
Friends of the Smith College Libraries

May 2023 News

Dear Friends,

Spring semester classes have ended, and students are busy writing final papers and studying for exams. During the past two weeks, students have showcased final presentations, performances and exhibits. In Neilson Library, exhibit cases contain several student projects highlighting documents from Special Collections.

Reunion 2023

Alums visit Neilson's Exhibition Gallery in 2022, photo by Mary Irwin

Congratulations to all our readers in classes ending in 3s and 8s. There are several events planned to welcome alums to Neilson Library:

- On Ivy Day, May 20, **Groove A Cappella** will perform on the Mezzanine at 2:30 p.m.
- The **Smith College Memory Booth** will be open to all who wish to record a short video throughout the day on Friday and Saturday, both weekends, Learning Commons, 1st Floor.
- An **Open House** is planned for both weekends, Friday and Saturday, 1-4:30 p.m.
- Explore Neilson at your own pace.
- Take in “Neilson Library: An Evolution” in the Exhibition Gallery, 2nd Floor
- Visit Special Collections and see student capstone exhibits (Book Studies & Archives Concentration), 3rd Floor
- Print a broadside on the 1830s **Acorn Printing Press**, 3rd Floor (Saturday only)
- See film reels of long-ago Ivy Days and Commencements, and try button making, postcard writing and other hands-on activities in Seminar Room 304.

Check library hours [here](#) for Neilson, Josten, Hillyer and Special Collections. Note that the Special Collections Reading Room will be open to visitors but **closed for research** during Reunion.

Friends of Smith Reunion Award

Help your class compete for the 2023 Friends Reunion Award. [Join one or more Friends groups](#)—Athletics, the Botanic Garden, the Libraries, the Museum of Art. The class with the most members in any group will receive the award.

A Growing Demand for Digitization

Research Services Archivist Kate Long operating the Zeutschel. Photo by Mary Irwin

Film Studies major Shira Zaid '23 explores the rapid expansion of the digitization program in Special Collections in [this video](#). One of the biggest investments the Friends made this past year was the purchase of equipment for the Digitization Lab. This included two flatbed scanners as well as the Zeutschel overhead scanner featured in the video. This has become indispensable for making digital copies of large formats and fragile materials.

Friends News

As the academic year draws to a close, the Friends are providing study break refreshments, puzzles and art activities for hard-working students. Last week, the Friends provided a celebratory lunch to honor 37 Student Library Assistants who will graduate this month. In addition to expressions of gratitude from their supervisors, each student received a journal as they head off to new adventures.

Members of the Friends Executive Committee; left to right:
Mary Irwin, Emily Egan '04, Patty Gray '91, Ann Alpers '84, Lesley Joplin '09 and Dean Susan Fliss
Photo by Samm Smith

The Friends Executive Committee met on campus on April 28 and approved a draft of spending allocations that will benefit the libraries next year. The committee enjoyed a tour of Special Collections, followed by lunch with students. After six years of service, departing committee members Sarah Bellrichard '98, Emily Egan '04 and Katharine Swibold '82 were honored for their contributions to the work of the committee.

Enid Mark Lecture

Samples of Julie Chen books from Flying Fish Press

Veteran book artist Julie Chen of [Flying Fish Press](#) was this year's guest speaker. She spoke on April 20 about her creative process designing and producing artist's books. Her talk on this flexible and endlessly inventive art form, "At the Intersection of Content, Process and Magic: The Artists' Book Experience," was recorded and can be viewed on our YouTube channel. The annual Enid Mark Lecture on Poetry and Contemporary Book Arts takes place in memory of artist, writer, and fine book publisher Enid Mark '54.

New in ScholarWorks

Scholarly Communications Librarian Jessica Ryan '17 shares research by Exercise and Sports Studies Professor Sarah Witkowski and UMass colleagues into how women bore the pandemic in terms of physical activity and stress. She says the research "*gestures towards our complicated response to a pretty terrible collective event that disproportionately impacted women. 'A Comparison of Stress, Symptoms, Physical Activity, and Adiposity Among Women at Midlife Before and During the Pandemic'* drew from a larger study and, like all good research, had interesting and unexpected results." The full-text article is also available on the National Library of Medicine's [PubMed](#) website.

Oculus Society

If you are a member of the Oculus Society and plan to attend Reunion this year, we encourage you to wear your pin, greet other members, and be recognized as a special library supporter. To join the Oculus Society, simply make a gift to the Friends (at any level) and pledge the same amount for next year. Learn more [here](#).

Thank You

We are grateful to everyone who has provided support for the Friends, the Special Collections and the Libraries endowed funds this semester. When you support the Libraries, you help

every student and faculty member pursue their scholarly goals.

If you enjoy reading this newsletter but are not a current member of the Friends, please consider [joining us](#) and being a part of the heart of Smith.

Sincerely,

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

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