



The Staff Council

Chronicle

News and more for the Smith College community

September 2005

The Faces of Our Student Help for Summer 2005

Our summer student workers are an essential and invaluable resource to this campus. They are Smith students and the sons and daughters of staff and faculty. For some it's their first job, while others are veterans. These young adults provide the extra support we need during the summer to ensure the smooth operation of all the departments to maintain the pristine condition of this campus. We couldn't do it without them!!!

"The Building and Residential Services Crew"



Top Picture: Carolyn Bach, Quan Spangler, Jenni Santos, Adam Greenburg, Ashley Burgielewicz, Ryan Hurley, Bernie LaFlam, Tina Siv, Amanda Burgielewicz, Charles Mosley, Miles Montgomery Butler, George deVeveges, Clem Pin

Bottom Pictures: Clem Pin, Dan Madsen, Ashley Warren, John Martinez, Brian Cocco, Tim Nye, Ryan Smola, Ashley Usher, Clarissa Chan.

Away on picture day: Dan Nye, Ethan Kellogg, Mike Skyepeck & Sarah Taylor

This summer, the Building Services and Residential summer student workers have resealed 260 student room floors, shampooed over a ½ million square feet of carpet and cleaned and re-waxed countless floors. These tasks require the moving of numerous pieces of furniture, classroom chairs, desks, etc. These workers have also washed walls, windows and woodwork as well as inventoried every student room for furnishings and conditions. We count on them to help us complete many other small projects. Without their help, many of these tasks would not get done. By Diane Benoit



“The Boys of Summer”

Brandon Owen, Spencer Kowitz, Samuel Averill, Steve McGrath & Mike Cole

A term synonymous with playing baseball, in this case, is used to describe this year's summer workers in the Grounds Department. For the first time in eight years, it's an all-male crew. While one worker is assigned to the athletic fields, the remaining four face the daunting task of keeping pace with the trimming around campus. Armed with their trimmers and hand mowers, they set out each morning in golf carts to designated areas around campus working through the oppressive heat of summer. This extremely valuable asset to the Grounds Dept. is sometimes overshadowed by the bigger operations, but is nevertheless important to the overall appearance of the campus. FYI, in the spring, three of the five can be found on the baseball diamonds of their local high schools. By Robert Dombkowski

“The Lock Shop Crew”

Rachel Braude & Colleen Heray

Rachel and Colleen package all the keys for the academic year which includes some 2,000 keys for on-campus housing and new keys for staff and faculty. Additionally, they spend all of May and June checking in keys from last academic year and organizing keys for Summer Programs. In May, they tour the campus inventorying and refilling key boxes in Head Resident suites. When they aren't working on these big projects, the girls work on recording all the keys that came in and out in the past five years. By Don Saltmarsh



“The Office Assistant Crew”

Allyson Greene & Anna Merrit

Allyson has been working at Physical Plant in the Customer Service area for two summers now. She assists with the general office requests of Customer Service & Building Services by answering phones, issuing work order requests and assisting with special projects.

Anna is working as a Web design assistant this summer at Physical Plant. She is updating and designing Web sites for Physical Plant, Building Services, Purchasing and Central Services. She is also working with the Sustainability Committee's "Green Team" in building their Web pages. Anna is a student at Williams College during the academic year. By Pam Kukucka & Karl Kowitz

“The Dining Services Help”

Ashley Zaikowski

Ashley Zaikowski has worked for us for two summers as a kitchen helper for the Smith Summer Science and Engineering Program (SSEP) and as a waitress during Commencement and Reunion II at the Smith College Club.

