

---

## *Friends of the Smith College Libraries*

### *November 2024 News*

---

Dear Friends,

With midterms behind them, Smith students are looking forward to Thanksgiving break. Meanwhile, the Libraries have been busy supporting the campus with everything from brand new technologies to medieval manuscripts. A new Visual Browse tool simplifies browsing new books online; librarians continue to meet with classes and guide individual students in their research. Medieval books of hours are on view in Neilson; a major preservation project is taking off, and faculty members are sharing their scholarship with the world by adding it to Smith ScholarWorks.

---

## **New: Historical Publications Online**

*Sophian*, August 1953. Courtesy Smith College Archives

A bequest from Jane Wallace '47 has made possible the digitization of college publications from 1880 to the present. Director of Special Collections Beth Myers called the project “transformational,” as it allows the campus community and alums everywhere to access the entire run of the [Sophian](#) and other college publications, all at the click of a button. This is bound to be an excellent resource for reunion planners and class historians. Note that digital copies of early [Smith yearbooks](#) (1897-1933) as well as the entire run of [The Smith Alumnae Quarterly](#) (1909-2024) are also available. The latter has instructions on [how to use](#) the digital edition.

---

## **Open Access Expands**

Open Access, the unrestricted sharing of scholarly research online, continues to take hold at Smith and around the world. Last month’s [Open Access Week](#) provided an opportunity for faculty to share what they’ve learned and inspire greater participation in Open Education Resources (OER) and Smith ScholarWorks. Librarians held a workshop to help faculty members create an Open Researcher and Contributor ID ([ORCID](#)), a free and unique identifier for individuals engaging in research, scholarship, and related activities. The Friends are proud to have been the principal funder of ScholarWorks, which hosts faculty books, articles, and student work—view the most recent additions [here](#).

---

## What if *You* were a Book?

Watch [this video](#) as library staff members [respond to the question](#).

---

## Spotlight on Josten Library

Students in Professor Andrea Moore's MUS 102-Making Music History course have spent three classes studying Josten Library's rare books and facsimile editions. Below, students examine handwritten annotations on the facsimile edition of Johann Sebastian Bach's copy of The Calov Bible. The course combines a close study of music from the Western classical tradition with research methodology and an orientation to the discipline of musicology.

Students examine the facsimile edition of Bach's bible in Josten Library. Photo by Marlene Wong.

Other recent happenings in Josten include:

### Josten Live!

[La Vie en Bleu](#) jazz sextet with faculty members Luca Capogna, Matthew Ghazarian, and Christophe Golé performed on Friday, November 15 on the Mezzanine. These occasional salon-style performances tap the wealth of performing artists in Josten's orbit.

### Bill T. Jones Exhibit

A [collection of books and videos](#) about and with works by dancer & choreographer Bill T. Jones are on exhibit in Josten Library through November. This coincides with the 2024 Five College Dance repertory performance of Spent Days Out Yonder (2000) by Bill T. Jones with artist Jenna Reigel.

### Knit 'n Listen

November's Knit 'n Listen event drew students for a cozy craft session listening to Josten's vinyl records. This Friday afternoon gathering alternates monthly between Hillyer and Josten libraries.

---

## Friends News

Left to right: Executive Committee members Liisa Honkalehto Rogers '82, Elsa Pottala Pauley '66, Patty Gray '91, Paulina Do '10, Julie Richter '83, Judy Campagnari '85, Catherine Gees '10, Lesley Joplin '09, Ann Alpers '84, Erinn Summers '16, Mary Irwin, Susan Fliss, '85, Stefanie Frame '98.

The Friends of the Libraries Executive Committee met on campus in late October for their fall meeting. The committee plans to build awareness about the many [library resources](#) alums can access, free of charge, both on and off campus. Reference resources, primary source documents, thousands of journals, and the Mango language learning app are all available via

## [The Smith Network.](#)

Sometimes, we hear that “Smith doesn’t need my money.” At the Friends, however, every dollar matters. Although the funds raised by the Friends are modest compared to overall college budgets, they are of tremendous help to the Libraries, providing funds for strategic goals and meeting the needs of its many departments. Donors who make an annual gift of \$50, whether as a one-time gift or by a small monthly donation, represent the backbone of our membership. These \$50 gifts make possible a multitude of student-minded initiatives, whether it be adding a work of new fiction to our stacks or offering the always-appreciated reading period snacks and crafts projects during the February doldrums.

