

Smith College Club of Minnesota  
6400 Josephine Ave  
Edina, MN 55439

[mnsmithclub@hotmail.com](mailto:mnsmithclub@hotmail.com)

\*\*\* YOUR SUMMER 2009 ISSUE  
with SMITH DAY INFO! \*\*\*

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\*\*\* Smith Day info—see page 2 \*\*\*

SUMMER 2009

# Smith Club of Minnesota

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### President

Betsey Whitbeck '71  
952-974-8382  
[bwhitbeck@att.net](mailto:bwhitbeck@att.net)

### Vice-President

Ann Carr '70  
952-491-2202  
[anncarr@gmail.com](mailto:anncarr@gmail.com)

### Secretary

Lara Villavicencio '04  
651-470-4331  
[villavicencio.lara@gmail.com](mailto:villavicencio.lara@gmail.com)

### Treasurer

Maggie Vecchio-Smith '99  
[mvecchiosmith@yahoo.com](mailto:mvecchiosmith@yahoo.com)  
612-708-2008

### Alumnae Admissions

•Caitlyn Boley '02  
[caitlin.bolely@yahoo.com](mailto:caitlin.bolely@yahoo.com)

•Justina Roberts '06  
612-819-1732  
[justina.a.roberts@gmail.com](mailto:justina.a.roberts@gmail.com)

•Kathryn Sutton '08  
612-875-0773  
[kathrynsutton@gmail.com](mailto:kathrynsutton@gmail.com)

### Communications/Membership

Marty Swain '71  
952-474-2466  
[mheiberger@umn.edu](mailto:mheiberger@umn.edu)

## A Word From the President . . .

—Betsey Whitbeck

What an exciting two years our club has had with Laurie Kramer at the helm! The start of the Oral History Project brought us many fun get-togethers for training, interviews, and planning, plus an *actual book* and a visit from President Christ to congratulate us on our efforts! Laurie's term also saw the start of "Interclub," a new Ivies-and-other cross-club social organization for young and young-at-heart alums. Our last two Smith Days, including our 75th Diamond Jubilee, were very successful, and the yield from accepted students is high (see page 5). A hard act to follow!

**Thank you, Laurie**, for your hard work and inspiring leadership!

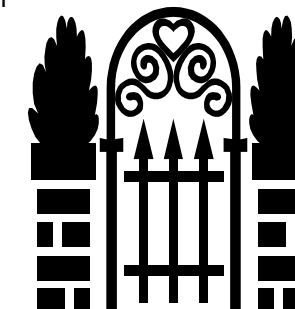
Liesl Hargens, who served two consecutive two-year terms as treasurer, has done so much bookkeeping work and College interface for us—not high profile, but so important for the club. This kind of committed management is exemplary. **Many**

**thanks to Liesl** for harvesting figures and making sense of them, and for keeping us financially healthy. We know our incoming treasurer, Maggie Vecchio-Smith, will be equally effective.

For those who do not already know me, I've been active in our club for a long, long time, first as a member of the Admissions Committee back when it was headed by Wally Conhaim in the '70's. Terms as secretary under presidents Connie Donnelly and Nancy Baltins, and as vice-president under Cecily Hines and Patty Schmidt, were rewarding, particularly because of the rich opportunities to meet and appreciate the talents of sister Smithies. Paula Prah and I were Smith Day co-chairs a number of years back, and I've volunteered for many other club events over the years, including serving on the coordinating committee for the Oral History Project.

As our club's new president, I hope to extend the outreach that began with the Oral History Project by continuing that program, now chaired by Laurie Kramer, and to reach out to alums in geographic areas beyond the Metro by organizing lunches in Rochester, St. Cloud, and Duluth. Undoubtedly, ideas for new activities will spring from our current executive committee, and I'm looking forward to uncovering them!

A last word about our responsibilities as graduates of the world's top college for women (not arguably). Smith is more than an education. It's a leadership training ground, as our Oral History Book title suggests—Strong Women Building Strong Communities. Women who attend Smith learn leadership characteristics: To think for themselves and take responsibility for their own lives, as well as to lead others to do the same.



