

Smith College Club of Minnesota
19835 Sweetwater Curve
Excelsior, MN 55331

mnsmithclub@hotmail.com

[http://alumnae.smith.edu/
smithcms/minnesota](http://alumnae.smith.edu/smithcms/minnesota)

[https://www.facebook.com/
groups/69444178416/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/69444178416/)

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Twin Cities, MN
Permit 90258

*** Smith Day 2015 to celebrate the arts!—see page 2 ***

JULY 2015

Smith Club of Minnesota

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

Justina Roberts '06
justina.a.roberts@gmail.com

Vice-President

Emily (Hagens) Beck '10
emilyedithbeck@gmail.com

Secretary

Kathryn Sutton '08
kathrynsutton@gmail.com

Treasurer

Kate Lehmann '78
612-306-4778
katelehmann@comcast.net

Alumnae Admissions Coordinators (AACs)

- Hayden Howland '06
hhowland@gmail.com
- Mariquita Anderson '86
mariquita@nderson.net
- Kristen Zolden '06
kristenzoldan@gmail.com

Communications/Membership

Marty Swain '71
952-474-2466
mheiberg@umn.edu

****Online Directory****

Smith has a new **ONLINE ALUMNAE DIRECTORY** that is easier to use! You can reach it by going to the Smith Alumnae Association site www.smith.edu/alumnae and clicking on the directory announcement in the upper right corner. It's simple to update your contact info there.

If you have any questions or problems signing in, *feel free* to contact Nancy Howes at the AASC: nhowes@smith.edu or 413-585-2058 (toll-free 800-526-2023, option 4). She'll be glad to help.

Our club gets its contact info for both mailing and email from the college, so it's **crucial** that they have accurate data for you!

A Word from Our Club President . . .

—Justina Roberts

What a great annual meeting! It was such a treat to hear from Professor John Davis at the Walker Art Center June 7. Thank you to our club's Immediate Past-President Paula Prah and Vice President Emily Beck for their efforts in organizing such a wonderful event. During the meeting, the chairs of Smith Day 2015, Stephanie Frost, Helen Leslie, and Laura Miller, announced the theme for this year's sale—**Minnesota Arts Celebration: Smithies Celebrating the Vibrant Minnesota Arts Scene**. If you are interested in helping with Smith Day—whether it's chairing a department or donating items or time—please contact Stephanie, Helen, or Laura (see contact info on next page).

It was my honor to be elected to a two-year term as president of the Smith College Club of Minnesota at the Annual Meeting. I'm very excited about this role and am thankful to have watched and learned from past presidents, including Paula Prah, Barbara Klaas, Laurie Kramer, Betsey Whitbeck, Ellen Van Iwaarden, and Marty Swain.

During my term, I hope to increase engagement in the club, especially for recent graduates, who may one day become club officers and Smith Day chairs! Also, through frequent programming during the year, I hope to encourage the development of relationships among club members.

A little bit about my background: I graduated from Smith in 2006, majoring in economics and French studies. After graduation, I moved to New York to work at a large corporate law firm as a mergers and acquisitions legal assistant. I then moved back to Minnesota to attend the University of Minnesota Law School and am currently a corporate associate at Faegre Baker Daniels LLP.

When I returned to Minneapolis in 2007, I immediately emailed the then-current president of the Smith Club and asked how I could

help. I remember my first project was with Barbara Knott '97 and Leisl Hargens '98, the Alumnae Admissions Coordinators (AACs) at the time, hand-writing notes to about 350 prospective students. It's nice that Smith now

has electronic post-cards! I then served as an AAC for a few years. Being an AAC is such a fun position, because you get to meet with amazing high school students and watch them grow into strong, independent women once they get to Smith.

