

June 2018

Class Deans Office
Smith College
Northampton, Massachusetts 01063
Tel. (413) 585-4915 Fax (413) 585-4908

Dear Member of the Class of 2022,

Congratulations on your decision to join the Smith College community.

Welcome! As the Dean of the First-Year Class, I look forward to meeting you in the fall. I serve as your class dean, which means that I am responsible for overseeing the academic progress of all entering new first year students.

Academic life at Smith College revolves around the commitment by students, faculty and the administration to an excellent liberal arts education. In general, you will find any combination of courses totaling 16-18 credits—the “normal load”—to be an exhilarating intellectual experience. You will also find that it is a major leap from high school in terms of the work, organization and discipline required, so be prepared!

When you arrive at Smith you will be assigned a liberal arts adviser (LAA). During orientation you will meet your adviser in order to discuss the courses you may have chosen during the trial registration process, and to get suggestions about courses you may not have considered. Advising is central to my role as your class dean, so I am also available to you for academic advice as well however your liberal arts adviser is essential to your academic success. You will want to get to know them. Often they can be your first step toward academic support and help.

On our “For New Students” website you will find a link to our *Making the Most of Smith* booklet. This is a guide to your preparation for living within the Smith community—academically, residentially and socially. Read it! By working your way through *Making the Most of Smith*, you will begin your transition to college. Seriously, read it; the information in *Making the Most of Smith* may prove invaluable.

Be sure to look at the on-line catalog and websites for the various academic programs paying special attention to the parts of *Making the Most of Smith* entitled, “Advising and Curriculum,” and the “Curricular Planning Worksheet.” The “Advising and Curriculum” section of *Making the Most of Smith* can help you find introductory courses in fields that interest you.

From July 18th through July 24th you can indicate your academic interests during our trial registration period. Using the “Curricular Planning Worksheet” you can start to plan your first year’s course work. By the time you arrive on campus your ideas may change however, and in meeting with your liberal arts adviser and by using this planning tool, the goal is for you to find a schedule of classes to get your first semester off to great start. We will send you more information about trial registration as the date approaches. Remember, you must take a Writing Intensive (WI) course in your first-year at Smith and I strongly encourage you to consider taking a First Year Seminar (FYS).

Your central resource for academic information is the *Smith College Course Catalog*. The *Catalog* includes information about the organization of the curriculum, defines the Liberal Arts, explains Smith’s “Academic Rules and Procedures,” and offers descriptions and requirements for all majors, minors and concentrations. For specific courses held in Fall 2018, see the *Schedule of Classes* at the Registrar’s website: <https://www.smith.edu/about-smith/registrar/>.

You should also make sure to explore the many services Smith offers all its students, such as Disability Services — support for students with physical disabilities and learning differences (413 585-2071, TTY/TDD 585-2072); the Jacobson Center—consultation for writing, tutorial services in all fields, workshops, study skills and time management strategies; and the Spinelli Center for Quantitative Reasoning—assistance with math and quantitative skills. In addition, the Libraries have a very informative website which you can find at: <https://www.smith.edu/libraries/>.

As part of our orientation, all entering students are asked to read a book before their arrival through our *Smith Reads* program. This year's book is *We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves* by Karen Joy Fowler. More information about the reading is available in the Smith Reads section of our new students' website. See: <https://www.smith.edu/student-life/smith-reads>.

In early July you and your parents or guardian will hear from Susan Etheredge, Dean of the College. In the beginning of August you will also hear from the Office of Student Affairs about your house and room assignment.

In closing, I would again like to personally welcome you to Smith. My primary concern as your class dean is your academic progress. I am also available to you for personal advice and advice on the college in general. You can learn more about me and the Class Deans Office where I work (College Hall 101) by going to our website at: <https://www.smith.edu/about-smith/class-deans>. Our assistants can also help with questions.

Smith's mission is to *educate women of promise for lives of distinction*. Everyone at Smith is here to help you achieve that promise—and we all look forward to meeting you in the fall. In the meantime, enjoy these next few months before your first year at Smith begins.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jane M. Stangl". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Jane M. Stangl, Ph.D.
Dean of the First Year Class