What Minnesota nonprofit

organization has not included Smith women among its leaders?

As leaders with top-notch educations, our responsibility doesn't end with a diploma. We form a gigantic global network that, among other things, can provide help and advice to sister Smith grads. My challenge to each and every Smith graduate in Minnesota is to be sure to participate in our network and activities and, further, to ideate and initiate activities of interest. We've started a book club, knitting club, have held Salons of every nature—you name it. Our Minnesota Club is open-minded and ready to actualize new ideas, so if you think of something, be sure to communicate it to the Executive Committee!

Thank you for this opportunity to lead the Club as its President. I hope you enjoy our next two years!



## Minnesota Smith News

■ **Mary Fisher Brown** '36, a loyal club member formerly of Excelsior, died March 7 at the age of 93. She grew up in Minneapolis, attending Kenwood School, to which, on at least one occasion, she reportedly walked from her home on stilts! She also attended Northrop Collegiate and then Smith. She was married to Lucian Brown for 70 years, and they raised five children. They built a prominent partnership in candid family photography, and their negatives have been collected by the Harvard University art museums. In retirement, they started a business designing and selling kits for do-it-yourself outdoor gear and musical instruments. Besides being an accomplished seamstress, knitter, and watercolorist, Mary wrote a memoir in 2000 called *A Proper Upbringing*.

■ **Margie Helmholtz Burchell** '39, another venerable club member, died in February at the age of 92. "Her ability to connect with people of all sorts and her generosity of spirit greatly enriched the communities in which she lived," according to her obituary in the *Star Tribune*. Margie grew up in Rochester, Minnesota, and played tennis "from the cradle." She worked in Boston as a social worker before returning to Rochester and later moving to Saint Paul. Margie married Howard Burchell, MD, in 1939, and they raised four daughters together. She was active at Unity

Church, Melpomene Institute for Women's Health, and the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies. Margie will be missed for her life-long commitment to community service.

■ **Carolyn (Kelly) Earl Davis** '35, yet another area alumna known to so many, died March 7 at the age of 95. She graduated from what is now Saint Paul Academy and Summit School. She was honored at SPA in 2004 by receiving the Distinguished Alumni/Alumnae Award, having served in virtually every volunteer capacity there and elsewhere, and was described by the head of school at the award ceremony as "the ultimate volunteer." She also worked tirelessly for the House of Hope Presbyterian Church. Kelly has three daughters, two of whom graduated from Smith, Sally Patterson '61, of Saint Paul, and Jane Bennett '63, of Davis, California, and one of whom attended but did not graduate from Smith, Mary Dewart '70, of Brookline, Massachusetts.

If you have any **NEWS**—about yourself or another area alumna, please contact Marty Swain at 952-474-2466 or [mheiberger@umn.edu](mailto:mheiberger@umn.edu). Also contact Marty if you'd like to place a **CLASSIFIED AD** in a future newsletter (3 lines free to dues-paying members). Ads are published on a space-available basis.



## Did you know?

You can listen online to the presentation "Reflections on *A Pearl in the Storm*," given by Tori McClure '85 during 2009 reunion weekend? It's at [http://alumnae.smith.edu/education/tori\\_murden.php](http://alumnae.smith.edu/education/tori_murden.php). Tori was the first woman and first American to row the Atlantic Ocean alone and to ski the geographic South Pole. She published the book *A Pearl in the Storm: How I Found My Heart in the Middle of the Ocean* (HarperCollins) in 2009.