## **Oculus Society**

Established in 2021, the Oculus Society is made up of the most loyal supporters of the Friends. Every donor to the Friends Fund who maintains their membership for five consecutive years becomes a member of the Oculus Society.

Student Book Checkers at work in Neilson Library. Sophian cartoon by P. Fretwell '75 in the Sept. 18, 1975 issue. Courtesy Smith College Archives.

---

## **Special Collections News**

### **Digital Preservation Initiative**

The responsibility of caring for and making available Smith’s unparalleled and unique Special Collections is about to enter a new chapter with the adoption of a digital preservation system that uses Preservica software. This will allow Special Collections to ensure all digital files (email, documents, photos, video, websites, social media, etc.) are stored, preserved, and accessible to future generations regardless of the original format.

Since 2019, reference requests and in-house digitization requests have almost tripled. Two archivists have been hired to lead this initiative: Digital Preservation Archivist Shaun Trujillo and Digital Archivist Harland Harris. The Friends will contribute to the storage fees for the digital collection materials stored through Preservica.

### **Introducing SSC Archivist Mariana Brandman**

*"We can't take progress for granted. Doing this work in times when you're struggling, whether it's with the outcome of a presidential election or just an issue you care about, you can go to the archive to draw inspiration and draw strength. You find answers to the questions, 'What are the challenges that people have faced before me?' How can I learn from that and do something similar or something more effective?"*

Read about [Mariana Brandman](#) and her thoughts on the converging timelines of feminism, comedy, and public history.

## Curator of Rare Books

Special Collections seeks a new Curator of Rare Books to steward the Mortimer Rare Book Collection. The new curator will replace Shannon K. Supple who has moved to a similar position at Yale University. Read more about the position [here](#).

## Celebration of the Cromwell Family Papers

Students view materials from the Cromwell Family Papers. Photo by Jessica Scranton.

On November 12, Cromwell Day, the community was invited to visit the archives and explore materials from the Cromwell Family papers, including recent additions that offer a glimpse into the everyday lives of Otelia and Adelaide Cromwell and their families, including their Smith College diplomas, essays and family scrapbooks, and photographic gems that showcase Black culture and fashion of the 19th and 20th centuries.

---

## Exhibits

Detail from the Office of the Dead in MS 255 Book of Hours, ca 1440, Mortimer Rare Book Collection. Photo by Samm Smith.

### Touching Time: Books of Hours and Other Late-Medieval Devotional Manuscripts

Adriana van Manen AC'25 curated this exhibit, drawing from manuscripts and incunabula in the Mortimer Rare Book Collection. See more images and read about the exhibit [here](#). Neilson Library, Level 3, through December 11.

### Bill T. Jones Repertory Project

A collection of books and videos about and with works by Bill T. Jones are on exhibit in Josten Library, and [online](#), through November.

### Neilson Library: An Evolution

This exhibit documents the history of Neilson Library since 1909. Neilson Exhibition Gallery, Level 2, ongoing.

---

## Giving Online

The easiest way to give to the Libraries (Friends of the Libraries, Special Collections, or any other library fund) is via the [Libraries website](#) or directly at: [bit.ly/SCLGive](https://bit.ly/SCLGive). If you land on a different Smith Giving page, it is always possible to enter the fund name in the Special Instructions box.

Thank you for your generosity! In this season of thanksgiving, we are especially grateful for all the support and friendship you provide to maintain the excellence and accessibility of Smith's extraordinary libraries and collections.

Sincerely,

Ann Alpers '84

Chair, Executive Committee

# Friends of the Smith College Libraries

[ONLINE GIVING FORM](#)

[FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES](#)

[LIBRARY RESOURCES FOR ALUMS](#)

---

 [FSCL Logo](#)



*Copyright © 2026, All rights reserved.*

**Our mailing address is:**

Friends of the Smith College Libraries  
Alumnae Gymnasium, 83 Green Street, Northampton, MA 01063

You are receiving this email because of your support of the Smith College Libraries including the new Neilson Library.

*To unsubscribe from all emails or to update your preferences, visit the link below.*

[update subscription preferences](#)

