Season’s Greetings to the
Smith College Club West of Boston
Our Fall Review
Professor Brent Durbin’s October 29th Talk

At Fox Hill in Westwood


On West Newton Hill

(clockwise)
Laurel Farnsworth ’76
Professor Durbin
Kay Sachs ‘47
Alumnae Volunteer Leadership Conference, November 4-6, 2016

SCCWOB member Pam Henrikson ’62 receives the Planned Giving Award.

**Pam Henrikson’s Reflections on the 2016 Volunteer Leadership Conference**

Smith welcomed about 150 alumnae volunteers from across the country back on a colorful, brisk, late-fall weekend for two days packed with information about Smith today, workshops on classes, clubs and fundraising, and typical Smith networking! The program, organized by Jennifer Chrisler ’92, VP for Alumnae Relations and Executive Director of the AASC, exposed us to in-depth presentations from members of President McCartney’s senior staff. Kathy also spoke at some length during dinner.

All presenters were very informative. CFO Mike Howard presented a clear explanation of Smith’s financial condition, vis-a-vis our peer group of colleges. With an endowment of over $1.8 billion, nearly a decade of operating surpluses and an enviably small, deferred maintenance liability, Smith is financially strong. Mike already has restructured Smith’s debt to take advantage of current low interest rates and to
accommodate the library renovation. He also showed an interesting chart reflecting higher education’s expectations of lower investment returns on endowments over the next two decades and discussed Smith’s strategies to accommodate this possibility.

Audrey Smith, VP of Enrollment, admittedly “bragged” about Smith’s applicant pool exceeding 5,200 this past year. Smith normally accepts about one third and yields about a third of that group. Among this year’s first-year class, United States citizens of color represent one third and international students 14%. 20% are on Pell Grants; 8% are legacies. Smith students are a more diverse group than our classmates were, and they are impressive young women. We saw evidence of their abilities both in a student panel, moderated by Dean of the College, Donna Lisker, and in the opportunity to attend a handful of over 40 student presentations of their summer internships, community service jobs and international study experiences. Among those I heard were a second-Smith-generation student from India, interested in environmental studies, who had spent the summer at home in Mumbai studying that city’s challenges with trash management, and two seniors with Global Financial Institutions Concentrations who had used their Praxis experience for internships at Goldman Sachs and the US Department of the Treasury. All three had learned a great deal and were confident and articulate.

Deb Shaver, Dean of Admission, gave a witty and empathetic description of Smith’s very personal and conscientious method of selecting a class from a pool of applicants of whom 80% are “qualified” for admission. Even though Smith spends more than $60 million on Financial Aid, the College is not “need blind.” Typically this means that “full-pays” are advantaged for the last 200 spots filled in any admitted class. She concluded with a few wise tips for parents and grandparents of high school seniors!

Cate Rowen, Executive Director of Institutional Research and Educational Assessment, gave a fascinating presentation on Smith’s efforts to measure outcomes. Smith is now surveying graduated classes after 2, 5 and 10 years about their Smith experience, their professional
or educational affiliations, and how well they feel Smith prepared them for these futures. Campus groups interested in the results include faculty committees that recommend educational policy for the College.

Speaking about the importance of acting intentionally on matters related to Inclusion, Diversity and Equity, VP Dwight Hamilton gave a compelling description of the variety of activities that consume his day, often well into the evening when he can meet with students in their houses. He concentrates on the campus climate of acceptance not only for individuals and groups but also for ideas and points of view.

Renovations to the Neilson Library, designed by Maya Lin and Shepley Bulfinch, are in the conceptual stage according to Provost Katherine Rowe and Dean of the Libraries, Susan Fliss, but the plans have engaged the community’s enthusiasm and support. The library will be rejuvenated as the central space for academic pursuits on campus, and, as such will accommodate all stages of student studying: “procrastination, rest and intensive work.” It will be open 24 hours per day and will have a cafe and a variety of study and gathering spaces.