## Smith Day Stimulus Package!

*In these frugal and pragmatic times, there is no better time for Smith Day 2009!*

*Saturday, Sept 12, 9:30 am – 3 pm, Hopkins Center for the Arts*

- ❖ Looking for some new work clothes? Support the **Clothing Reinvestment Act** in the Clothing Department ❖
- ❖ Need some intellectual stimulus? Take the **Stress Test** Quiz ❖
- ❖ Home décor looking a little lean? Pick up some **Long-term Investments** in Antiques/Collectibles ❖
- ❖ Seeking a biography or mystery for poolside or fireside reading? **Take And Read Prose** from the Book Department ❖
- ❖ Tired of buying imported processed foods? Support **Sustainable Agriculture** at the Bakery ❖
- ❖ Even in this economy, a girl has to have a little mad money for a massage, the theater, some jewelry, or a vacation/staycation. So be prepared for some **Fiscal Irresponsibility** at the Raffle/Silent Auction! ❖

### Sister, can you spare an hour?

Many of our usual crew are in **The Cabinet** to lead our departments again this year, but we'd like *your* help too. The week before the event, help in the morning, afternoon, or evening sorting and organizing merchandise. During the event, take a shift in the Bagcation bag-check room or set up table tents and other items for the **Nontoxic Assets** luncheon. Afterward, help with **The Bailout** by taking supplies back to storage and other clean-up tasks. For more information and/or to volunteer, contact the bazaar czars listed below.

### And don't forget to DONATE! We're seeking:

- Gently used women's clothing
- Books (novels, mysteries, biographies)



◆◆◆ **WATCH YOUR MAIL in AUGUST for your invitation & reservation form for Smith Day!** ◆◆◆

### The Cabinet (Smith Day contacts)

#### Strategic Planners (Mini Event Chairs)

Cybel Monson 612-317-0751 [cmonson13@aol.com](mailto:cmonson13@aol.com)  
 Laura Brinkmeier [lbrinkme@hotmail.com](mailto:lbrinkme@hotmail.com)

#### The Regulator (Invitations/Registration)

Stephanie Frost 651-773-5376 [larkfrost@comcast.net](mailto:larkfrost@comcast.net)

#### Nontoxic Assets (Lunch)

Peggy Smith 952-939-6022 [larry6022@aol.com](mailto:larry6022@aol.com)

#### C.R.A. (Clothing)

Robin Hartwell 612-374-6166 [robinhartwell@mac.com](mailto:robinhartwell@mac.com)  
 Mary Taylor 952-474-3848

#### T.A.R.P. (Books)

Brigid Brindley 612-929-2832 [mbrindley@comcast.net](mailto:mbrindley@comcast.net)

#### Fiscal Irresponsibility (Raffle/Silent Auction)

Laura Brinkmeier [lbrinkme@hotmail.com](mailto:lbrinkme@hotmail.com)  
 Tyler Davis 612-232-7526 [tefdavis@gmail.com](mailto:tefdavis@gmail.com)

#### Long-Term Investments (Antiques/Collectibles)

Nancy Malmon 952-544-4912 [nancymalm@aol.com](mailto:nancymalm@aol.com)  
 Jody Duclos 612-926-0900

#### Sustainable Agriculture (Bakery)

Holly Dowds 612-655-5210 [hollydowds@gmail.com](mailto:hollydowds@gmail.com)  
 Grace Norris 952-473-2373

#### The Bailout (Move-in/Move-out)

Marty Swain 952-474-2466 [mheiberg@umn.edu](mailto:mheiberg@umn.edu)  
 Holly Churchward 952-832-0388

#### Shovel-Ready (Supplies)

Cybel Monson 612-317-0751 [cmonson13@aol.com](mailto:cmonson13@aol.com)

#### Stress Test (Quiz)

Laurie & Joel Kramer 612-378-1477 [kramer@visi.com](mailto:kramer@visi.com)

#### Federal Reserve (Treasurer)

Maggie Vecchio-Smith 612-708-2008  
[mvecchiosmith@yahoo.com](mailto:mvecchiosmith@yahoo.com)

- Auction goodies, artwork, gift certificates, tickets
- Small furniture, dishes, antiques/collectibles
- Home-baked goods
- Produce/flowers

Please, no ragged clothing, appliances, sports equipment, textbooks, Reader's Digests, etc.

