Spring brings warmer weather, employee recognition, and Staff Council elections

As we near the end of the academic year, there are great things happening with Staff Council.

For starters, we’re accepting nominations for our next election. Members of Staff Council serve two-year terms and sit on one or more of our committees: Activities, Communications, Diversity, Membership and Recruitment, and Personnel Policy. For more information on the nomination and election process, check out the sidebar on the last page of this issue of the Chronicle.

Joining Staff Council is a great way to meet colleagues across campus and to make a difference in the lives of staff. For instance, we heard you loud and clear when you said you wanted a staff listserv, so we worked to make it happen! If you or your coworkers haven’t signed up yet, you can do so by following the instructions in the blue box on the bottom corner of this page.

We’re also happy to share information about the library resources available to staff (page 2), celebrate the accolades awarded on Rally Day to staff members Dennis Seymour and Monica Ginanneschi (page 3), and invite you to our new Staff Schmooze events (page 3). We hope you enjoy this issue of the Chronicle and a much-awaited spring.

Where am I?

Can you identify this spot on the Smith campus?

Let us know at chronicle@smith.edu. We’ll reveal the answer and a winner (randomly chosen from all correct responses) on our virtual bulletin board by April 15.

Congratulations to all who knew that our Fall Where Am I? photo was taken in the Office of Admission.

Join the staff listserv!

This fall, Staff Council launched a new listserv to better communicate with and serve staff members at Smith. Here’s how to sign up to get important updates and news via email:

- Visit groups.google.com/a/smith.edu/d/forum/smith-college-staff-council-u
- Click the blue "Join Group" button
- Choose your email preferences, then click "Join Group"

That’s it! You’re now signed up for the staff listserv.
Libraries in Paradise

While the Smith libraries’ main mission is to support teaching and research, they also offer a variety of materials for off-hours leisure time, including DVDs of recent feature films and popular mini-series (Breaking Bad, Game of Thrones, Downton Abbey, Sherlock, etc.).

The libraries also offer ever-expanding virtual collections. From home (with your Smith login and password), you can stream audio and video, watch the Met Opera on Demand in your jammies, and get last-minute full-text articles or view an online atlas for a teen’s homework emergency.

The Smith libraries home page (smith.edu/libraries) offers an array of links to library information, services, and physical and virtual collections. Services that staff members are welcome to use include:

- Ask a Librarian (chat, text, email, phone, or in person);
- Request item (for delivery of Five College books, DVD, and other circulating materials to Smith);
- Interlibrary loan (for delivery of books and articles from beyond the Five Colleges);
- Suggest a purchase (if you identify a book or DVD you hope the library will buy).

Smith also boasts four libraries—each with its own focus and atmosphere—which staff are welcome to visit:

**Neilson Library** is the main library in the heart of campus. It features vast collections of books, journals, and magazines in the humanities and social sciences. Leisure collections of special interest include:

- Burack Collection (leisure reading): Level 1 Core
- Travel guides: Level 1 Core
- DVDs, including recent feature films, mini-series, etc.: Level 2
- Current magazines and newspapers: Friends Reading (Level 1) and Collacott Rooms (Level 2)

**Hillyer Art Library** is across the atrium from the Museum of Art. It focuses on the arts, art history, and photography; it houses a distinguished collection in a beautiful setting.

**Young Science Library**, in Bass Hall, encompasses the physical sciences, life sciences, engineering, and psychology. It has cookbooks and maps too!

**Josten Performing Arts Library**, in the Mendenhall Center, offers music, theatre, and dance materials: books, CDs, DVDs, scores, playscripts, ukuleles, and more.

If you’re viewing this version of the Chronicle on a computer, you can also click these links for more resources:

- Streaming sources, including Met Opera on Demand and Kanopy
- Online encyclopedias and foreign language dictionaries
- Online maps and atlases
- Full-text articles, from news and opinion to scholarly

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Library Resources

Smith’s DVD collection is available to browse in Neilson Library on Level 2 (the north wing, adjacent to the Spinelli Center). Staff can also browse the video selection online at tiny.cc/SmithDVDs.

**Kanopy** offers a broad selection of over 26,000 streaming films, documentaries and training videos from 800 producers, with additional new releases launched daily. The films can be viewed from anywhere, anytime, by all Smith faculty, staff, and students. Visit ly.smith.edu/ef/dbkanopy/ to learn more.

If archival materials or rare books stir your passions, check out the fabulous special collections in the College Archives, Mortimer Rare Book Room, and Sophia Smith Collection, where you can view the original drafts of Sylvia Plath’s poems, read student letters and diaries from the late 19th century onward, consult Gloria Steinem’s papers, or view a 1629 book on kitchen gardens.
**Did you know?**

**YOU CAN JOIN NAYP**

Smith College is a corporate sponsor of the Northampton Area Young Professionals (NAYP). As such, the college gets eight free spots at the group’s monthly networking socials. To attend an NAYP event for free, show up and tell NAYP staffers that you work at Smith College; as long as you are one of the first eight Smith employees, your entry fee will be waived. Visit [the-nayp.com](http://the-nayp.com) to learn about upcoming events.

