

Smith College Club of Colorado

~ Spring 2009 Newsletter ~

President's Letter ♦ Kirsten Steinke

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Upcoming Events:

- Regular Board Meeting, May 28
- Annual Meeting, June 24

Dear Smith Alumnae,

We've begun to feel the effects of the recession here in Colorado. In these tough times, I believe that the "old girls network" of Smith alumnae is more valuable than ever. Club events offer a great opportunity to meet and network with local Smithies. The college also offers a variety of resources for alumnae, including online career webinars and counseling from the Career Development Office. If you have an idea for a creative networking event, please contact me; we're interested in helping alumnae any way we can!

Since last fall we've had a great series of Club events. Sally Allen '62 and Sam Wagonfeld graciously hosted our holiday party at their home. Those who braved the weather were treated not only to a great chance to meet with fellow Colorado alumnae, but also received a fantastic tour of Sally and Sam's extensive collection of Inuit art. It was a treat.

You may know that Tanya Mathews, board member and treasurer extraordinaire, is also on the board of Opera Colorado. In February she arranged for several Opera Colorado ensemble artists to perform at the beautiful home of Jaren Ducker '60. I can personally say that their performance inspired a newfound appreciation for opera.

As a cold April wrapped up and spring came around the corner, we had an exciting event to honor an impressive local alumna and recent Smith Medal recipient. Penny Chenery '43, "The First Lady of Racing," is most known as the owner of Secretariat. Board member Jennifer Tredeaux '79 hosted a derby party at her home in Boulder. Penny is a truly amazing woman with an incredible biography; it was an inspiration to hear

her speak.

Enclosed you'll find an invitation for our Annual Meeting. We'll hear from Smith College professor Hélène Visetin, who will speak to Art and Politics in the French Renaissance. I hope to see you there.

We've heard from a few alumnae outside of the Denver-Boulder area who were hoping that we could have events closer to them. Because our board is based in Denver and most of our members are in the metro area, these events are tricky for us to coordinate. However, we are always happy to assist Club member outside of the Denver area with tools for reaching out to alumnae and coordinating local events. Please contact us and we can help you get started.

The majority of the Club's events come directly from ideas from our members. If you'd like to give a lecture on an area of your expertise, or if you're involved in a great nonprofit that needs volunteers, or have any other event suggestion please let us know; we'll be happy to explore it! We're also always interested to hear about our local members making headlines. Please share these news items with us so that we can include them in future newsletters.

Many thanks to our hard working board members and volunteers: Ann Crampton, Tanya Mathews, Danielle DiMauro, Anna Estes, Nora Hoskins Neureiter, Elizabeth Rohrbough, Donna Feldman, Brazee Smith, Emily Farrell, Laura Perry Barton, Elizabeth Mitchell, Ali Colby, Jennifer Tredeaux, Mary Hoagland, and Julie Bock.

Kirsten Steinke '06
President, Smith Club of Colorado
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Treasurer's Report ♦ Tanya Mathews

As of March 31, 2009 the Smith College Club of Colorado has \$5,438.32 in the bank. A portion of this money, \$1,844.38, is a committed gift to Smith College for scholarships to Colorado high school graduates attending Smith. These funds were raised from College for a Day and the sale of Enstrom's Toffee, as well as from additional contributions made by Club members.

As a reminder, the Club's fiscal year is July 1 to June 30. Therefore, the membership period is also July-June. For the July 2008-June 2009 fiscal year, Club members' dues payments and additional

contributions of support are down 17% from the year before. Thanks to all of you who have joined the Club and for your generous contributions. For those of you who haven't joined the Club, I encourage you to do so and to send your dues and any additional contributions to me. As a reminder, 100% of your dues payment and additional contributions are deductible for tax purposes and all proceeds directly fund events for the Club members as well as student scholarships.

Please mail your dues form and check to me at 3840 Wolff St., Denver, CO 80212. Feel free to contact me with

questions at 303-588-5453 or tanya.mathews@gmail.com.

