



The Staff Council

# Chronicle

News and more for the Smith College community

May 2005

## 2005 - 2006 Staff Council Members

Every member of Staff Council is committed to the group's mission of ensuring that staff has direct involvement in the governance of nonacademic affairs. So, do you have a concern? Share it with us! Is there a question that stumps you? Let us help find that answer! Want to get involved? Ask us how! Want to do something fun? We can get you going!

Back Row: Terrilyn Calloway, Joe Bialek

Middle Row: Laura Matta, Jinny Mason, Patty Kimura, Nancy Brady, Sue Beaumier, Adrienne Andrews

Front Row: Linda LaFlam, Steve Monteiro, Janice Cole



Back Row: Kathy Yarnell, Rick Rubin, Beverly Byrnes

Front Row: Laurie Wyman, Art Usher, Kim Perez

Paparazzi couldn't track 'em down on picture day: Cheryl Dellecese, Gayle Fitzgerald, Lou Ann Krawczynski, Karen LeHouiller, Janice McDowell, Patricia Rist, Sam Rush, Bill Sheehan, Xinh Spangler, Tara Zidonik



## *Accomplishments and Appreciations*

From Pres. Carol T Christ

As we end the year watching the class of 2005 join the alumnae in the Ivy Day parade, walk across the stage to get their diplomas, and pack their belongings in their family car -- perhaps for the last time -- we all reflect on the year's achievements. This year has been a good one. Last year's budget cuts are behind us, and we are on firm financial ground. We had a record number of applicants for the Class of 2009. On December 31, we reached the end of our comprehensive campaign, "This is About Smith," with almost \$400 million raised. Our students and faculty have won impressive national awards and fellowships.

The faculty has devoted this year to a comprehensive review of the curriculum, identifying distinctive strengths and opportunities, defining the capacities we want all students to acquire in their time at Smith. How can Smith best prepare them for life and work in this new century? We have agreed on some very basic answers: students should write well; students should have some facility in quantitative reasoning. A third answer correlates with Smith's distinctive mission in the coming decades. We should encourage our students to experience and understand cultures other than their own. We should encourage their engagement in science.

Science is the last frontier for women. Although women comprise 45% of the work force, they hold only 12% of the jobs in science and engineering. Many of you, I am sure, have followed the controversy attending the remarks the President of Harvard made about the small proportion of women in science. As a women's college with a strong history of science education and a pioneering new engineering program, Smith is in an excellent position to play a leadership role in increasing the presence of women in science.

At its May meeting the Board of Trustees approved the design of the science and engineering building that we will construct across Green Street, along Belmont Avenue. This building will be the most ambitious the campus has ever constructed, and it will represent the first physical expansion of the footprint of the campus in over fifty years. It will be a green building, not in color, but in the environmental sustainability of its design. It is critical for the success of Smith's aspirations.

Those aspirations are simple: to provide the best education in our power to the women who come here. It takes everyone at the college to provide that education. As I hear about the inspiring accomplishments of our students in the many celebrations that mark the graduation season, I think of the parts that all of you have played in contributing to the experience of our students, from the time they apply to the time they graduate. You all know the statement Hillary Clinton made famous: "It takes a village to raise a child." It takes a college to educate a student, and for your part in that work, I thank you.

## *From the Chair*

I've been thinking a lot about my past two years as Chair of Staff Council and about our staff community. And as the world blooms around us and we prepare for the Big Show on May 15<sup>th</sup>, I've pulled together a few thoughts, some my own, others not...but a collage of ways (and mixed metaphors) to live in our work world:



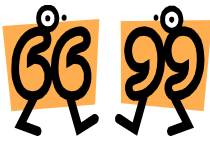
- Celebrate. Find ways to celebrate your life and the work you and others do.
- Never kick someone when they're down, even yourself. Focus on what went wrong and on how to stop it from happening again.
- Good managers and good leaders are like good gardeners: They plant seeds and nurture what grows.
- Be honest, let people know where they stand. It's the fair thing to do.
- Don't be held back by fear of failure. Your courage can be delicious and infectious.
- Work is just one part of your life. Don't forget the rest – it's what really counts.



As we move forward in our work at Smith, let's look for our own ways to nurture others, take risks, and celebrate.

And speaking of celebrations...we deserve to celebrate the remarkable job we do all year and especially for commencement and two reunions -- we make it look easy. So, mark your calendars for the annual Faculty-Staff Family picnic on Tuesday, June 21. I look forward to seeing you there!

Enjoy a relaxing and restorative summer, Merrilyn



## Staff Council Reps Speak Up

As Smith employees, we have access to an abundance of benefits and resources, including the very practical wisdom and experience of our peers. Share our insights and we all gain. With this in mind, those attending the May 5<sup>th</sup> staff council meeting were asked to share an insight, a 'best of...' or a resource. Their responses are as diverse as our community.

*What is your 'best of...' here on campus?*

- **College Lane** Adrienne Andrews loves the view across Paradise Pond as the seasons change.
- **Waterfall at Paradise Pond** Sue Beaumier is especially fond of the waterfall at the pond.
- **Campus Center Post Office** Nancy Brady appreciates the terrific folks who help put packages together and make sending anything easy.
- **Talented Women** Steve Monteiro shares his awe of the level of skills that the women on the staff possess.
- **Student Assistants** Kim Perez loves her student assistants! They help get the job done.
- **Dining Services** Rick Rubin recognized the Dining Service staff for shining during a challenging year of transition.
- **Fitness Center** Kathy Yarnell praises both the center and the staff who run it.
- **Lunch-time Workout Program** Chris Carr Hill appreciates the low cost and variety of programming.
- **Commencement Activities** Sabrina Marsh loves them! She and a colleague watch the festivities from atop one of the houses. She likes seeing the kids come into Smith through Admission and go out as graduates.
- **People** Dick Fish thinks the best thing about Smith is the people and the students. He ought to know because he began working at Smith campus in 1959.