Our **depot** is on Cedar Lake Road in Minnetonka. For information on accessing the lockers there, call one of the Clothing Chairs, Mini Chairs, or Marty Swain. And pickup can be arranged—call Marty to make arrangements. See below for all contact info.

## A Wonderful Evening in May

We did it again—another big turnout for an all-club event! There were more than 90 of us this time for our 2009 Annual Meeting on Tuesday evening, May 5, at the Nicollet Island Inn.

First we gathered for drinks and visiting with old and new friends. The conversation was nonstop, but if you paused to catch your breath, you might have heard the background music provided by The New Nationals. This nice touch was contributed by Laurie Kramer '69 and we forgot to thank her that night—so *thanks Laurie!* We moved to the St. Anthony Room for our dinner and program. There were a few glitches, but most of us enjoyed dinner, followed by our business meeting and speaker.

We heard from treasurer Liesl Hargens '98 that our Smith Day 2008 proceeds funded three Praxis scholarships this year. Alumnae Admission Coordinators Kathryn Sutton '08 and Justina Roberts '06 reported on another strong year for admission of Minnesota candidates (see story at right), and, switching hats, they described their success in organizing Young Alum gatherings via FaceBook in the past few months.

Laurie Kramer reported on good progress toward organizing Smith Day 2009, and Betsey Whitbeck '71 announced a plan to begin Phase 2 of our Oral History Project. Cecily Hines '73 gave highlights from the May meeting of the AASC trustees, including expense-cutting measures the college has been forced to take.

Vice President Ann Carr '70 thanked our retiring officers—treasurer Liesl Hargens and president Laurie Kramer, under whose leadership our club has flourished. We then elected with enthusiasm their replacements: Maggie Vecchio-Smith '99 as treasurer and Betsey Whitbeck as president.

Our speaker, Marilyn Carlson Nelson '61, is well-known, but we enjoyed hearing a few what-you-may-not-know tidbits (through Smith connections, of course) in Jane Howard's '75 introduction. Marilyn then gave us such a generous talk on leadership and the writing of her book, *How We Lead Matters*—generous in time, anecdotes, and insights from her heart. The sound system was faulty, but we were so quiet as we appreciated the accomplishments and our intimacy with this leader and Smith sister. The generosity continued as Marilyn provided signed copies of her book for all alumnae attending.

It was a lively, rewarding evening. We really should do this more often!

—Ann Carr



## Hello from the AACs\*!

We've had a great year and are proud to report that there will be 11 new Smithies hailing from Minnesota at the college this fall. In addition, **Hattie Ryan**, from Northfield, has deferred her Smith acceptance for one year and writes, "This coming school year I will be an exchange student in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, through the Rotary Youth Exchange Program. I will be attending a high school and living with three different host families throughout the year. This opportunity will be a life-changing experience and will better prepare me for my future at Smith."

Please welcome the Class of 2013:

- >> **Julia Franz & Silka Schreiber**  
St. Johns Preparatory School
- >> **Emilie Judge-Becker**  
Northfield High School
- >> **Ambily Kallivayalil**  
Orono High School
- >> **Tenzing Khendu**  
Roosevelt High School
- >> **Harriet Lauritsen-Smith**  
Minnetonka High School
- >> **Johanna Lepro-Green**  
St. Paul Conservatory of Performing Arts
- >> **Marilla MacGregor**  
Mankato East High School
- >> **Kelsey McDermott**  
St. Paul Academy
- >> **Joanna Trott**  
Minnewaska Area High School
- >> **Linnea Yeazel**  
South High School

We will be hosting an event for these students as well as current Minnesota Smithies on August 16th at Marty Swain's home in Excelsior. Feel free to join and help welcome them!

## ◆ Young Alums ◆

The Minnesota Smith Young Alum Group is going strong as well. In June, we met at Masa and enjoyed great margaritas and guacamole. On July 16th, we met at Stella's Fish Café in Uptown. We hope to see you soon— if you haven't already, join our group on Facebook!

