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# Friends of the Smith College Libraries

## June 2024 News

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Dear Friends,

Smith's Libraries bustled with happiness as graduating seniors, their families and returning alums celebrated Commencement and Reunion last month. All of us at the Friends join the Libraries staff in congratulating the class of 2024, particularly the students who worked in the Libraries during their time at Smith.

As the campus settles into summer, the Libraries take on a more tranquil atmosphere while staff remain busy assisting School for Social Work graduate students, and prepare for another year of teaching and learning.

Our newsletter this month provides a view of Commencement and Reunion through the lens of the Libraries, and shares highlights of faculty scholarship and library accomplishments.

### **Celebrating Faculty Scholarship**

As the academic year drew to a close, outgoing Provost Michael Thurston hosted a celebration of faculty scholarship in the Skyline Reading Room in Neilson Library. It was a joyous occasion as 45 faculty members shared their recent publications and creative work, and received accolades from colleagues across academic departments. As part of her work, throughout the year, Scholarly Communications Librarian Jessica Ryan ensured the submitted publications were added to ScholarWorks. See all the featured publications [here](#).

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### **Reunion 2024**

Class members from 1989, 1974, and 1959; Neilson on Illumination Night.

Photos by Jim Gipe, Jessica Scranton, Mary Irwin, and Samm Smith

There was a great deal of shared excitement during Reunion including when alums entered Neilson Library for the first time. Special Collections hosted displays of reunion

class memorabilia and gave away buttons, stickers and postcards. Families with young children enjoyed coloring books and crafting as a respite from all the buzz.

Sixty alums, spanning classes from 1969 to 2024, created short videos in the Memory Booth. These are funny, heartwarming and poignant, and will be available for viewing on the Libraries' [YouTube channel](#) after July 1.

The Class of 1974 won this year's tightly-contested Friends of Smith Reunion Award. This goes to the class with the greatest number of members in any of the College's four Friends groups (Athletics, Botanic Garden, Libraries and Museum of Art.)  
Congratulations to 1974!

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## New Library Resource for Alumnae

Adding to a growing list of online databases available to alums, [AM Explorer](#) is a gateway to millions of pages of primary sources, spanning the 15th to 21st centuries. Other library resources include the language learning app, Mango Languages and JSTOR. Check out the [entire list](#) of offerings.

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## Recognizing Service to the Community

All year long, the Libraries hum with activity as library staff members support students and faculty in their academic work. In May, Dean of Libraries Susan Fliss asked library managers to plan an end-of-year staff celebration, where each library department would share their top accomplishments. Both outgoing Provost Michael Thurston and Incoming Provost Daphne Lamothe attended the gathering. The following selection shows the many ways library staff support teaching, learning, research and scholarship. A more complete accounting of this year's library accomplishments can be found [here](#).

- During the academic year, Public Services staff supported 298 courses with their course reserves needs.
- Research librarians taught classes in 93 courses to 1,750 students. They had 392 research appointments, and answered 873 online questions.
- Special Collections hosted 1,688 in-person visits by researchers—Smith students, faculty and outside scholars. Additionally, archivists and curators responded to 1,545 online research questions.

- Faculty and students uploaded 653 works to Smith Scholarworks. Readers around the world downloaded articles, dissertations and book manuscripts from ScholarWorks to the tune of 681,448 downloads since last July.
  - SocialMedia Engagement: This past year, the Libraries Facebook page saw a 990% increase in engagement compared to the prior year. Instagram saw a 331% increase in engagement during the same time period. The Libraries [LinkedIn](#) page was recently launched.
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## Spotlight Awards

Following such a productive year, it is not surprising that sixteen library staff members received the college's annual Spotlight Award. This award recognizes employees for going above and beyond the everyday scope of their responsibilities and for recent accomplishments in service excellence, process improvement/development.

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## Special Collections News

Gloria Steinem '56 Reading Room during Reunion. Photo by Mary Irwin

### Rosenthal Fellowships Benefits Students

This year, seven Rosenthal Fellowships were awarded to Book Studies and Archival Studies students pursuing internships at the Jewish Women's Archive, the Chicago Poetry Center, and the Wing-Luke Museum in Seattle; and helped fund capstone projects including a demonstration of historical methods of bookbinding, creating a fine press edition of the Old Norse poem *Hervararkviða*, and creating an original book of Ethiopian sayings titled, *Wax and Gold*. The Rebecca Samay Rosenthal '07 Fellowship honors the memory of Rebecca (Becca) Rosenthal, a former student who worked in the Mortimer Rare Book Collection.

The [2024 Enid Mark Lecture](#) featuring book artist and poet Jen Bervin is now available for viewing on the Libraries YouTube channel.

Associate Professor of the Study of Women & Gender Loretta Ross has penned a new book which aims to help heal the national political divide. [Calling In: How to Start Making Change with Those You'd Rather Cancel](#) is at once a handbook, a manifesto, and a memoir. Professor Ross's papers are part of the Sophia Smith Collection in Special Collections.

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## Library Posters

Library posters

featuring artwork by Aaron Wood are now [available for sale](#) at the Museum of Art. These designs represent all four library spaces: Neilson, Hillyer, Josten and the Alumnae Gym.

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It was a real joy to meet many members of the Friends during Reunion. Your annual support is essential to the vitality of library operations, allowing the Dean and library staff to adapt to a range of needs every year. If you have yet to make your annual contribution to the Friends, the Special Collections or another library fund, you may do so today by following [this link](#).

Thank you for being a Friend to Smith's Libraries! We wish you a happy and relaxing summer. Please stay in touch!

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

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**Our mailing address is:**

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