*Do you have a favorite way to de-stress?*

- **Music** Laura Matta listens to music to relax. She finds Christmas carols in July to be the best medicine.
- **Aerobics** Marti Hobbes uses aerobics to de-stress. She tells us she loves it...well, not always, but it works.
- **Reading** Sandy Bycenski loves to tuck up in a corner and read, transporting herself from this life to another.
- **Walking** Joe Bialek walks to work, home for lunch, back to work, then home again...he could challenge Forrest Gump!
- **Visiting the Museum** Stacey Anasazi breaks away from her windowless office to stroll the Museum of Art galleries, relaxing in the peaceful presence of a Picasso and sharing brief conversations with security staff and visitors alike.
- **Home Improvements?!** Yup, home improvements! Jan Cole says there's nothin' like a little electrical work, carpet replacement or garbage disposal repair to reduce her stress level.



*Is there an employee benefit or resource that really works for you?*

- **Tuition Assistance Program** Art Usher and Beverly Byrnes (and her college-aged daughter) each express their gratitude for this fabulous employee benefit.
- **Information & Technology Services (ITS)** Jinny Mason sings the praises of ITS. Dial 4487 and they are there! Wonderful!
- **Fort Hill** Kim Perez is a fan and so are her kids!
- **Employee Assistance Program (EAP)** Merrilyn Lewis shares how the EAP connected her with very specific assistance for seemingly atypical needs related to caregiving for her aging mother and transgender issues (when her brother-in-law became her sister-in-law).
- **Smith Staff (times 3)** One, Patty Kimura views each employee as a tremendous resource. When she asks for help, Smith Staff never let her down, they help her help others. She believes Smith has remarkable staff. Two, Laurie Wyman praises the 'front line' of an office. Whether a secretary, receptionist or student assistant, if they don't know the answer, they find one! Three, Linda LaFlam makes a specific commendation for Cindy Rucci as a wealth of information. When she asks for help of any kind, Cindy is there!

*Have you experienced a Smith employee who has 'chinned-the-bar'?*

- Terrilyn Calloway shares a story of the three visiting professors for African studies. When one professor fell ill, the other two professors pitched in to teach her classes until she was well enough to return to teaching.
- Kim Allen shares her appreciation for Linda Rainville. Her customer service skills are great. Her kindness and optimism make the day-to-day wonderful!
- In turn, Linda acknowledged that the administrative staff are incredible and help her to do her job well.

### Upcoming Events

Tuesday, June 21, 10:00-11:00  
Friday, July 29 at Dusk



All Campus Picnic on the Athletic Fields (Ainsworth, if it's raining)  
Outdoor Movie Night on Burton Lawn: Dreamworks 'Shark Tales'  
Sno-cones and Popcorn will be served!



For more info on the above events, visit: <http://www.smith.edu/staffcouncil/events.php>

## 2005 – 2006 Staff Council

NAME	CAMPUS ADDRESS	PHONE	EMAIL **
Andrews, Adrienne	Ombudsperson, 8 College Lane	3358	aandrews
Beaumier, Suzanne	Clark Science Ctr., Burton Hall 115	3806	sbeaumie
Bialek, Joseph	Preparations, Neilson Library	2927	jbialek
Brady, Nancy	Campus School, Gill Hall	3270	nbrady
Byrnes, Beverly	Housekeeping, Physical Plant	2400	bbyrnes
Calloway, Terrilyn	Afro-American Studies, Wright Hall	3572	tcallowa
Cole, Janice	Controller's Office, College Hall 5	2228	jcoble
Dellecese, Cheryl	Alumnae Assoc., Alumnae House	2018	cdellece
Fitzgerald, Gayle	Custodian, Physical Plant	2400	gfitzger
Kimura, Patty *	Human Resources, 30 Belmont	2288	pkimura
Krawczynski, Lou Ann	Advancement, Alumnae House	2678	lkrawczy
LaFlam, Linda	Residential Ops., Physical Plant	2400	llaflam
LeHouillier, Karen	ITS, Stoddard Hall	4487	klehouil
Mason, Jinny	Sophia Smith Collection & Neilson Lib.	2978	jmason
Matta, Laura	Admissions, 7 College Lane	2512	lmatta
McDowell, Janice	Human Resources, 30 Belmont Ave	2271	jmcdowel
Monteiro, Steve *	President's House	4291	smonteir
Perez, Kim	Class Deans Office, College Hall 23	4910	kperez
Rist, Patricia	Dance Dept., Berenson 1	3232	prist
Rubin, Rick	Dining Services, 30 Belmont Ave	2318	rrubin
Rush, Sam	Theatre Dept., Theatre T111	3249	srush
Sheehan, William	Controller's Office, College Hall 5	2222	wsheehan
Spangler, Xinh	Business Op. Asst., Physical Plant	2415	xspangle
Usher, Art	Custodian, Physical Plant	2400	ausher
Wyman, Laurie	School for Social Work, Lilly Hall	7974	lwyman
Yarnell, Kathy	Campus School, Gill Hall	3271	kyarnell
Zidonik, Tara	Circulation, Neilson Library	4162	tzidonik

\* Pres. Appt.

\*\* @smith.edu

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 website at [www.smith.edu/staffcouncil](http://www.smith.edu/staffcouncil)

The Staff Council Chronicle is funded by the Smith College Staff Council and is published several times a year by and for Smith College staff. It is distributed to staff and posted on the Web at: [www.smith.edu/staffcouncil](http://www.smith.edu/staffcouncil).

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 editor:

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