—Caitlin Boley '02, Justina Roberts '06,  
and Kathryn Sutton '08

\*Alumnae Admissions Coordinators (AACs)



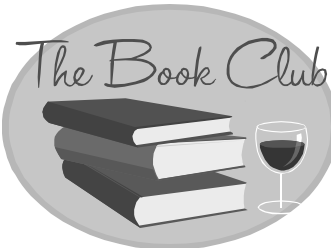
## Calling All Bookies . . .

The Smith Book Club is in need of new members. We're looking for alums who live in the Twin Cities area and love reading. That may sound redundant—how could you graduate from Smith and not love books? We in our club read an interesting book each month and get together to talk about it on the last Thursday of the month.

Coming to our meetings is a good way to meet interesting women of all ages—last year Smithies from each decade from the '40s through the '90s appeared at meetings.

So all you book lovers, send me an e-mail or give me a call if you'd like to help us find the perfect list of books for the next six months and the perfect meeting spot.

—Jean Paul '63  
[jeanmpaul@comcast.net](mailto:jeanmpaul@comcast.net)  
 763-781-2366



## . . . And Have You Read This One?

The book assigned to Smith students for summer reading this year is *The Green Collar Economy* by Van Jones. All entering students will gather in small groups with a faculty or staff member to discuss the book when they arrive on campus. Let's pretend we all get to go back to Northampton in the fall! Author Jones illustrates how the US can invent and invest its way out of the pollution-based grey economy and into the healthy new green economy. This path, he says, could both help cut energy prices and help generate work to pull the economy out of its downward spiral.

Several Minnesota Smith Club Executive Committee members at their summer planning retreat at the home of Marty Swain in June (l to r): Justina Roberts, AAC (see page 5); Laura Brinkmeier (Smith Day mini chair—see page 2); Ann Carr, Vice President; Betsy Whitbeck, President; Cybel Monson, Smith Day mini chair; Lara Villavicencio, Secretary; and Maggie Vecchio-Smith, Treasurer.



## Help Us Save Some Money!

Like most organizations, our Minnesota Smith Club is trying to hold down costs. We'll begin sending this newsletter electronically this fall to those who have an e-mail address recorded with the Alumnae Association of Smith College (AASC). (Those who don't use e-mail can still receive it by regular mail.) If you receive our Minnesota club's "broadcast" e-mails from time to time at your correct address, you're good to go. If you don't, **please** make sure AASC has your correct e-mail address.

You can check by going onto the AASC website at [www.alumnae.smith.edu](http://www.alumnae.smith.edu) and looking at your entry in the directory. You can add/correct it online, or let the AASC know in one of these other ways:

- > **Phone:** 800-526-2023
- > **Fax:** 413-585-2073
- > **Mail:** 33 Elm St, Northampton, MA 01063

**Questions?** Contact Marty Swain (contact info on page 1) or write to our club mailbox at [mnsmithclub@hotmail.com](mailto:mnsmithclub@hotmail.com).

### Important Club Contacts

**Book Club:** Jean Paul (see contact info at left)

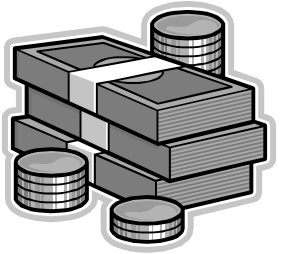
**Knitting Club:** Liesl Hargens  
[liesel\\_hargens@yahoo.com](mailto:liesel_hargens@yahoo.com)

**Running Club:** Andrea Smith  
[andrea@raleigh@hotmail.com](mailto:andrea@raleigh@hotmail.com)

**Oral History Project:** Laurie Kramer  
[kramer@visi.com](mailto:kramer@visi.com)

**Membership/Communications:** Marty Swain  
 (see contact info on page 1)

## Our Fund-Raising Dollars at Work



Dear Club Members,

Hi! My name is Mai Houa Vue and I am a first-year here at Smith. I am honored to write you this letter of many thanks. I am from Saint Paul, Minnesota, where I was born and raised. Now I'm an East Coast resident at Smith. My college decision was between Smith and Macalester. I loved both colleges. Both met my expectations. But eventually the distance of Smith won. Macalester is an awesome school, and I would have gone to it if I hadn't wanted to move away from home. I wanted to go somewhere far, where I could become independent and learn the struggles that life will eventually bring to me. And I didn't want my family to come visit me every day! So I chose Smith, and I am so glad I did.

