
Hartford Smith College Club

Winter 2009 • Vol. III

Board Members 2009-2010

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BOOK AWARDS CHAIR

Heather Page '00

NEWSLETTER CHAIR

Anne Wettersten '92

President's Note

MICHELLE DOUCETTE CUNNINGHAM '88

In June, I was honored to be elected as President of the Hartford Smith College Club. I am very excited about this prospect, not because it was another entry to add to the "Community Service" section of my resumé, but rather because it allows me to connect with other amazing women. I've been thinking a lot about connections and networking these days. As part of my job as the Executive Director of a nonprofit organization, a good portion of my day is spent "connecting" with others. But how many of those connections go deeper than just the surface pleasantries or a discussion of weekend activities? Because I'm a goal-oriented person, I'll share with you that one of my personal goals this year is to connect with others in a more meaningful way, and be less afraid of sharing a little bit of my life with others. When someone asks, "How are you?" I'm going to try to answer with a couple of sentences rather than with just, "Fine. How are you?"

I would like to use this initial newsletter column to share a few organizational goals with you as well. The Executive Board met in September to set a few objectives for the coming year. We came up with the following: schedule at least six different types of activities that can appeal to a broad range of interests; hold a joint event with one of the other Connecticut Smith College Clubs, ideally with a Smith professor as a speaker; increase the number of book awards and recruiting events; increase paid memberships by 10%; and improve the Club website, including a Facebook link and an on-line payment capacity for membership dues and donations through Paypal. I'd like to add my personal goal to the list as well and connect with fellow alums in a more meaningful way, get to know you better, and help you get to know each other too. To that end, I want to encourage you to write, call, or e-mail me with your thoughts: What are your goals for the Hartford Smith College Club? How would you like to interact with other Hartford area Smith alums? How can club membership benefit you and how can the Club better meet your needs? I'd love to hear from you and together we can build these connections, both large and small.

Stay Connected to the Club!

Website: <http://alumnae.smith.edu/smithcms/hartford/>

Our website has a new look and a new home!

Please bookmark this new link today.

Facebook: **Smith College Club of Hartford**—

Please join our group online.

Upcoming Events

We have several events planned and in the works for this spring!

Please visit the website or join us on Facebook for details on future activities.

February “The Lives of Women Artists” – a free symposium at the Smith Museum of Art. Perhaps you’re interested in carpooling? Stay tuned for details.
Saturday, February 27th 2010

March College Luncheon, date to be determined.

April Join us for a lively discussion of *The Maytrees*. The discussion will be facilitated by The Reverend Dr. Jennifer Walters. West Hartford Public Library.
Tuesday, April 27th at 6pm

May A visit to the Florence Griswold Museum in Old Lyme.

June Our annual meeting this year will be held on June 11th.

Hartford Area Alumnae Spotlight

Gretchen Unfried



NAME: Gretchen Unfried

CLASS YEAR: 2001

HOUSE: Tyler House

MAJOR: Psychology

MINOR: Urban Studies

FAVORITE SMITH MEMORY: Coming into dinner at Tyler House after Field Hockey or Lacrosse practice was over and seeing my friends eating around the tables sharing stories of their day.

WHAT TOWN DO YOU CURRENTLY LIVE IN? Hartford, CT

WHAT DO YOU DO PROFESSIONALLY AND/OR WHAT ARE YOU INVOLVED WITH IN THE GREATER HARTFORD COMMUNITY?
I work at Achievement First Hartford Academy, an Achievement First charter school, in the north end of Hartford. We are in our second year and currently have grades K-2 and 5-6. We will continue to grow a grade each year until we are K-4 and 5-8. Our mission is that each of our scholars will graduate from college and we work towards this goal with a three-hour reading block, a longer school day and an extended school year.

I am also a board member of the West End Civic Association in Hartford.

WHAT HAS BEING INVOLVED IN THE CLUB MEANT TO YOU?
Smith was an invaluable part of my life and I enjoy being a part of the Smith College Hartford Club. I enjoy the Club’s gatherings as they allow me to reconnect with fellow Smithies and meet new ones.

We Have a Very Active Book Group!

The group normally meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from September through June at 6pm. Members take turns hosting the discussion meeting in their homes. You’re welcome to join us for one or all of these discussions, no membership required!

For more information, please contact Amy Magno at amy87@alumnae.smith.edu.

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| 11/17/09 | Any book by Malcolm Gladwell (<i>The Tipping Point, Blink, Outliers, etc.</i>) |
| 12/15/09 | No book, a social/holiday get together |
| 01/19/10 | <i>America, America</i> by Ethan Canin |
| 02/16/10 | <i>The Summer Before The Dark</i> by Doris Lessing |
| 03/16/10 | <i>The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society</i> by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows |
| 04/27/10 | <i>The Maytrees</i> by Annie Dillard — Smith Faculty Member to facilitate! |
| 05/18/10 | <i>Commencement: A Novel</i> by J. Courtney Sullivan |
| 06/15/10 | No book, choose books for upcoming year |

Admissions Alumnae Outreach

by Heather Page

It is often said that one of the most positive attributes of Smith is our network of alumnae. One mission of the Smith Club of Hartford is to assist the College's admissions office with recruitment of prospective students in the Club's geographic area. For the Hartford Smith Club, our area is comprised primarily of Hartford County, but also extends south to Middletown and Meriden, east to Vernon/Rockville and Tolland, and west to Colebrook. Our activities begin in the fall when alumnae attend college fairs at area high schools, and continue through the winter months when alumnae offer interviews to students who have applied to Smith. Activities peak in the spring when alumnae contact students who have been accepted for admission to Smith, and the Club gives Book Awards to high school juniors of exemplary merit at area high schools.

There are many opportunities for alumnae to spread the word about Smith with prospective students. The time commitment involved for an alumna can be as little or as much as one's schedule allows. Peak season for recruitment activities is October through February, although there are volunteer opportunities throughout the year.

Alumnae volunteers are always needed for various events:

- ❖ Contact students who have expressed an interest in attending Smith
- ❖ Attend College fairs at area high schools
- ❖ Meet with and interview applicants
- ❖ Contact newly admitted students
- ❖ Attend high school awards assemblies to present Smith Book Awards
- ❖ Keep in touch with current Smith students from the Club's geographic area

Alumnae interested in assisting with the Hartford Smith College Club's admissions program should contact:

Heather Page '00

Alumnae Admissions Coordinator
hpage9990@sbcglobal.net

Smith Alumnae gather to listen to Professor Mahnaz Mahdavi's talk entitled "The Roots of the Financial Crisis and its Impact on the Global Economy" at the most recent Annual Meeting.



HARTFORD SMITH COLLEGE CLUB
The Alumnae Association of Smith College
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