

Smith's Impact on the World
A proposal from the Alumnae Association & the Career Development Office

Smith's graduates are integral to the impact that the college can have on the world. Smith alumnae play leading roles in their communities and in their professional lives that have a positive effect on others. Alumnae are ever eager to share their knowledge, contacts and experience with other Smith graduates and with students in an effort to extend the positive impact on them and on the world in general.

In at least two of the Roundtable Discussions held on campus this fall, faculty and staff members expressed interest in taking increased advantage of the expertise and good will of our alumnae. The Alumnae Association and the Career Development Office, as well as various departments across campus, have traditionally developed programs, networking opportunities, classroom projects, online interactions, etc. that connect alumnae with each other, with students and with the college for the benefit of all concerned. The success and popularity of existing programs and opportunities hints at the potential that exists for expanding our career-related programs which connect alumnae to each other, to students and to other appropriate resources.

The Alumnae Association and the Career Development Office propose to develop a coordinated effort beyond what either department can do now on its own. Expanded programs would include:

Alumnae Speakers Bureau: a resource of alumnae sorted by expertise who have expressed their willingness to serve as guest lecturers in classes or consultants to departments. In addition, these alumnae would be tapped to offer J-term classes focused on building skills necessary in the workplace.

Alumnae/Student Mentoring Program: a program to match students with alumnae in a professional field of interest to the student. Alumnae would be coached in working with students to provide insight and mentoring and the relationship would be monitored for success and effectiveness.

Alumnae Career Services Coordination: oversight of web-based resources, cultivated career coaches, alumnae job boards, and other resources and guidance for alumnae past five years out (The Career Development Office currently serves alumnae out five years or less).

The Alumnae Association and the Career Development Office propose the creation of these programs and the hiring of one and one-half FTEs to be shared by the departments. Sharing the staff resources would ensure the success of the program from an alumnae relations and event planning standpoint, as well as from the student services and career expertise side.

Studies prove that alumnae are most likely to support an institution that they are connected to in meaningful ways. Smith alumnae have expressed their desire to connect with students, and the college is eager to have students benefit from alumnae expertise. This shared program would achieve both goals and would ultimately benefit Smith.

We would be pleased to provide financial projections for this collaborative effort when appropriate.