



The Staff Council Chronicle

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PASS AROUND—SAVES PAPER!



An Ever-So-Brief Update for the Smith College Community

September 2008

the Fall leaflet



Welcome Back!



RICK RUBIN
Chair, Staff Council

I often have to take a reality check around the end of August because I can't quite understand why friends and family with jobs outside of Smith aren't as excited and anxious as I am. For them, September has no special meaning. It's just another month of working, no different than November or June.

But for those of us who work at Smith, September can mark a month of new beginnings as fresh faces burst on the scene; faces of hope, excitement, fear, and anticipation. It reminds me of my years in school when

every September brought new people and experiences.

That's why I feel lucky to work at Smith, a chance every year to re-experience that invigorating energy that comes when students return to campus. Their optimistic attitude is contagious and reminds me that this is a time to experience new opportunities, to take on new challenges, and to make a new start ... to do better. I encourage you to tap into the energy that each school year brings and use it to take on the daily challenges we all face. ♦

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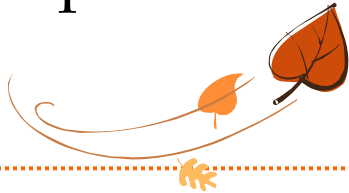


READ THE STAFF
COUNCIL CHRONICLE
ONLINE IN COLOR:
[www.smith.edu/
staffcouncil](http://www.smith.edu/staffcouncil)



Staff Council Updates

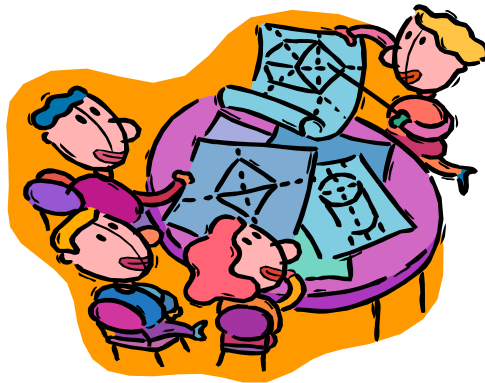
Subcommittee Reports



COMMUNICATIONS Committee

The Communications Committee continues to seek ways to foster campus-wide communication, which helps to include all staff members and strengthen our sense of community. The committee is looking for ways to work with current technologies to make sure that we are enhancing—rather than limiting—our avenues of communication in contacting staff that do not have access to a computer. Another goal for the committee is to create a liaison list as another form of communication for when there are activities and other important changes/events on campus that affect staff.

— Karen LeHouiller
klehouil@smith.edu



NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS Committee

During the 2007-2008 term, Staff Council experienced several resignations. Because of this, the Nominations Committee will be in communication with Staff Council members to make sure they realize the importance of attending meetings and that they can make a difference at Smith College. The committee also wants to make sure that supervisors are aware of the Excused Time policy for staff who attend Staff Council meetings.

— Sandy Bycenski
sbycensk@smith.edu

PERSONNEL POLICY Committee (PPC)

Personnel Policy Committee alternates monthly meetings between a committee meeting and a meeting with Director of Human Resources Larry Hunt. At both meetings we discuss issues and concerns that are brought to our attention or policies that we think need to be revisited. This year we expect to discuss wellness for an aging work force and the “green” movement at Smith, including how staff can benefit from and help Smith be a better steward of natural resources. Other issues will be addressed as needed. You can contact any member of the PPC to get your concerns or questions brought to the committee.

— Jinny Mason
jmason@smith.edu



STEERING Committee

The Steering Committee is responsible for meeting to discuss issues and concerns brought forward by individual staff members. We also ensure that these issues are brought to and discussed with administrators and committees. Information is gathered from various segments of the college community for discussion at Staff Council meetings. This year’s Steering Committee looks forward to working on several new projects that will benefit all staff.

— Rick Rubin
rrubin@smith.edu



staff art gallery

www.smith.edu/staffcouncil/08

This summer we at the *Chronicle* were proud to debut the online Smith Staff Art Gallery! This gallery not only showcases the artistic talents (and achievements) of Smith Staff, but it also helps us see each other in a new light, to understand that—regardless of our roles here at the college—we are people with many other abilities and dimensions. The gallery is ongoing, so new work is always welcome. Submit digital photos or images of your artwork to Chris Gentes at cgentes@smith.edu.

write on!

We are also interested in developing a writers’ “gallery” as well, showcasing the poetry, fiction, and essay talents of Smith staff. To submit your work, please e-mail Ken Molnar at staffchronicle@smith.edu.

DIVERSITY Committee

“Opening the Door to Class”

This year the Diversity Committee will focus on promoting awareness and dialogue around the issue of classism. Although, as a society, we are more aware of issues such as racism, sexism, and homophobia, issues of class and classism remain difficult to talk about. In addition to the complexities of class and classism, what also makes the conversation difficult is the lack of an established vocabulary for class issues.

We are partnering with Human Resources and Institutional Diversity to present two thought-provoking workshops this fall, each with a slightly different focus, to explore how position, rank, and grade at Smith, as well as our individual class backgrounds, play out and influence our work and work relationships. Different experiences give us different strengths and limitations as well as assumptions and expectations. As we learn about each other’s class stories and delve into hidden class dynamics, we hope to create more trust and the ability to deal more effectively with the dilemmas and challenges we face at work and in our lives. Space is limited, so please register soon at www.smith.edu/hr/hrdev_catalog.php

Our facilitator is Felice Yeskel, one of the founders of Class Action, a local nonprofit group that was recently recognized by the American Psychological Association for its groundbreaking work on classism.

