

NEWS & NOTES

Smith College Club of the Peninsula

Last month we had a great speaker event with Professor Michael Marcotrigiano, PhD, Director of the Botanic Gardens at Smith College. He led a great discussion, bringing awareness to the different threat levels of non-native plant species, including how and why certain species are so destructive to the broader ecosystem.

Our admission committee was busy interviewing the Smith College Class of 2018! We had 50 applicants from the Peninsula and 31 requests for interviews.

There are several events coming up in March that you may be interested in. On March 22nd, we will be hosting a wine tasting with Lauren Kemp '06, Head Sommelier at Spruce restaurant in SF. The Bay Area Smith Club along will be coordinating a Perfecting the Pitch to compliment the Smith College Draper Business Plan on March 13th. You should have received your invitation from the college to meet our new president, Kathleen McCartney, in San Francisco on March 19th.

We hope you to see you soon at one of our upcoming events!

Lori Kahn '92 and Nisha Thatte-Potter '88
SCCP Communications

Recent Events

Faculty Event - Smith Professor Michael Marcotrigiano

Thank you to all who attended our Faculty Speaker event this year. On February 1st, we hosted Dr. Michael Marcotrigiano, Director of the Botanic Gardens and professor of Biological Science at Smith, to speak on Invasive Species: When Encouraging Diversity Goes Bad. He led a great discussion, bringing awareness to the different threat levels of non-native plant species, including how and why certain species are so destructive to the broader ecosystem. One point that he made clear was that these issues are not the fault of the flora or fauna in the area, but of the people or social situations that introduced those plants to an area outside their native grounds.

We were given some examples of the impacts an invasive plant can have. The "right" combination of non-native plants in a new environment can, for example, change the chemistry of the soil, consequently shoving out native plants that have adapted to those soil conditions. Animals that might have fed or nested in those native plants then have a dwindling habitat and food source, and therefore a scarcer presence. Another threat, such as the highly flammable eucalyptus trees which originate from Australia, have taken up residence all over California, sadly posing a huge fire threat.

Our guests were pleasantly engaged, and asked informed and concerned questions. As always, Shana Nelson Middler and her family were gracious hosts and provided a very comfortable space for us to have this insightful conversation. Many thanks to Shana and to Professor Marcotrigiano for their time and great work!

Admissions Update

The College had a record number of applications this year -- 4,544 -- and of that number, 50 are from our Peninsula Club area, which is also a record number. Four of them were Early Decision so we already know that these four students from our area will be members of the Class of 2018! 31 of the 50 applicants requested interviews and we were able to accommodate all of them.

We are SO grateful to ALL of the interviewers, several of whom did multiple interviews and often on very short notice. Great effort and hopefully we will have a great yield. The decision letters will go out March 21.

Upcoming Events

Wine Tasting with Spruce Sommelier Lauren Kemp '06

Please join us on the evening of Saturday, March 22nd, from 6:30 - 8:30 PM for our second annual Wine Tasting Party. Lauren is currently the Head Sommelier at Spruce restaurant in San Francisco. Previously she was a sommelier at Spruce's sister restaurant, The Village Pub, in Woodside.



Last year she led an afternoon tasting focused on scents associated with different wines. This year, she has graciously offered to lead a small evening tasting focused on pairing wine and food. She will pair two wine tastings, a more common choice and a less common choice, with each small course.

Jennifer Bock Hughes '84 has graciously opened her home in San Mateo to host this unique event of the Smith Club of the Peninsula. Cocktail attire is requested.

Cost: \$35

There is limited space at this event, so we encourage you to register quickly! Members have already received an Evite with registration details. If you are interested in attending and are not a club member, please contact Catharine Wallace at thepeninsulasmithclub@gmail.com.

Perfecting the Pitch

For a second year, the Bay Area Smith clubs will have an event to compliment the Draper Business Plan competition at Smith. This year the event will take place on March 13th at the offices of Safe Shepherd in San Francisco. Susan Strom of the East Bay Club will be coordinating the evening event.

