
Friends of the Smith College Libraries

June 2023 News

Dear Friends,

After the whirlwind of excitement during Commencement and Reunion weekends, the college has settled into summer mode. For the Libraries, this means the School for Social Work is in session and a primary focus is supporting these graduate students as they tackle assignments and fulfill their requirements for their MSW and Ph.D degrees.

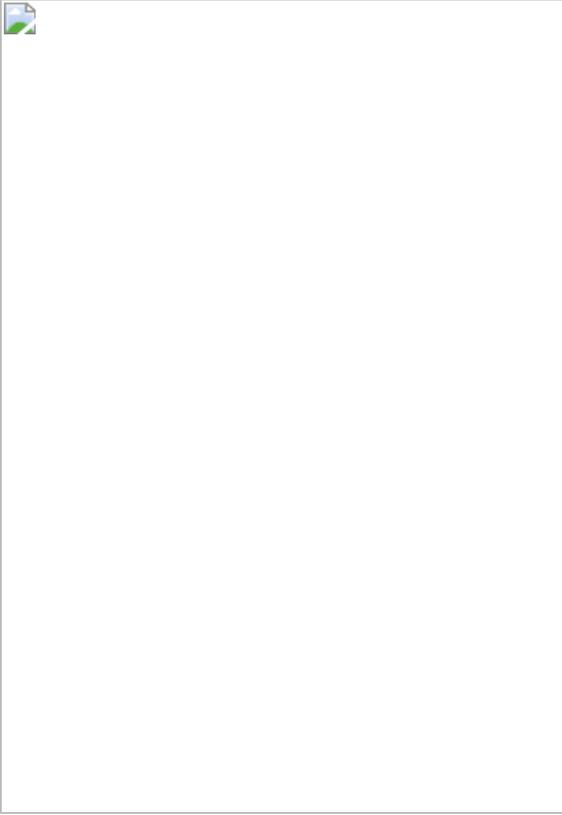
Below, our newsletter takes you inside a library view of Commencement and Reunion, gives you a chance to hear student research mentors reflect on helping their peers, and learn about new additions to the Libraries, both human and significant print additions.

As many of you are aware, this is President McCartney's last month in office. We send her heartfelt thanks for her outstanding commitment to the new Neilson Library, and a loving farewell. She has been a long time member of the Friends, and a careful reader of this newsletter.

Happy reading and best wishes for a wonderful summer.

Commencement and Reunion

Perhaps all reunions are joyful, but the excitement of last month's reunion weekends was palpable. Under mostly bluebird skies, alumnae celebrated the return to campus with the chance to reconnect with old friends and classmates, and the opportunity to explore the campus and especially Neilson Library. Visitors' impressions of the library included: "beautiful", "serene," "stunning," "so happy to feel surrounded by books" and "if I were a Smith student now, with this library, I'd be a much better student"!



Reunion fun - photos by Samm Smith & Jim Gipe-Henry Amistadi/Pivot Media.

Over 700 guests attended Neilson's Open House on May 19-Ivy Day. Groove A Cappella treated visitors to a selection of songs from their repertoire, and Special Collections drew many visitors to view exhibits, make buttons, write postcards or print a broadside on the Acorn Printing Press with assistance from Martin Antonetti, former curator of rare books.

Neilson's Memory Booth saw more than 60 people record heartfelt and funny videos. [Watch a sampling here.](#)

Members of the Class of 1973 received multiple awards.

Photo: Jim Gipe-Henry Amistadi photos/Pivot Media

Every year during Reunion, the class with the greatest number of members in any of the College's four Friends groups wins the Friends of Smith Award. This year's winner is the Class of 1973. Congratulations and thank you!

Peer Research Mentors Share their Experiences

From left: Nyla Conaway '23, Vera Mancini '24, Matilda Boal '25, Madalyn Rehrman '25 & Jessica Pardim Araujo '23

The Library Student Research Mentor Program has grown in the three years of its existence from two to five mentors supporting students on nights and weekends. Shira Zaid '23 sat down and recorded a [video interview](#) with four of the mentors as the academic year drew to a close.

Bringing the Deweys into the Fold

Last month, library staff wrapped up a multi-year project linking our Dewey Collection to the Five College catalog. The 348,000 titles, which represent 30% of Smith's physical collection, were acquired between 1874 and 1974, and are classified in the Dewey Decimal system.

Many of these titles were never entered into Smith's online catalog, and are now included and discoverable. The Dewey Collection is housed at the Five-College Annex and when requested through the catalog, Dewey books are brought to campus, usually within 24 hours. Led by catalogers Lou Bouley and Colin Van Alstine, the project began in 2019 and involved ten staff members and several student workers.

Photo of cataloger Sara Lutrell at work by Lou Bouley

Two Basketball Milestones

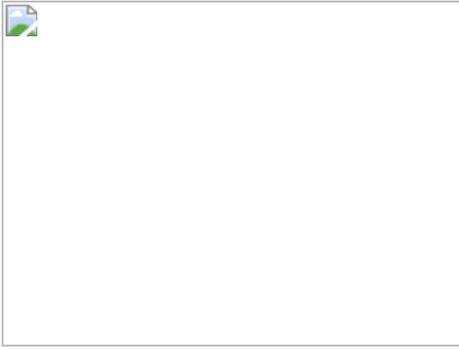
At left, the first game of women's basketball; at right, the Smith team celebrate a great season with an appearance at Fenway Park where D3 Player of the Year Morgan Morrison '23 threw the ceremonial first pitch of the game. Photo montage by Samm Smith

This spring, there was tremendous excitement when Smith's basketball team reached the semi-finals of the NCAA Division III for the first time. This spring also marked the 130th anniversary of the first inter-class game of women's basketball, played in the Alumnae Gym. The Alumnae Gym today is part of the Libraries and is a favorite place to study for many students.

New Staff

The Libraries welcomed several new staff members this spring including: Library Communications Manager [Samm Smith](#) and Electronic Resources Librarian [Becca Crockett](#); two new archivists joined Special Collections, [Miriam Cady](#) supports public services and [Megan O'Shea](#) works on the Gloria Steinem '56 papers.

Library Exhibits



Left: a portion of the Neilson Library exhibit; right, Director of Special Collections Beth Myers with reunion visitors view the student capstone displays. Photos by Jeff Baker and Samm Smith.

Neilson Library: An Evolution

This exhibit looks back on the history of Neilson Library through the people and materials that defined it. Neilson Library
Exhibition Gallery, 2nd Floor, through 2023.

Student Capstone Projects

[Capstone projects](#) by students in the Archives, Book Studies and Museum concentrations can be viewed online or on the third floor of Neilson Library through the month of June.

Thank You

As we approach the end of the fiscal year, I send grateful thanks to everyone who has provided support this year to the Friends, the Oculus Society, Special Collections and numerous endowed funds. If you have not yet done so, I urge you to [renew your support](#) today.

We welcome new members, and we encourage you to share the work that we do with your classmates who may be interested in supporting Smith's Libraries. A gift to the Friends at any level is meaningful, and helps us support teaching and learning as well as to share the excellence of Smith's Libraries with the alumnae community. Any gift with a pledge of the same amount for next year qualifies for membership in the [Oculus Society](#).

When you give to the Libraries, you are supporting the heart of Smith's campus.

Best wishes,

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

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