After my time as an AAC, I served as the club's vice president and also joined the nominating committee. In 2012, I began to volunteer as a Network Alumnae Admissions

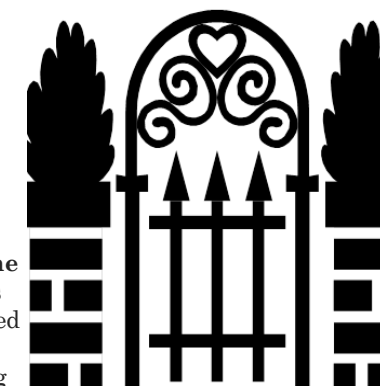
Coordinator (NAAC) for the Midwest Region. NAACs act as intermediaries between the Smith Admissions Office and AACs.

And now, I'm excited to serve as president of our Club! The Smith Club of Minnesota means so much to me. As many of you have also experienced, the Smith family is always there for you—in the good times and the bad. I feel so lucky to be part of this community.

We've already had one event this summer; Laura Miller, Mariquita Anderson, and I attended an improv show where Gubby Kubik '11 performed (see page 5). While at the show, a new club within the club was formed—a **Supper Club!** Mariquita, who is a new member of our club, will be organizing those events, so stayed tune (see page 4 for our first one). I can't wait to try restaurants around town with other food-loving Smithies!

Coming up August 23 there will be an Executive Committee meeting to set the agenda for the year ahead. If you have any ideas or suggestions on how the club can serve you better, please feel free to reach out to me (see contact info above left).

I look forward to seeing you at future events! ☺



Minnesota Smith News

■ Club member **Honey Blacklock**'s husband, Craig Blacklock, was seriously injured in a fire several months ago. He is a well-known nature photographer in northern Minnesota, so this has severely impacted their lives. A fund-raiser was held at the Gallery in Minneapolis in late June. The following website gives more information and lists ways you can still help: <http://www.gofundme.com/tc4dx4>.

■ Upcoming TCAN (Twin Cities Alumni Network) Event:

You've no doubt heard of speed dating. Well, an upcoming event sponsored by the local **Yale** club is an opportunity to make new friends not only in the local Yale club but all across TCAN. The idea is *not* to find a new significant other, find a job, or sell cell phones or insurance. The idea *is* to find new friends who share your social interests.

Date: Tuesday, August 5

Location: 612Brew, 945 Broadway St NE, Minneapolis

Price: \$25

RSVPs: Dan Rutman danrutman@comcast.net

Qs/comments: Ron Goldser rgoldser@gmail.com

■ Club member **Marilyn Carlson Nelson** '61, co-CEO of Carlson Holdings, Inc, and former CEO and chair of Minneapolis-based Carson Companies, a global travel and hospitality company, was awarded an honorary degree at

Smith's 2015 graduation for her efforts to combat sexual trafficking of children in travel and tourism. She has also received the Oslo Business for Peace Award and the White House's Presidential Award for Extraordinary Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

■ If you didn't see this in the Smith NewsTracker, Mohona Chowdury '17, writing about the importance of the "Shine Theory" in the *Huffington Post*, stated, "It took me going to an incredible and wonderful women's college to experience the benefits of surrounding yourself with powerful, confident and passionate ladies who support other powerful ladies. There is nothing more freeing and inspiring than being surrounded by goddesses 24/7." See <http://huff.to/1e5stPN>.

■ Don't forget that copies of both **Oral History Books** are still available. E-mail the club at the address above for more information.

If you have **NEWS**—about yourself or another area alumna—please contact **Marty Swain** at 952-474-2466 or mheiberg@umn.edu.



☪ **Smith Day 2015** ☪

Minnesota Arts Celebration: Smithies Celebrating the Vibrant Minnesota Arts Scene

Saturday, September 12

9 am – 2 :30 pm

Hopkins Center for the Arts

With so many artists of varied types, patrons, and supporters amongst our Minnesota Smith community, and with this landmark year in the Minnesota arts scene, how could we have any theme for Smith Day 2015 other than (drum roll . . .)

A Minnesota Arts Celebration: Smithies Celebrating the Vibrant Minnesota Arts Scene?