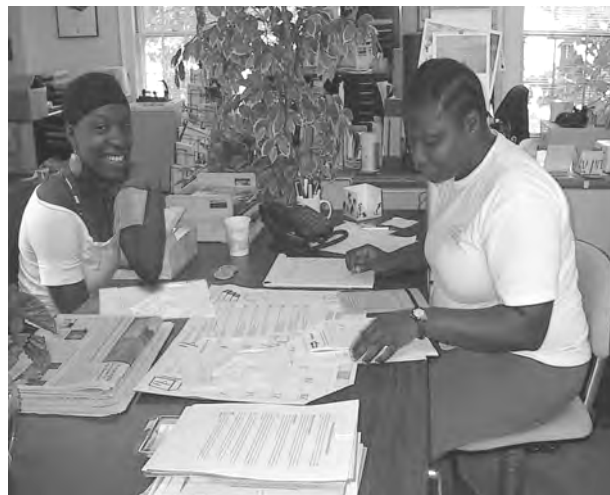
Ashley has been an invaluable help, working the early breakfast shift through the lunch shift, Monday-Friday, at SSEP. She does dishes during breakfast and lunch and helps with our "to go" lunches for field trips with SSEP students and with breaks and lunches that are catered at other locations on campus for SSEP. She also helps doing prep work in the kitchen under the supervision of the cooks for the salad bars and the meals. Ashley is a favorite with the SSEP students--she always has a kind and encouraging word for those who are far from home and miss their families, and the students love the music she listens to when she is doing dishes. Staff love Ashley because she brings a positive, can-do attitude to the workplace, and we just enjoy having her there working with us. By Ann Finley



“The College Relations Crew”
Sabrina Beason & Rolake Omoregie

Sabrina, Summer Programs assistant, was a pleasure to have working for me this summer. She has a pleasant personality and worked well with the directors, instructors and participants. She was responsible for maintaining the information packets that went out to some 3,000 residential and commuter participants. She also maintained the One-Card distribution and the keyboards for all 18 of the houses that the Summer Programs office used this summer.

Rolake, College Relations office assistant, was always ready with a smile and her beautiful personality. She went out of her way to assist the Summer Programs office by sorting the mail that streamed in daily for the residential programs. In addition, Rolake answered the phones for the entire office and took on any task given to her. By Diane Jacobs



“The Garden Crew”
Vanessa Pogve, Jen Byrnes, Pat Bohan,
Brian Krawczynski & Jeremy Santos

With all the weeding, pruning, planting, and maintaining of Smith's extensive garden beds, the help of this enthusiastic crew was indispensable this summer. By Beverly Byrnes

“The Center for Early Childhood Education Crew”
Molly Lieberman, Nell O'Rourke, Nikki Ambrosio
Katelyn Kennedy, Neile Golding & Meredith Golding

These students work at the Center for Early Childhood Education as assistant teachers. The program, located at Fort Hill on Lyman Road, is for children aged two months to five years. The students are regular members of the teaching teams as well as assisting with tasks associated with the office.

They are knowledgeable, and the children depend on them for guidance, support, direction and companionship. We appreciate their positive, respectful attitudes, flexibility and support for our program. By Martha Lees



“The Office of Admission Crew”
Amanda Belden, Tracy Kimball, Christine
Martin, Molly McCadden & Karen Penda

During the summer at the Office of Admission, these five Smith students assume responsibility for showing visitors and prospective students around campus, a task that during the academic year is split among some 80 volunteers. Between them, they share 22 tour hours each week. Rain or shine, you will see them everywhere on campus, passing along their enthusiasm and love of Smith. When they are not giving tours, they are in the office handling phone calls, mailings and a multitude of other tasks.

Research has shown that one of the most important factors for students choosing a college is the campus visit. During the summer, these five students are likely to be the only Smithies a visitor meets, and, therefore, they "become" Smith -- theirs' are the faces that will be remembered. While most of our visitors are wonderful, these guides have all encountered their share of difficult questions, rude behavior or challenging situations. They take them all in stride and never stop smiling. Each of them can describe the many times when, at the end of a tour, they've heard a prospective student declare, "Smith is now my first choice!" By Marcy Stralev



SUMMER PROGRAMS AT SMITH



Do you have an idea about what takes place at Smith over the summer? Yes, students are scattered about the world at their respective summer confines and the faculty presence is substantially reduced on campus. Despite their absence, a growing and diverse assortment of summer programs and events keeps the Smith staff--as well as the college's lecture halls, residences and performance spaces--fully occupied.

The past four summers have seen an increase in the number of programs and participants on campus. This year has been the busiest ever. By the time this summer ends, the Summer Programs office will have coordinated 29 summer programs accommodating more than 2,800 people residentially (not including students in the School for Social Work) and 300 commuters; 21 non-residential events lasting anywhere from one day to two weeks and generating total audience of 6,000 to 8,000 people. And let's not forget about three local high school graduation ceremonies.