– Abida Adnan

aadnan@smith.edu

Upcoming Class Workshops:

Opening Up Dialogue I: Exploring Class Dynamics Among Staff at Smith
Thurs., October 30, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.
Alumnae House Living Room
Lunch provided for the first 20 participants

Opening Up Dialogue II: Talking Across the Staff/Faculty Divide
Thurs. November 20, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.
Neilson Browsing Room
Lunch provided for the first 20 participants

ACTIVITIES Committee

There is a lot to look forward to this fall from the Activities Committee. We have a super group of staff, working together to plan a range of events both on- and off-campus. New members are always welcome. In fact, a number of our committee members are not actually on Staff Council. Check out our meeting schedule on the Staff Council Web site and watch for further details on the upcoming events in the sidebar to the right. Hope to see you at some or all of our events!

– Sabrina Marsh
smarsh@smith.edu



Fall Fit 5-K
September 21, 1 p.m.
Road race and fun-run/walk.
www.smith.edu/athletics/fit5k

Wet Your Whistle Wednesdays
Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m.
September 10, October 8,
November 12, December 10.
Snacks and cash bar.
Campus Center Pub, lower level.

Dog Daze of Smith College
Saturday, September 27, 1-5 p.m.
No dog necessary to attend.
Prizes for pooches and treats for humans too! Davis Lawn.

Mountain Day Celebration
(Carol Christ to announce date)
Free pie and Staff Council-scooped ice cream for all staff.
Just outside Pierce Hall.

“Standards of Care,” A Play
Thu-Fri, October 2-3, 8 p.m. \$5
Written/directed by our own Toby Davis, come see the local premiere of a play about the realities of the transgendered community.
TV Studio, Mendenhall.

Culinary Institute of America Trip
Saturday, November 22
Bus trip, includes tour and lunch.

Third Annual Holiday Hoopla and Cookie Contest
Thu, December 4, 12-1:30 p.m.
Food, entertainment and fun.
Campus Center Carroll Room.

New York City Bus Trip
Saturday, December 6
Watch e-Digest for details.

More event details to come. Visit e-Digest & the Staff Council Web site: www.smith.edu/staffcouncil

The New 2008-09 Staff Council Roster

Those Who Help Make It All Fall Into Place



NAME	DEPARTMENT	EXT	E-MAIL@ SMITH.EDU	TERM OF OFFICE	COMMITTEE(S)
Adnan, Abida	HR	2268	aadnan	2008-10 (1)	Diversity
Bielunis, Peg	Alumnae Assoc	2015	pbieluni	2007-09 (2)	Activities
Bycenski, Sandy	ITS	4487	sbycensk	2006-09 (2)	Nominations
Cole, Jan	Controllor's	2228	jcole	2008-10 (1)	Personnel Policy
Davis, Toby	SSW	7967	tdavis2	2007-09 (2)	Diversity
Fagan, Sharon	Student Affairs	4950	sfagan	2008-10 (1)	Diversity
Garcia, Barbara	Admission	2523	bgarcia	2008-10 (1)	Diversity
Gentes, Chris	Central Services	2600	cgentes	2006-09 (2)	Nominations
Guidotti, Alicia	Theatre	3204	aguidott	2006-09 (2)	Personnel Policy/Nominations
LaBarge, Karin	Advancement	2690	klabarge	2007-09 (2)	Activities
Lagier, Christian	Science Center	3802	clagier	N/A	Personnel Policy/Steering
LeHouillier, Karen	ITS	4487	klehouil	2008-10 (1)	Communications
Lumbra, Pattie	SSW	7965	plumbra	2007-09 (2)	Nominations
Mailler, Trish	Neilson Library	2926	pmailler	2006-09 (2)	Personnel Policy
McGuire, Sara	Campus Center	2639	smcguire	2007-09 (2)	Activities
Messier, Kathryn	Admission	2513	kmessier	2006-09 (2)	Personnel Policy
Molnar, Ken	College Relations	3098	kmolnar	N/A	Communications
Morin, Scott	Controllor's	2226	samorin	2008-10 (1)	Activities
Mosley, Kathleen	Inst. Diversity	2142	kmosley	2008-10 (1)	Activities
Pliska, Barbara	ITS	2615	bpliska	2007-09 (2)	Communications
Rouleau, Louise	Physical Plant	2400	lrouleau	2008-10 (1)	Personnel Policy
Rubin, Rick	Dining Services	2318	rrubin	2007-09 (2)	Steering
Silver, Jenny	Human Resources	2288	jsilver	N/A	Diversity, Steering
Tosca, Angela	Advancement	2683	atosca	2008-10 (1)	Communications
Usher, Art	Physical Plant	2400	ausher	2007-09 (2)	Communications
Washut, Becca	Alumnae Assoc	4405	rwashut	2007-09 (2)	Communications/ Activities
Yarnell, Kathy	Campus School	3271	kyarnell	2007-09 (2)	Personnel Policy
Zaikowski, John	Physical Plant	2400	jzaikows	2006-09 (2)	Nominations



COMMENTS? QUESTIONS? Write to us at our new e-mail address: staffchronicle@smith.edu!

Deliver this issue to:



The Staff Council
Chronicle

September 2008

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 all staff in hard-copy format and is also available on the Web at www.smith.edu/staffcouncil.

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Staff Council encourages submission of articles for publication in The Staff Council Chronicle. Staff Council and editorial staff reserve the right to edit submitted material for purposes of clarity or length.

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Many thanks to all who helped and contributed to the Chronicle!