Join us for this special day of shopping, visiting with friends, shopping, eating, and **shopping!**

Co-Chairs Stephanie Frost '77, Helen Leslie '75, and Laura Miller '11 are "curating" this year's production. We have wonderful chairs in each department, some in their debut and some veterans to the Smith Day stage (see page 4). We are thrilled for their leadership and creativity.

To make this wonderful event into the acclaimed gathering, shopping, and scholarship fund-raising celebration it is takes everyone's help. How can YOU help? **Donate! Volunteer! Invite friends to join us** and and shop! And, of course, **be there**, meet new folks and old friends, buy lots of wonderful items, bid high on silent auction items, and have fun!

Donate! . . .

For us all to have a wonderful selection, we need **your donations**—seldom-used gems that we can sell to benefit the club's scholarship fund. We love like-new women's clothes, wedding gifts gathering dust, and best-sellers you'll never read again. And if you love to cook or grow things, we'll eagerly sell your baked or canned goods, flowers, or vegetables in the Bakery. Store-bought donations are also accepted, so please, come empty-handed! Keep in mind that some of our best donations come from non-Smithies, so consider tapping your friends who have lovely things or perhaps who are moving or down-sizing. All donations are tax-deductible; receipts are available at the storage lockers and from the co-chairs. Please contact us (info at lower right) for depot access information or to arrange for pickup of your donations. And watch our **Facebook page** (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/69444178416/>) for ongoing updates!

One high-yield department, the **Silent Auction**, welcomes and relies on your creative donations for success. Co-chairs Martha Phelps and Mariquita Anderson need you to solicit donations from your favorite businesses (think restaurants, beauty salons, shops, entertainment venues—if they won't donate, how about purchasing a gift certificate?), and we also applaud donations of goods and services from you or others (think Christmas cookies delivered in December if you're a baker, Italian dinner for 8 if you're a gourmet chef, holiday wrapping or movie-buff gift baskets if you're creative . . . you name it! This year we'll track all donations to simplify the process for everyone. To record your donation, fill out the short form at <http://goo.gl/forms/aP9SpxflfH> with the relevant



information. The form is self-explanatory and requires info on the donor so we can write thank-you notes and simplify record-keeping, which in the past has been done manually. **Thank you, everyone, for your efforts in getting our donations for Silent Auction off to a good start!**

Volunteer! . . .

As always, we need help setting up **the week before Smith Day** as well as staffing departments on **the day itself**. Besides the bargains Smith Day offers you, volunteering guarantees you'll meet and make some amazing Smith friends. For Smithies who aren't available during the day, come **Tuesday evening, Sept 8**, at 5:30 or later—wine and

munchies will be provided! Call or email a Smith Day co-chair or department chair to volunteer. Everyone is welcome and we'd love to hear from you!

We still need a co-chair for Household/Antiques, which is a treasure trove of fun and shopping opportunities and for Raffle and Bakery. We will also need 4 or 5 people to sell raffle tickets in shifts the morning of Smith Day (a great way to stroll around and meet people and view the merchandise for sale). A few folks to help with Registration would be great. If you can help, contact Stephanie Frost. And for a ready way to take a shopping break during the morning, volunteer for a shift in the bag-check room by calling Justina Roberts (see page 4).

Attend/Invite! . . .

The key to strong sales—and therefore successful Smith Day fund-raising—is **lots of shoppers**. Watch for your invitation in August. And **invite or bring your friends and encourage them to buy lots**. Shopping is free (lunch is fun, too, and worth the cost). And young alums in the classes of 2005-15 get a voucher for \$30 in merchandise to get started (not good on lunch); ask at the registration table when you arrive.

We very much look forward to celebrating with you at Smith Day and thank you for your help ahead of time!

Curators (event co-chairs):

Stephanie Frost
larkfrost@gmail.com
651-491-3420

Helen Leslie
helenleslie@comcast.net
651-456-0368

Laura Miller
lrmiller2@gmail.com
612-250-3383

Storage lockers are available in Minnetonka through Labor Day. Please contact Stephanie Frost for access info, and please **pack breakables carefully** since they will be moved. You can also bring your goods to the Hopkins Center Tuesday through Friday of set-up week. Or if you need a **pickup**, call one of the event co-chairs above.