The programs vary in content, length, objective and clientele. The season began in June with Smith's own Sam Rush directing ten weeks of the New Century Theatre and ran through August with the final program, Contemplative Pedagogy. More than 100 high-school girls came to Smith from around the world for the month-long Summer Science & Engineering Program, while professional managers visited for three sessions of Executive Education. Students performed recitals in Sage Hall, and acoustic guitar enthusiasts crowded in for Django in June Gypsy Jazz. There were three intense two-week sessions of Molecular Biology & PCR and eight weeks of The School of Body, Mind Centering. For the first time this summer, Smith's Alumnae Association brought to campus a Garden Symposium/Landscape Studies program. Meanwhile, we hosted nearly one hundred 11- to 17-year-olds who attended the School of Cinema and Performing Arts.

The list goes on: Smith provided set-ups for wedding receptions and quinseneros and supported the 30-year celebration for the Sunnyside Childcare facility. The Davis Ballroom was transformed into a luncheon space/hospitality suite for 400 members of the Science of the Soul Spiritual Retreat. Smith accommodated 40 autistic children for a week-long Summer Fun Days, enabled Japanese and Chinese students to learn English through the People Link program and provided John M. Greene Hall for a Democracy Now! Broadcast that was a part of the National Grassroots/Barn Raising Radio Conference.

A lot of work goes into preparing for the summer at Smith College: contract negotiations for housing and dining; producing cost projections; providing tours; and scheduling spaces in most of the academic buildings on campus.

As Summer Programs/College Events Coordinator, I act as the liaison between Physical Plant, Dining Services, Public Safety, Classroom Support, ITS, Athletics and the Campus Center. The success of Summer Programs depends on the support and hard work of these departments. I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to everyone who has made this summer and the past summers so successful. Because of their efforts, several programs have become annually recurring events at Smith.

Diane Jacobs
Summer Programs/College Events Coordinator, Office of College Relations





Looking Forward

From Pres. Carol T. Christ

As members of the Class of 2009 arrive at Smith and as the sophomores, juniors, and seniors return, my thoughts are on the new academic year. I always feel a special excitement when students arrive in the fall. They are full of anticipation of the year ahead, and their energy is contagious. It is deeply rewarding to contribute to the education, growth, and development of young women at so pivotal a time in their lives. The students are the reason that each one of us is here. Smith exists for them. As the year begins, I would like to thank each of you for the role you play in giving students the finest education we can provide. That education has many parts, extending from the classes students take to the house communities in which they live. Staff members play critical roles in every aspect of the work of the college, from running the laboratories and the libraries to keeping the physical spaces of the campus clean and beautiful.

Because the work you do is so critical to our mission, I particularly value the advice I get from Staff Council. It is the group that speaks for all of the staff, conveying concerns, questions, and suggestions. I encourage participation in Staff Council, and I urge managers to provide release time for Council responsibilities and activities.

I last met with Staff Council on August 12th, together with Ruth

Constantine, to discuss the search for the new Director of Human Resources. Ruth is chairing the search committee; its members include Professor Nancy Bradbury, Bill Brandt, Debbie Cottrell, Merrilyn Lewis, Jay Lucey, Maureen Mahoney, Rick Myers, and Georgia Yuan. Smith has retained the search firm Isaacson, Miller to help with the search. We have already run an ad in the Chronicle of Higher Education and we will proceed expeditiously with the search. We hope to have a new director in place by January, but we will not make an appointment until we find the person we all feel is right for Smith. When we invite the finalists to campus, staff will be invited to meet each of them at an open forum and the Staff Council will have an opportunity to interview the candidates and to give us their feedback.

When Ruth and I discussed the search with Staff Council, we asked its advice about the qualities we should seek in a new director. The conversation was helpful and extensive. Members of Staff Council wanted the new director to be a staff advocate and to understand the human in human resources; to be a strong communicator; to be straightforward, sincere, and approachable; to appreciate Smith culture and to have a strong interest in being here; to have sensitivity and experience in regard to union issues; to have experience with diversity and a commitment to it; to understand legal issues; to be a good negotiator on benefits costs and the like; and to have a sense of humor. Council members felt the following issues should be on the new director's agenda: opportunities for training and development, internal mobility, wellness programs, recognition of employee excellence, staff morale, and to review and clearly define policy.