Alumnae Sponsors

Thank you to the alumnae who made additional donations to support care packages to current students and our spring events (Opera Colorado, Derby Day with Penny Chenery, and Annual Meeting):

- Micky Berry
- Ann Crampton
- Maizy Myers
- Margaret Speckman
- Cathryn Stewart
- Mary Strizek

Admissions Report ♦ Brazee Smith

I am very proud to bring you the recruitment update for the 2008-2009 year. With the economy in decline, smaller private schools typically see a parallel decline in applications. This was the case for almost every major private college across the country, but Smith was one of the few exceptions. Not only did we see an increase in interest, but we had the highest number of applications ever! This is a true testament to the quality of the education Smith has been consistently providing to students over the years. Due to the large number of applications, the class of 2013 is the most selectively admitted class in the college's history.

Colorado and Wyoming experienced a bump in applications from our area. In total we had 30 applicants, the largest number of

applicants in at least 5 years. From that group, 12 women were admitted and one, Abigail Azari, has already accepted the offer. The remaining college acceptance decisions will be made in May.

Smith alumnae are critical for spreading the word about the college and encouraging young women to apply. Thanks to our alumnae we continue to produce such wonderful representation of the Rocky Mountain area. Please keep up the good work! A special thanks to Kim Tyson for opening her home and hosting an event for prospective and new students. Also a thank you to everyone who participated in alumnae interviews: Allison Ulmer, MK Sagaria, Shannon Berg Casini, Stephanie Urban, Tiphaine Bonetti, Wendy Bolger, Meredith Badler, and Anna Estes.

If you would like to help recruit the next generation of Smith students and interview applicants in the fall, please contact Emily Farrell at efarrell@yahoo.com or (303) 642-5237.

Annual Meeting with H el ene Visentin ♦ June 24, 2009

This year's annual meeting will be held at the home of Perry Butterfield '54 (2198 S. Jackson Street) and will feature H el ene Visentin, Associate Professor of French Studies. Her talk will be "Art and Politics in the French Renaissance: The King and the City."

H el ene Visentin, who has both Canadian and French citizenship, holds the title of Docteur de l'Universit e de Paris-Sorbonne (Paris IV) and specializes in 17th century literature, particularly theater history and the "arts du spectacle" in urban and courtly life.

She has published two critical editions: *La Descente d'Orph ee aux enfers* by Chapoton, and *Les Sosies* by Rotrou. She co-edited *L'Invraisemblance du pouvoir. Mises en sc ene de la souverainet e au XVIIe si ecle* as well as conference proceedings with Nicolas Russell entitled *French Ceremonial Entries in the Sixteenth Century: Event, Image, Text*. H el ene Visentin is involved in a research project on royal



entry ceremonies in the Renaissance, subsidized by the Council of Canada.

At Smith, she offers such courses as Advanced French Grammar, Business French, French Intellectuals, Theater as Genre, and Literature and Culture in early modern period.

WANTED: "College for a Day" Committee Member

Join Laura Barton '82 in representing Smith College on the College for a Day planning committee. College for a Day is a half-day educational event held on a Monday morning in mid-January and features three professors from the participating colleges (Seven Sisters plus other women's colleges).

The Committee meets six times annually—once in May and monthly from September through January, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Each representative on the Committee is responsible for one task (e.g., making arrangements with a caterer) and must attend the event.

Call or email Laura Barton for the details! Lpbarton@aol.com or (303) 771-9339.

Opera Colorado

On Sunday, February 8, 2009 more than 60 Smithies and their guests were warmly welcomed by Jaren '60 and Bruce Ducker into their Denver home for an afternoon of opera. Every decade of Smith alumnae from the 1940s to the 2000s joined to hear the performance, proving that the Smith Club's love of music is abundant and ageless.

Six talented young singers of Opera Colorado's Ensemble Artists Program performed highlights from the operatic and musical theatre repertoire. The Opera Colorado Ensemble Artists come to Denver from all corners of the U.S. for six months to study and perform at various venues throughout Colorado. Last year the Ensemble Artists entertained more than 25,000 people.

To the delight of the Smith Club audience, the pieces in the program were focused on the many strengths of women. Each piece was preceded by interesting, and often humorous, facts and background information. After the program, performers mingled with the crowd while Bruce Ducker tickled the ivories on his new Bechstein grand piano, with some performers giving impromptu performances to Bruce's accompaniment. It was a delightful end to a wonderful afternoon.