Plastic at Smith Day! Did you know that the Smith Club now takes credit and debit cards? At Smith Day 2015 we will happily advance cash on your debit card and charge your winning Silent Auction bid or that pile of clothes you worked so hard to gather. And if you wish to pay your dues or for lunch, just say PayPal please! Look for the PayPal-equipped cashiers who will use smartphones to swipe your credit card.

MEMBER PROFILE: Laura Miller

This issue's profile spotlights Laura Miller (pictured in photo below), who graduated from Smith in 2011 and is quickly becoming active in the Smith Club of Minnesota, this year serving as a Smith Day co-chair (see below right for a photo of Laura). She grew up in the Whittier neighborhood of South Minneapolis, attending a Spanish immersion grade school and later Southwest High School as an international baccalaureate student and a 4-year starter on the women's varsity basketball team. Her mother, Charlotte, raised Laura and her two younger siblings as a single parent.

As part of an after-school program that assisted "low-income" students in preparing for college entrance exams and applying for scholarships and admission, Laura says, her mentor, Tom, suggested that because of her academic prowess and athletic feats she challenge herself and apply to "elite" institutions in the East. Dartmouth tried to recruit her, but the appeal of a women's college (she recalls telling her mother that "the guys in classes were a bit irritating because they continued to dominate classroom discussions with irrelevant comments and other immature antics") and her own research led her to seek out the basketball coach at Smith. She was flown out to Northampton where she toured the campus, sat in on classes, and met the team. She "instantly fell in love" with everything. Sadly, and obviously very wrongly, when she told her academic counselor at school about her desire to attend Smith, she was told it was "out of her league." No way!

Laura lived in Lamont, Northrop, and Chase as well as the Friedman Apartments. She majored in architecture and art history, with a minor in Spanish. Among her best memories of college are her first collegiate basketball game in Boston where she was picked as one of two first-year students to be starters. She considers her teammates as family. Another high point in her four years at Smith was Obama's election. It was the first time she was eligible to vote, and she recalls gathering with friends on election night at the Mwangi Cultural Center to watch the count. "I remember us screaming, crying, and running across campus to celebrate," she says. "A lot of us called our parents because it was truly an historic moment in American history and particularly African-American history."

Now employed in human resources at Best Buy and volunteering regularly with ProjectDIVA, a mentoring program for young women of color who live or attend school in North Minneapolis, Laura is learning Korean and teaching herself guitar. "I feel like every day I'm trying to learn something more about myself and to be gentle," she says.

Attending Smith "has meant everything to me," said Laura, and although it "felt like hell at times, I wouldn't change my experience for anything." She thanks the Smith Club of Minnesota for scholarship help and says she "had the opportunity to see and do things that people from my neighborhood and family would never get the chance to experience within their lifetime." She saw the ocean for the first time, had "gorgeous and intelligent" friends from many states and many countries, and traveled to Spain and other cities she had only read about in books. Most important, her time at Smith "allowed me to complete one of my very first goals in life that I set as a 5-year-old watching my mother graduate from the University of Minnesota—to attend and graduate from college myself."

Tellingly, in the e-mail Laura sent to me with answers to my profile questionnaire, she said, "I had a lot of fun filling this out and also began to cry a bit thinking of how grateful I am for my Smith experience. I truly hope that more young women like myself will get the opportunity in the future." Please introduce yourself to Laura at events, including Smith Day—you'll find she is an absolute delight. ☪

—Marty Swain

A Tribute to a Great Lady and a Great College

Several area Smith alums had the pleasure of attending a gathering to celebrate the life of Jane Noland '49, who died last October (see item in the January 2015 club newsletter, available on our website (URL on back page).

