

the

Student-Athlete Advisory Committee
presents



PIONEER post

November 2009

Athlete Spotlight



Laurel Belton (San Bernadino, CA) is a junior Volleyball player. This Government major started playing volleyball in 5th grade when her best friend convinced her to join the team, one of the major reasons simply being that "it didn't conflict with soccer." Years later, Laurel still loves playing her sport. College volleyball became a reality for Belton in high school, when she realized that "it didn't matter what division I played at, I just wanted to play." Despite being truly dedicated to her sport and team, Laurel also enjoys using the rock wall, running 5K races, and competing in triathlons. Although far from sunny California, Laurel is proud to call herself a Pioneer and play the sport that she loves!

Coach's Corner

The Smith College volleyball team is made up of 12 players from all over the country. Coach Angela Mills from Columbus, Ohio is in her fourth season at Smith. In Columbus, she played volleyball, basketball, and lacrosse at a small all girls' high school. She has led the Smith volleyball team to 6 wins this year, and three post season appearances. We were able to catch up with Coach Mills earlier this week to talk about the season.

S: How is the season going?

AM: The season has been going well, but we've been plagued by injury, so a lot of people have been playing in new positions. For the last two weeks we have been playing very tenacious volleyball.

S: Why did you nominate Laurel as the highlighted athlete for this newsletter?

AM: Laurel was the AOW the first week of school. She has really matured this season and has been a real force offensively and defensively. She averages about 15 to 20 kills a game and is able to play all over the court.

S: Why did you get into coaching?

AM: When I started playing in college I really respected my coach. She inspired me, and made me realize that I could coach the sport that I loved.

S: How did you end up at Smith?

AM: After graduating from Amherst, I began coaching at Trinity College. I was commuting from Amherst every day to Hartford, it became too much, so I decided, with my husband to take some time off from coaching. I became the assistant coach at Amherst, and was then contacted by Lynn O. Bonnie May had just retired and Smith needed a new volleyball coach.

S: What is your favorite thing about coaching at Smith?

AM: I love that everyone is able to embrace new things. People are able to change, and to be a part of this change or even see this change happen is amazing.

Did You Know?

Smith Track & Field celebrates 30 years of being a varsity sport his year. The program was started in 1979 by Smith professor Peter





SAAC Update



SAAC kicked off it's 2nd Annual Canned Food Drive Competition on October 5, 2009! The competition pairs houses with campus departments and they compete amongst each other to see who can collect the most cans. In conjunction with this, the SAAC group flyers the Northampton community a week before Halloween and collects their own cans on Halloween night. Additionally, we received a \$200 donation from a local Northampton family. All cans and proceeds collected are donated to the Western Mass Food Bank. This year, over 500 pounds of food was collected. Forty individuals or 14 families will be able to benefit from our efforts. CONGRATULATIONS to this year's competition winners; Admissions Office for collecting the most cans and Comstock House for the most creative collection bin!

November Schedule

Squash vs Northeastern 10am	11/14
Basketball vs Albany* 2pm	11/15
Swimming & Diving vs Elms 7pm	11/17
Basketball vs Westfield State 7pm	11/18
Swimming & Diving vs Westfield State 1pm	11/21
Basketball vs Elms 6pm	11/24

*Denotes Game of the Week

ABOUT SAAC

The mission of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee is to enhance the total student-athlete experience by promoting opportunity for all student-athletes; protecting student-athlete welfare; and fostering a positive student-athlete image, while maintaining the tenants of the Division III philosophy.

Executive Board
saac@smith.edu

President: Megan Kiefer '10
(Basketball, Softball)

Vice President: Bethany Weiss '10 (Volleyball)

Co-Secretaries: Bryce Bludevich '11 (Soccer)

Treasurer: Lisa Marie Vuono '10 (Basketball)

NEWMAC Reps: Lily Seidman '11 (Swimming & Diving)
Phoebe Hopkins '12 (Field Hockey, Lacrosse)
Wilma Reyes '12 (Crew)
Jessica Welk '11 (Basketball)

Visit SAAC Online:
www.smith.edu/athletics/SAAC