**BONUS: PERFECT ATTENDANCE**

To recognize and reward non-exempt/administrative support staff with exemplary attendance records, the college provides a special “perfect attendance” bonus. Non-exempt administrative support staff who complete the fiscal year with perfect attendance will be credited with two days of additional personal time to be used in the following fiscal year. For more details, visit [smith.edu/hr/handbook_502.php](http://smith.edu/hr/handbook_502.php).

**CHILDBIRTH CLASSES COVERED**

As of January 2015, childbirth classes are a benefit covered by Harvard Pilgrim Health Care.

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**Staff honored for contributions to students**

On February 18—amidst a cheering Rally Day crowd of hundreds—two standout Smith staff members were honored for their impact on Smith students.

Chef Dennis Seymour and Associate Director of the Florence Junior Year Abroad Program Monica Ginanneschi were the recipients of the 2015 Elizabeth B. Wyandt Gavel Awards, presented by Vy Nguyen ’15, vice president of the Student Government Association.

Seymour has been a member of the Smith community for 33 years and was recognized by his nominators for his “kindness and dedication throughout dining changes.” Of particular note was the recent shift in the Morrow/Wilson Houses to a vegan/vegetarian dining hall. Nguyen shared a quote from a fellow Smithie who said, “He makes a damn good omelet,” which caused the audience to erupt in laughter.

Known as a “warm-hearted and kind person who brings love and life to the food he makes,” Seymour’s joy at receiving the award was evident as he took to the stage and proudly held the gavel in the air by way of thanks.

Ginanneschi, who has been working for Smith for 31 years, was unable to attend Rally Day due to travel, but that did not dilute the applause when her name was announced as the second recipient of the 2015 Gavel Award. Students lauded her for having solutions to any issues students have while studying in Florence. From finding housing to treating homesickness, Ginanneschi ensures each Smithie is at ease in her home away from home for the semester. Nguyen said, “she takes all Smith students’ best interests to heart,” and even if a task is seemingly impossible, Ginanneschi “will be found smiling the entire time.” Ginanneschi also won the Gavel Award in 2003.

Two faculty members—Dominique Thiébaut, professor of computer science, and Sarah Moore, assistant professor of engineering — were presented with teaching awards at Rally Day.

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**Join colleagues for mingling, snacks, and useful info at our first-ever Staff Schmooze, March 18**

Staff Council has scheduled its first-ever “Staff Schmooze” for Wednesday, March 18, 2015, from noon to 1 p.m. in the Neilson Browsing Room. The event will allow colleagues from across campus to get to know one another in an informal setting over a brown-bag lunch (drinks and snacks provided). There will also be opportunities to bring your questions and comments to Staff Council members, and a presentation from library staff to inform Smith employees about the ways in which they can access library resources (see page 2 for more details on some library perks for staff).

Staff Schmooze events will be held seasonally and feature different guest presenters and topics. Our summer Staff Schmooze will be held on July 15, 2015, so save the date!
From the archives: Frigid weather drives Smith community crazy

In 1891, Smith students took competition to an extreme level as they battled one another in a major snowball fight on Paradise Pond. Spurred on by a gymnastics instructor, first- and second-year students battled over a fort built on the pond. The students created such a ruckus that faculty and townspeople came to watch. The night before the battle, a hard freeze turned the ready-made snowballs into “cannonballs, with unpleasant effect,” as noted (years later) by a student who was a first-year during the snowball fight.

The event was reported in the National Police Gazette.

President Seelye, unhappy with the fight, reprimanded the women in Chapel exercises the next day. The fate of the gymnastics instructor is not known.

Staff Council to elect new members

Staff Council is actively seeking nominations for its upcoming election.

Members of Staff Council serve two-year terms and sit on one or more of its committees. Most members spend between one and three hours each month on Staff Council business.

Sid Dalby, associate director in the Office of Admission, says, “I was touched when somebody nominated me to run for Staff Council and I was very pleased to be elected. I’ve worked at Smith for over 30 years…. Serving on Staff Council offers me the opportunity to give back.”

A number of Staff Council members join to make connections with staff members outside their own departments. For instance, Anna Gohlke of Student Affairs says that she ran for Staff Council because she “wanted to meet people from across campus.”

Staff Council nominations are due no later than Friday, March 27. To nominate yourself or a colleague, visit tiny.cc/staffcouncilnoms.

Elections will begin with a kick-off event on April 27, where staff can visit the Campus Center to vote and enjoy refreshments. Voting will continue online through April 29. More details about voting will be publicized via the staff listserv and eDigest.