2008 Holiday Party

Sally Allen '62 and Dr. Sam Wagonfeld served as very gracious hosts of our annual holiday party on Sunday, December 14th in their friendly and spacious Cherry Creek North home. Approximately 50 people, including spouses and guests, joined to celebrate the season. Many contributed flavorful and eye-catching fare for our traditional potluck brunch.

Sally and Sam have been collecting Inuit (Eskimo) art of every description for many years. As an added treat, Sam spoke to the group about how they came to be interested in collecting Inuit art and their trips to Inuit communities, and highlighted many of their special treasures. We were welcome to view their extensive collection on all three floors

Sally was also extremely helpful in the planning and preparation of our holiday party. All in all, it made for a very special and memorable event. Our THANKS to both Sally and Sam; they even offered to do it again another year!



WANTED: Events Co-Chair

The Events Co-Chair will work with Jennifer Tredeaux '79 to drive event discussions, organize logistics, and facilitate communications with the board and alumnae. Board members are also typically very involved, from generating ideas to event-day clean-up. Some specific tasks shared by the co-chairs include:

- Maintain an ongoing list of events
- Coordinate and assign event-day tasks
- Promote and advertise events
- Track inventory of event supplies

Please contact Jennifer at jennifertrdx@yahoo.com.

Derby Day with Penny Chenery '43

On Sunday, April 26, 2009, just six days before the Kentucky Derby, the Smith Club met at the home of Jennifer Tredeaux '79 for an afternoon with the First Lady of Racing, Penny Chenery '43.

As the owner of Secretariat, considered by many to be the greatest racehorse in history, Penny Chenery spoke of how she came to be in the forefront of the racing world, how a woman is expected to act in that world, and how her years at Smith influenced her. She showed videos of the 1973 Triple Crown races won by Secretariat, and by the last race—the Belmont Stakes—everyone in the group was cheering as Secretariat set another record. Penny also gave her thoughts on this year's

races—who to watch and which horse might be a bit too tired.

Penny has been approached by Disney to make a film of her life story and Secretariat's races, with Julia Roberts potentially starring as Penny Chenery.



Board and Committee Members

CLUB OFFICERS

President:	Kirsten Steinke '06	klsteinke@gmail.com	303.489.7872
Vice President:	Emily Farrell '99	eefarrell@yahoo.com	303.642.5237
Treasurer:	Tanya Mathews '93	tanya.mathews@gmail.com	303.588.5453
Secretary:	Anna Estes '08	anna.estes3@gmail.com	307.399.9071
Past Presidents:	Nora Hoskins Neureiter '89	nrnlaw@aol.com	303.399.5981
	Ann Crampton '71	anncrampton@prodigy.net	303.503.9530
Board Member Emeritus:	Elizabeth Rohrbough '84	efrohrbough@hotmail.com	303.692.3914

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

NACC:	Brazee Smith '01	bsmith@amfam.com	303.587.1565
AAC:	Emily Farrell '99	eefarrell@yahoo.com	303.642.5237
College for a Day:	Laura Perry Barton '82	lpbarton@aol.com	303.771.9339
Events Coordinator:	Jennifer Tredeaux '79	jennifertrdx@yahoo.com	303.440.8274
Annual Meeting & Holiday Party:	Mary Hoagland '46	mthlaw@aol.com	303.355.6510

Join the Board!

We welcome anyone interested in serving on the Board of the Smith College Club of Colorado as a committee member, chair or officer. The only requirements are Club membership, commitment and enthusiasm!

The Next board meeting will be Wednesday, May 28 at 7 p.m. at the home of Nora Neureiter '89 (1901 Leyden Street, Denver).

Smith College Club of Colorado

c/o Kirsten Steinke
1880 Araphaoe Street, #2808
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PHONE:
303.489.7872

EMAIL:
smithclubco@gmail.com

Would you like to update the Smith Club on your recent accomplishments, travels, or anything else? Please email smithclubco@gmail.com.

Please note that the Smith Club of Colorado will contact you by mail and email using the personal contact information you provide to the Alumnae Association. In addition to this bi-annual newsletter, we also send out electronic invitations to all Club events. **If you are not receiving email from us, then the Alumnae Association does NOT have a personal email address on file for you.**

Please ensure that we can include you in all Club events by updating your information with the College:

(800) 526-2023

http://alumnae.smith.edu/tools/update_address.php

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