The event, hosted by Jane's son and daughter, was held at the wonderful residence on Lake Minnetonka where she grew up and where she returned to live in recent years. It is truly a "doll house," and is so Jane. On display was a table covered with paraphernalia from her beloved Smith Days, including our club's 1st oral history book open to Jane's interview (foreground at left). What a great tribute!



Improv anyone?

Justina Roberts (left), Laura Miller (2nd from right), and Mariquita Anderson (right) attended the 9th Annual Twin Cities Improv Fest at the Huge Theater in Uptown

on June 25. They had the pleasure of seeing Gubby Kubik '11 (2nd from left) perform with the Painters. It was a great evening-filled with lots of laughter, and they report that they hope we can all see Gubby perform many more times in the future!



... *Smith Day 2015, continued*

DEPARTMENT CHAIRS

Costumes (Women's Clothes)

Robin Hartwell robinhartwell@mac.com

Barbara Klaas baklaas@gmail.com

Gift Shop (Silent Auction)

Martha Phelps martha.phelps@gmail.com

Mariquita Anderson mariquita@nderson.net

Modern Artifacts (Household/Antiques)

Emily Beck emily.edith.beck@gmail.com

Media Arts (Books)

Brigid Brindley mbrindley@comcast.net

Elissa Mautner Elissamautner@aol.com

Drama (Raffle)

Melanie Kiihn mkiihn@aim.com

Chef's Kitchen (Bakery and Garden)

Hayden Howland hhowland@gmail.com

Props and Staging (Move in/Move Out/Supplies)

Marty Swain mheiberg@umn.edu

Treasurer

Kate Lehmann klehmann@aol.com

Culinary Arts (Lunch)

Siri Caltvedt siri.caltvedt@gmail.com

Paula Prahla paulaj.prahla@gmail.com

Quiz

Laurie Kramer lkramer@minnpost.com

The Box Office (Bag Check)

Justina Roberts justina.a.roberts@gmail.com

Prelude (Registration) Stephanie Frost larkfrost@gmail.com

Treasurer's Report

The club ended its fiscal year June 30 with \$17,000 in the Treasury (this includes operating monies as well as an account comprising memorial and other gifts).

Total **income** was nearly \$32,000, with the majority from 2014 Smith Day receipts, followed by donations, annual meeting and other fees, membership dues, and donations. Total expenses ran a little over \$34,000, with Smith Day expenses and scholarship support (we donated \$7,450 to our endowed scholarship fund and \$4,800 to Praxis scholarships) accounting for much of the total, followed by annual meeting expenses and funds for student recruitment and support.

We ended the year with a \$2,142 deficit, which was a little less than originally predicted. The Executive Board will address the 2015-16 budget and plans for correcting this trend in its upcoming planning session. Please remember that your dues and donations help cover the cost of operations and student recruitment, as well as helping to defray the cost of our events. For a detailed financial report, please contact Treasurer Kate Lehmann (see page 1).

Our New Supper Club!

Join us for informal suppers as we sample various restaurants in the Twin Cities. Each attendee is responsible for her own tab.

Our first "meeting" will be 7 pm Tuesday, July 28, at the **Rabbit Hole** in the Midtown Global Market (920 E Lake St). According to the Rabbit Hole's website www.eatdrinkrabbithole.com, the gastropub is their "nod to Korean Pogjangmachas, but the food is Korean by way of Los Angeles. It's not your Halmeoni's, Omma's, or Imo's Korean cuisine, nor is it the kind you had while you were in Korea. It's also not 'Americanized' Korean, as we are not Americanized Koreans. We are Korean-Americans and The Rabbit Hole is who we are."

RSVP by noon July 27 to organizer Mariquita Anderson at 239-849-7817 or mariquita@nderson.net. Bon appetite!



Alumnae Admissions Coordinators (AACs) Corner

Our thanks to Samantha Oestreich '05, who gave the team's report at the annual meeting but who is stepping off the committee after much hard work and great results!

We had 30 Minnesota students at Smith for the 2014-15 year, including 12 seniors who have now graduated.