Susan has created a MeetUp group called [Smith Innovation Club](#) and posted the event details there. You'll see the tentative schedule as well as a place to RSVP.

Welcome Reception for Kathleen McCartney, 11th President of Smith College

The college is sponsoring a San Francisco reception in honor of Smith College President Kathleen McCartney. Please plan on joining local alumnae, parents, current students, and friends of the college in welcoming her to the Smith community. You will have a chance to meet President McCartney and listen as she shares her vision for Smith and an update on Women for the World, the college's ambitious campaign to reimagine the liberal arts for the 21st century.

Wednesday, March 19
San Francisco Jazz Center
201 Franklin Street (at Fell Street)
6:30-8:30 p.m. Reception and remarks
If you have questions, please email smithevents@smith.edu.

Book Club Update



Our January discussion of *Snow Country* by Yasunari Kawabata ranged from the author's background to color symbolism, from the definition of a geisha to the spare language of the book. We puzzled over the elusive protagonist, minimally described, passive, observant but detached, and admired the lyrical descriptions of nature. Most of us were glad we'd read this book, but not all enjoyed it.

Upcoming books are:

March 19: *A Tale for the Time Being* by Ruth Ozeki (Smith '80)

April 16: *The Sisters: The Saga of the Mitford Family* by Mary Lovell

May 21: *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt

We meet every third Wednesday and we always welcome new members! Contact **Sally Smith '64** at thepeninsulasmithclub@gmail.com to get on the email list.

How to connect to other Peninsula Smithies

We now have three ways to stay connected with other Peninsula Smithies. You don't have to be a club member to join any of these groups.

1. **Twitter:** We have a brand new Twitter account! Follow us [@PeninsulaSCC](https://twitter.com/PeninsulaSCC). This is a public account that will share event notifications and re-tweets from official college accounts. Since this will be visible to the public, this will not be used to give out names or specific address details about events.
2. **Facebook:** [The Smith College Club of the Peninsula Facebook Group](#) This is a closed group so that information shared there can be private. Just click on the join button and you can be added. This is primarily a social group and anyone can post upcoming event notifications (with details), pictures, memories, or anything you want to share with other area Smithies.
3. **LinkedIn:** [The Smith College of the Peninsula LinkedIn Group](#) This is also a closed group but all you need to do is click on the Join button to join. This group is primarily for networking with other local alums.

Membership Update and Reminder

Annual membership dues are now payable for the fiscal year September 2013 through August 2014. We want to thank the 85 alumnae who have paid membership dues and the 39 members who also made additional charitable donations to support Club activities this year. We really appreciate your generous sponsorship!

To become a Club member for the current year, please select one of two options from our website [here](#) :

1. You can print out the membership form and mail it along with a dues check to the address listed, OR
2. You can fill out the membership form online and pay dues via PayPal.

We are an inclusive group and encourage all alumnae to join the Club and participate in our activities. **Please note that the Club will waive membership dues for alumnae experiencing current financial hardships.**

Please note that the Club is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization which has been granted tax exempt status by both the IRS and the CA Franchise Tax Board. Contributions to the Club are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

Only members receive Evites to all of our fun and interesting Club events, so be sure to join the Club so you receive these invitations too!

Community Notices

We welcome events that would be of interest to the Smith College Community. Please send them to thepeninsulasmithclub@gmail.com for consideration.

Smithopoly!

Zoe Feldman '06 has started a Kickstarter project to create a Smith-themed Monopoly game. The project can be found here: [Smithopoly Kickstarter](#) and the game should be available in May.

The game is being produced with the blessing of Smith to complete raising funds for a Mortimer Rare Book Room scholarship in memory of Rebecca Samay Rosenthal '07.

Stay Connected with Smithies



47 Linda Vista Ave., Atherton, CA · 94027



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