

THE ADA PROGRAM

www.smith.edu/ada

The Ada Comstock Scholars Program combines rigorous academic challenges at Smith with flexibility for women beyond the traditional college age. In the fall of 2004, approximately 200 Ada Comstock Scholars will be enrolled at Smith; the overall student population is more than 2500. The Adas are a remarkable and diverse group of women. They range in age from their 20's to their mid-60's; some are single, some are married. Most arrive having earned between 32 and 64 transferable college credits in liberal arts courses.

The program provides various options: reduced course loads, special academic advising, career counseling and diverse housing options. Financial aid for educational expenses is available to each woman with demonstrated need.

ADA COMSTOCK SCHOLARS

The office of the Ada Comstock Scholars is located with the other class deans in College Hall 4. If you have an academic concern or a personal issue and don't know where to turn, Erika Laquer and the class deans' staff will do their best to help solve it or will direct you to the appropriate person or office.

Erika Laquer, *Class Dean*

Erika directs the Ada Comstock Program and serves as class dean. Erika's main concern is the academic welfare of each member of the Ada class. As class dean, Erika provides counseling about academic matters; i.e. transfer credit, fulfilling course requirements, graduation status, and exceptions to academic rules. Students call on her when they need extensions on work and when they experience emergencies that impact their academic life. Another class dean can advise you when she is not available. A graduate of Bryn Mawr College, another women's college, Erika earned a Ph.D. in medieval history. She has taught at various colleges and done administrative work in different locales for many years.

Erika can be reached: College Hall 4, x4980
Monday through Friday, 8:30-4:30 pm
Summer hours: Mon – Fri, 8:00-4:00 pm

Appointments to see her can be scheduled by calling x4980. Erika holds drop-in hours every Wednesday from 1:30 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. and Friday from 11 a.m. until noon. Drop-in hours are on a first-come, first-served basis. Her e-mail address is elaquer@email.smith.edu

ADA COMSTOCK HOUSING COORDINATORS

- Serve as the liaison between her house and the college.
- Address problems that arise in the house.
- Bring resident concerns to the attention of the office of Residence Life.

If you have a problem in your house on campus, contact your house coordinator.

Students interested in serving in this paid position should contact the Associate Dean for Residence Life. Applications are solicited in March.

THE ADA COMSTOCK CLASS

Class Designation

Regardless of whether you are a first year Ada, sophomore, junior, or senior, you are a member of the Ada Comstock class.

- ◆ Class Designation is 'AC'
- ◆ Does not matter how many credits you have earned

Upon entering your final year at Smith, you have dual membership in the Ada Comstock class and the senior class.

- ◆ Class Designation becomes 'AC' plus the year of graduation (i.e., for seniors this year: AC '07)
- ◆ Important: put these letters after your name on all official college correspondence

Ada Comstock Class Constitution

Class Constitution was written in 1983.

- ◆ Revised several times, most recently in 2005.
- ◆ Copies available in Hopkins and by request from the Ada co-presidents.

Ada Class Meetings

- ◆ Held during the first month of each semester
- ◆ Meet your class officers
- ◆ Participate in discussions and votes pertaining to the Ada class
- ◆ You are strongly urged to attend these meetings. Meeting times are announced via email and posted on the Ada bulletin boards in Hopkins.

Ada Student Cabinet

- Elections for the Ada student cabinet are held each spring.
- Positions not filled are posted for fall elections, which are held at the required all-class meeting in September.
- All Adas can vote for their choices of cabinet members.
- The elected members represent you and your voice in the Smith community.

See the September issue of The Comstock Lode for a list of the 2006-07 Cabinet members. Job descriptions appear in the Ada Class Constitution. Please participate in student government. It benefits the Ada class, the whole Smith community, and you personally because you get involved.

SPECIAL ADA ACTIVITIES

Peer Adviser Program

This program was developed to assist entering Adas in their transition to life at Smith College and the Northampton area. The program is operated by current Adas who are paired with one or more Adas, providing the new students entering an opportunity to become connected to the Ada community before classes begin. Peer Advisers are available to answer questions ranging from logistical issues to basic academic concerns. During orientation, there is a lunch for everyone to meet.

Convocation

This event celebrates the start of a new year, the night before classes begin. Students compete for loudest and most outrageous presentation for the President and faculty.

Ada Picnic

A class sponsored event, which takes place shortly after classes begin in September. It's a fun get-together for Adas, partners, and their families.

Ada Luncheons, Pizza Lunches and Teas

Held every semester, lunches and teas are another way for Ada Comstock Scholars to meet each other. The Ada office subsidizes the cost of the Fall Luncheon for a wonderful meal together and a unique opportunity to meet other

Adas. If there is interest, a bus trip to New York City is another chance to have fun with other Adas.

Faculty Wine and Cheese Parties

This informal and unique social gathering held once each semester is an opportunity for Adas to become acquainted with their professors. Since Adas provide the food, it gives you a better chance to dazzle faculty and classmates with your culinary expertise!

Senior Celebration

This event is a very special tradition where Adas gather together to wish the seniors well and to celebrate their upcoming commencement. Senior Adas share their experiences or say whatever they may be feeling at that moment. Some seniors read from their "State of the Heart: Today I Feel" statements, which they completed during their initial orientation meeting to the Ada Program. It is a very moving event! Champagne, punch, and dessert are served. All non-seniors are highly encouraged to attend.

Illumination Night Celebration

This annual event occurs the night before commencement when the Smith campus is illuminated with Chinese lanterns. A celebration party is held honoring the Ada Comstock graduating seniors. This party is open to all Ada Comstock Scholars and their guests, and Ada alums.

Commencement Lunch

A lunch honoring the Ada graduates on the day of commencement. Graduating seniors, guests, and other Ada Comstock Scholars enjoy a delicious buffet brunch.