
Friends of the Smith College Libraries

December 2022 News

Dear Friends,

As the end of the semester draws near, students head to Hillyer, Josten and Nelson libraries to study, write, research, collaborate, and enjoy refreshments provided by the Friends. The semester has passed quickly with all three libraries fully open to the campus community and its visitors. In this season of reflection and gratitude, as Friends, we appreciate the extraordinary resources provided by the Libraries and the library staff at Smith.

Neilson Library is Honored for Sustainability

Neilson Library received a “Health and Wellness” award at the [2022 BE+ Green Building Awards Showcase](#) in Boston last month. The citation reads:

The judges noted that “The library is a beautiful, thoughtful project with aggressive sustainability goals that seem to have largely been met.”

In October, Neilson’s electrical contractor, Collins Electric of Chicopee, received an NECA Project Excellence Award in Education from the National Electrical Contractors Association. According to [BusinessWest.com](#), Collins installed “5,000 LED, energy-efficient light fixtures; glass skylights; dimming; and window-shade controls to deliver the best-quality energy-efficient lighting possible. Strict attention was paid to controlling temperature and humidity, as well as tight security, for the library’s rare-books collection.”

Students studying in Neilson's North Wing. Photo by Jeff Baker.

Supporting the Life of the Libraries

Every year, the Friends provide support for the Libraries where it is needed most. This academic year--our 80th anniversary year-- we are pleased to provide the following:

- Funding for student orientation to the Libraries, including tours and special orientations for BRIDGE students and ADAs to ensure inclusive access for all Smithies
- Two competitive travel-to-collections [fellowships](#) for research in Special Collections
- State-of-the-art digitization equipment to help Special Collections meet the growing demand for digital resources
- Professional development grants for library staff
- Funding for ScholarWorks
- Collection development support
- Seed funding for new staff and student assistant positions in the Libraries
- Free access to JSTOR for all alumnae
- Refreshments and activities for reading period study breaks, Halloween and Valentine's Day.

These grants are funded by donations from all the members of the Friends. Oversight of Friends activities is assured by the FSCL Executive Committee which, this year, comprises: Ann Alpers '84 (Chair,) Sarah Bellrichard '94, Judy Campagnari '85, Emily Egan '04, Stefanie Frame '98, Patty Gray '91, Lesley L. Joplin '09, Emily Knox '98, Sandra Rippe '67, Katharine Swibold '82, Serena Williams '81.

A Milestone for ScholarWorks

A map showing locations and the cumulative number of downloads of ScholarWorks materials. Image courtesy of Jessica Ryan.

Smith's digital repository of scholarly work--[ScholarWorks](#)--reached, and then quickly surpassed, 2,000,000 downloads in October. This milestone is the result of more than 5,000 works submitted by over 200 faculty members, as well as School for Social Work graduate students, undergraduate students and staff to date. This scholarly output and contribution to the global open-access community is a powerful testament to Smith's reach and impact in the world. Developed and managed by the Libraries, ScholarWorks has been supported by the Friends since it was created in April 2016. View articles, manuscripts, music scores and more, [here](#).

Heather Clark (left) with Judith Raymo '53 (right).
Photo courtesy of the *Daily Hampshire Gazette*.

Sylvia Plath: An American Icon

On November 1st, Special Collections and the Friends hosted Sylvia Plath's acclaimed biographer Heather Clark in conversation with collector and Plath fellow student Judith Raymo '53. We are pleased to share their conversation [here](#).

New Staff: Won Ha, Director of Public Services

Won Ha has joined the Libraries as the [Director of Public Services](#). She leads public services across library locations including Neilson, Hillyer and Josten libraries and Alumnae Gym, managing complex access, space use and security for the Libraries. Ha stewards strategic planning and is responsible for staff in Access Services, Resources Sharing, (Interlibrary Loan and Stacks Management) and Operations. She also collaborates with departments across the campus to coordinate the Libraries' role in campus wide events. She comes to Smith from Boston College where she served as Head of the Social Work Library since 2013. Photo by Mary Irwin.

Exhibits

Neilson Library: An Evolution, Neilson Library Gallery, 2nd Floor, through June 2023. This inaugural exhibit focuses on the history of the building through the people and materials that defined it. Photo by Jim Gipe.

Zines and Artists Books - samples from the Art Library collection, Hillyer Art Library Foyer, until January 3. Photo by Mary Irwin.

Celebrating Native American Heritage at Smith, Neilson, 3rd Floor, until January 15. Artwork, club materials and objects from Special Collections. Photo by Sydney Nguyen.

Snowy Days

Earlier this week, as temperatures dropped, the campus was blanketed in light snow. Shown here are a view of the library amphitheater looking towards Wright Hall, and a corner of Alumnae Gym with a view of the South Wing of Neilson. Photos by Mary Irwin.

Your Support Makes all the Difference

Thank you for making the timely support we provide possible. Your annual donation not only helps today's Smith students enjoy the continuing excellence of the Libraries, it will keep our college at the forefront of women's education. Whether you support the Friends Fund, the Libraries' endowment or Special Collections, I urge you to renew your support today [online](#) or by sending a check [with this form](#).

Oculus Society

Now in its second year, the Oculus Society exists to celebrate and support the inaugural years of the new Neilson Library. Members receive a commemorative lapel pin and invitations to special events. To become a member, simply [join](#), or renew your membership with the Friends, at any giving level - and add a pledge for next year. This year's grants to the Libraries were greatly enhanced by the generosity of members of the Oculus Society.

All of us on the Friends Executive Committee wish you the happiest of holidays. We hope you can spend time with those you hold most dear. Thank you for being a Friend to Smith's Libraries.

Sincerely,

Ann Alpers '84
Chair, Executive Committee
Friends of the Smith College Libraries

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