of the Northeast. The goal here is to ensure their availability to scholars well into the future.

We are proud of the preservation work we do and are heartened by the support the Friends provide us through the FSCL Preservation Fund. We thank all of you who support our preservation efforts!
EXHIBITIONS

Creative Colleagues: An exhibition featuring the creative pursuits of Smith College Libraries Staff
Book Arts Gallery, Neilson Level 3
February 10 - May 29, 2014

Beyond the Baby-sitters Club: the Other Books of Ann M. Martin
Mortimer Rare Book Room foyer, Neilson Level 3
March 24 – May 27, 2014
An exhibition curated by Su Meck, AC 2014

Capstone Projects by Seniors in the Archives Concentration Program
Alumnae Gym, Level A
May 10 - September 30, 2014

The Gundersheimer Collection of Italian Travels
Werner Gundersheimer, director emeritus of the Folger Shakespeare Library, has donated his remarkable collection of nearly 600 books of Italian travels to the Mortimer Rare Book Room. The collection is composed of the accounts of mostly English and American travelers to all parts of Italy from the seventeenth through the twentieth century, with special reference to the Grand Tour, later American cultural tourism, and the rise of women travelers. Over the course of several decades of discerning and scrupulous collecting, Dr. Gundersheimer has assembled not only the most famous descriptions of travel but also many lesser-known accounts that shed new light on early travelers’ motivations and interests.

This is certainly the most significant collection of rare books to come to the libraries in recent years, and also the most fertile for student and faculty research. Many of the books are illustrated, sometimes profusely, and all are in impeccable original condition. A symposium and exhibition to honor both the collection and the collector is being planned. [MA]

The Friends News Update is published twice yearly, in the fall and in the spring. Contributors include: Martin Antonetti, curator of rare books; Jenny Frost ’78 Chair, FSCL Executive Committee; Maida Goodwin ’83, interim director, Sophia Smith Collection; Chris Loring, Director of Libraries. 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.

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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 enroll online at www.smith.edu/libraries/friends/membership.

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