I am current living in Tyler House in a double with my roommate, Francesca. She is from New Jersey, much closer to home than I, but it's okay. This year has been awesome having her as a roommate, and in fact we will be rooming together again next year. Tyler is a great house and I enjoy being a part of this little family community that I can just call on. That is part of what I love about Smith—the idea of small house communities and student groups that are easy to access and connect with.

Some other student organizations and programs that I am currently affiliated with are Academic Excellence in Mathematics Engineering and Science, Global Medical Training, Union of Underrepresented Students of Science, and Southeast Asian Alliance. These organizations and programs have taught me many things that I have never done or encountered before. I have learned how to study in groups, how to approach a professor, how to do research in an actual lab side by side with a professor, how to plan for a conference, how to network on campus, how to put my interests to work, and many things that have added to my Smith experience and to me becoming independent. I am glad that there are these types of organizations and programs here at Smith.

I am undecided as of right now for my major, but I am working on a pre-health/medical curriculum. In the future I want to become a pediatrician, specifically a pediatric oncologist. This may change anytime in the near future—I tend to change my mind all the time!—but I do know I want to help and cure people in my lifetime.

I want to thank you for making my dreams come true. Not only are my troubles taken off, but also my parents'. Without your help I wouldn't be here at Smith, and so I just want to thank you again. ☺

Sincerely,  
 Mai Houa Vue '12

At \$48,108 per year for tuition, room, board, and fees, a Smith education may seem out of reach for many promising students. However, 60% of Smith students receive some form of aid, and the Minnesota Smith Club certainly does its part by continuing to add to our endowed scholarship fund through our Smith Day (see page 2) proceeds and other donations. According to a recent letter from Audrey Y. Smith, Dean of Enrollment, "The generosity of the Smith College Club of Minnesota helps us fulfill our commitment to meet the continuing need of Smith students today and ensures access to women of promise from all walks of life." Ms. Smith thanks us for our "crucial role" in the intricate equation of helping students in these turbulent economic times.

Young women who benefitted from our club's fund this past year are Laura Gantenbein '10, who is from Minneapolis and majoring in American Studies, Laura Miller '11, from Apple Valley and majoring in Art–Architecture & Urbanism, and Mai Houa Vue '12, from Saint Paul and whose major remains undeclared.

Following are excerpts from Laura Miller's and Mai Houa Vue's letters of thanks to our club, sent in May.

Dear Club Members,

Hello. My name is Laura Miller and I am currently a sophomore at Smith. I am from Minneapolis, Minnesota, and live in Northrop House. I decided to attend Smith because I felt that this would be the perfect atmosphere where I could study architecture and explore other fields that would strengthen my approach to architecture. At Smith I am able to attain an interdisciplinary education.

I have a passion for the field of architecture and I would like to become a practicing architect and architecture professor. The more classes I take outside of architecture, the more I realize that I am interested in urban planning as well. Lately I have been trying to break into the field by securing an architecture internship.

My favorite classes are my architecture studio and my landscape studies courses. Unfortunately, architecture demands a lot of time and so this year I had to sacrifice my ability to play for the Smith College varsity basketball team. Last year I was able to play and was the second-leading scorer as a first-year student. I cherished my experience and with much determination I will try to play once again before I leave for Spain in the spring of 2010.

Thank you for your generosity in making my experience here at Smith a reality. ☺

Sincerely,  
 Laura Miller '11