I look forward to the opportunity that the search gives us for dialogue about staff priorities and concerns. I also encourage anyone with questions or advice about the search to contact Ruth Constantine or a member of the search committee directly.

From the Chair

I joke with people that the reason I was elected Chair of Staff Council was that I was late to the meeting when elections were held. This is true, but I must admit that I would have withdrawn my name if I felt I couldn't, in some way, help other staff members bring out the best in our campus community. Staff Council was formed to give members of the administrative, administrative support and service staff a focused and direct involvement in the governance of non-academic affairs and the life of the Smith College community. "Non-academic affairs" covers a lot of territory, and, to be honest, most of the staff that I know share a commitment to our students' education that transcends the classroom.



I'm sure I am not the only one who feels a sense of pride about Smith. I also believe that any organization, college business, etc. is only as good as the people who work there. It isn't the facilities, but the people who make it special.

So what exactly does the Chair of Staff Council do? I guess I'll find out in the coming year. In my capacity as Production Coordinator for Smith's Theatre Department and my secondary role as Producing Director for the New Century Theatre summer program, I help to facilitate communication between artists and individuals who are collaborating in pursuit of a collective vision. Sometimes that involves taking on the role of compass – pointing out true north as we have to make a course correction here and there. I also have to be a good listener. I hope that I can bring some of those skills to our shared work as a council.

Sam Rush

Staff Council is a rewarding and productive group that is changing the employment environment for all staff at Smith College. Please consider getting involved! Visit our Web site at www.smith.edu/staffcouncil

Upcoming Events



Mountain Day Staff Sundae Appreciation Event (announced by Pres. Christ)
Staff Council will whip out the ice cream scoops, toppings and bowls. Join in the fun!

Denim Day for Breast Cancer Awareness, Friday, October 7, 2005

Staff Council Activities Committee sponsors this event to honor Susan B. Komen by collecting donations to support this cause.



LUNAFEST, Saturday, November 12, 2005

An evening film festival sponsored by Luna Protein Bars.

New York City Bus Trips: Saturday, December 3, 2005, AND Saturday, April 29, 2006

Take a bite out of the Big Apple! Shop. See the sights. Visit a museum or two.

Cost: \$ 27 per person. To sign up, call ext. 2678 or e-mail: staffactivities@smith.edu

Upcoming Workshops: Wreath Making & Food Garnishes

Watch eDigest for the details!



LIFE AT SMITH From Patty Kimura

One early September day a number of years ago, a gentleman appeared in College Hall with his college-aged daughter. He was clearly a man who was used to being in charge and who was also, clearly, irate.

Storming up the stairs, he marched into the Class Dean office, his daughter in tow. He had been sent up from Central Check-In, and he was angry and clutching a folded letter in his hand.

Furious and with voice raised, he demanded to speak to the person in charge. He was obviously used to dealing with the person at the top. Staff popped out of offices to find out who was yelling. He said his daughter had been accepted to Smith but when they attempted to check-in; there was no record of her in the system. She had obviously been accepted, but she was on no list. Sputtering about incompetence and stupidity and angry that they had just driven in from Boston to this "two-bit" town, he demanded answers.

A Class Dean calmly stepped forward, apologized for the inconvenience and asked to see the letter he was waving in his hand. Reading the letter while he railed on, she could see that it was definitely the official letter of acceptance on college stationery. She folded the letter, looked up at the gentleman and said, "Yes sir, congratulations. Your daughter has clearly been accepted..." (A look of satisfaction crawled across his face as he muttered, "incompetence, incompetence.") The dean continued, "... to Wellesley College. I believe you missed your exit."

Without a word, the man turned on his heel, grabbed his daughter by the wrist, and like a sudden storm, blew out.

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Staff are encouraged to offer story ideas and/or writing services. Letters-to-the-editor are encouraged. Please include your name and campus address. The Staff Council Chronicle reserves the right to edit material for clarity and length. Forward submissions to the editors:

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What issues do you think
Staff Council
should be exploring
in the year ahead?

Send your comments to:
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