To replenish our numbers, we have nine new students beginning in the fall from as many schools, which is four more than started last year! They will depart in style with a late-summer send-off party hosted by our committee. Here are our new students and their preparatory schools (drum roll...): Abigail Allen from Highland Park, Sydney Reyes Beattie from Great Rivers, Dolphin Church from Blake, Molly Eldevik from Benilde St. Margaret's, Julia Ing from the Math and Science Academy, Sarah Lillehei from Perpich Center for Arts Education, Oonagh McNally from Edina, Emily Powers from St. John's Preparatory School, and Kirthna Subash from Wayzata.

We're very happy to welcome two new members to our AAC group:

- Kristen Zoldan '06 lived in Talbot, studied in Hamburg, and majored in history and Germanic studies. She was previously heavily involved in the Los Angeles Smith Club, where she was communications chair and did recruiting, interviewing, and programming. After moving to North Carolina and completing a business degree, she moved to St. Paul and is now ready to jump back into being involved in *our* fortunate club!

- Mariquita Anderson '86 majored in chemistry and minored in applied mathematics. She completed a master's degree in inorganic chemistry at the University of Minnesota. She, too, has a long Smith Club resume, including president of the Richmond-Williamsburg Smith Club from 1992 to 2001 and serving as her class's social media chair for the past 20 years. Lucky us!

—Hayden Howland

A Marvelous Annual Meeting


—By Emily Beck and Gavi Levy Haskell

We had a great annual meeting this year at the Walker Center for the Arts in Minneapolis. The Skyline Room lived up to its name, and all enjoyed the beautiful views of the Walker's Sculpture Garden and the Minneapolis skyline. Eighty-seven Smithies and their guests attended, including several current students. The club thanked Paula Prahla '74 for her service as club president and Samantha Oestreich '05 for her stint on the AAC (Alumnae Admissions Coordinator) team, and voted in Justina Roberts '06 as the new president, Kate Lehmann '78 as continuing treasurer, and Kristen Zoldan '06 and Mariquita Anderson '86 as new AACs.

John Davis (photo at right), who is Alice Pratt Brown Professor of Art and Director of the Smithsonian Internship Program at Smith, gave a very engaging talk on the diaspora of American art from the Smith College Museum of Art in the early 20th century. He terms the loss of the art, much of which was purchased by founding Smith President Laureus Clark Seelye, "a massacre." We were fortunate to have in the audience Gavi Levy Haskell, a St. Paul native who just finished her four years at Smith and who took Professor Davis's spring 2015 seminar on this aspect of Smith's history. Gavi will be heading this fall to the Courtauld Institute of Art in London to pursue a master's in art history, and she offers a few words about his presentation here:

"Professor Davis spoke about the high points of the museum's collection—which was, at the turn of the century, nearly unrivaled in contemporary American art—as well as about its low points. (In the 1940s, an interim director of the museum sold much of the collection, buying with the proceeds furniture for the curators' offices.)

"He has already tracked down a number of the works Smith sold, and the college is buying one of them back, an Orientalist painting *Ramesseum at Thebes*. Though he can't say for sure whether the museum will purchase any others, he plans to reunite many of them for an exhibition at the Smith Museum and produce a book about the exhibition.

"My classmates and I in his seminar were especially fortunate to be able to take the class when we did, because Professor Davis will be directing Terra Foundation Europe, based in Paris, for the next three years. The Terra Foundation of American Art is, according to its website, 'dedicated to fostering exploration, understanding, and enjoyment of the visual arts of the United States for national and international audiences.'" 

NOTE: Two articles on the Smith website give details on Professor Davis's work: www.smith.edu/insight/stories/famesseum.php and www.smith.edu/insight/stories/davis/php.



Counterclockwise from left, all IDs left to right: Paula Prahla, Sheila Moar, Holly Churchward, and Nancy Malmon; Laurie Kramer, Ella Slade, and Mary Taylor; Kathy Ollivier and Peggy Smith; Stephanie Frost, Professor John Davis, and Helen Leslie (note beautiful Minneapolis skyline in the background).