Finally, VP for Development Beth Raffeld announced the success of the campaign: $438 million toward a goal of $450 million! The Development staff seemed confident that there are sufficient “asks” in the pipeline so that the College will reach the goal by December 31st. Beth and her team would love to exceed it. Since every dollar “counts,” any gift to the Smith Fund for this fiscal year made by December 31 contributes to the campaign. Gifts made directly from an IRA can reduce one’s “adjusted gross income” by the gift amount, a better tax savings than the charitable deduction. Another attractive option is a gift annuity. Annuities must be a minimum of $10K, but count as a gift to Smith and pay the donor an attractive rate of return for lifetime. All are great ideas to achieve a stellar year-end!
Julia Child Day Celebration and Pecan Sale
Thursday, November 17, 2016

What a great celebration of Smith and Julia Child at Russo’s in Watertown! For the past 12 years, Smith Campus Dining has celebrated Julia Child Day on the Thursday before Thanksgiving; now SCCWOB is adopting this lovely tradition. Mark your calendar for 11/16/2017 when we will celebrate Julia with a candlelight dinner; details and volunteer opportunities to follow.

Thank you to all who purchased pecans. Our pecan sale has found a new home thanks to the gracious hospitality of Smith Alumnae parent, Tony Russo. The scholarship fund will be receiving a nice check and SCCWOB’s pecan sale tradition endures. We all can enjoy the connection that brings together Smithies past, present and future. Jackie O’Leary ’47 shared this NYT article with SCCWOB, enjoy!

Smith in
Boston 2016

November
30th

Boston
Public
Library

(l-r) Agnes Bundy Scanlan ’79, Carol Rodley ’76 and
April Hoxie Foley ’69

It was a splendid evening for Smith in Boston at the Boston Public Library. After a festive reception, President McCartney welcomed us and used the story of Smith’s venerable Grecourt Gates to set the tone for the evening’s discussion of Smith alumnae and public service. The Grecourt Gates stand as testimony to the Smith College Relief Workers whose stalwart work in rural France during WWI offers one of the earliest recorded examples of Smith alumnae in public service.

Each discussion participant shared career highlights and reflected on key success factors. For Agnes Bundy Scanlan, solid writing skills were paramount. Carol Rodley shared how she strove to be an “approachable ambassador” and felt ease with public speaking was essential. April Hoxie Foley’s admonitions “always do your homework” and “never use a cell phone” prompted smiles and nods of agreement. Her concluding remarks were poignant as she reflected on the many exciting “chapters” in her life. She reminded us that her public service career or “chapter” didn’t happen until after her children were grown. But as a Smith alumna, she was ready for it!
Dec./Jan. Local Smith Alumnae Events

Saturday, December 3rd, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
*On the Rise*, 341 Broadway, Cambridge, 02139
Looking for an opportunity to give the gift of your time during this holiday season? Join the Smith College Club of Cambridge in a day of service at *On the Rise*
http://www.ontherise.org/volunteer  Tasks will depend on the needs of the day and may include one or more of the following: cleaning, clothes sorting, decorating for the holidays. Please RSVP to: smithcollegecambridge@gmail.com

Additionally, On the Rise is in need of winter coats, gloves, scarves, and hats. Please feel free to bring them along on the service day or if you cannot attend, donation drop-offs are Mondays & Thursdays from 2 to 4 p.m. (not on holidays), or by appointment. Kindly do not leave donations at the door. Please contact Taylor Bartley at 617-497-7968 x36, if you need to schedule a different time.

Wednesday, December 7th, 6:30-8:30 pm
The Merchant, 60 Franklin Street, Boston

Join the Boston Smith College Club at our annual Holiday Gathering! Enjoy light appetizers and a free drink in the company of your fellow Smithies.

Cost: $30 for members / $35 for non-members
Please RSVP and pay online, here: https://squareup.com/store/boston-smith-college-club

Wednesday, January 4th, 6:30 pm
Home of Jennifer Wiza (21 Morgan Drive, North Grafton, MA)

Join Smith Club of Central Mass is hosting a pizza party for prospective students. We encourage all current Smith students and all prospective high school students to join us. A great opportunity for Early Decision students!

Sunday, January 29th, at noon
Old Yarmouth Inn, 223 Route 6A, Yarmouth

Need a change of pace after a hectic holiday season? Take a drive down The Cape and join the Smith College Club of Cape Cod and the Islands for their annual winter Sunday Brunch. RSVP to l-barr@comcast.net