About Us!

Staff Council serves as a strong voice for staff, and works to connect all members of the Smith community with one another. We have been hard at work this year hosting Staff Schmoozes and Between the Lines events, and disseminating useful information via the Staff Listserv.

And while we love hosting events, Staff Council is about much more than just activities. We have representation on a number of campus-wide committees and groups including the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation, Campus Planning Committee, Committee on Mission and Priorities, and the Committee on Sustainability. We’re also involved with Chief Diversity Officer Dwight Hamilton’s campus climate group and we work closely with HR to bring things like supervisor training and other workshops to campus.

Of course, Staff Council also has its own committees that focus on activities, communications, diversity, and personnel/policy issues. Even if you aren’t elected to Staff Council, you are invited to join one or more of these committees; you’ll have a chance to weigh in on the activities and initiatives we focus on throughout the year. To get involved, please email staffcouncil@smith.edu – we’d be happy to connect you with the appropriate committee chair.

We hope you enjoy this latest installment of the Chronicle as much as we enjoyed producing it for you. Happy reading!

Annual Human Resources Fair
November 4, 11 a.m.—4 p.m.

The Human Resources Fair is held annually in November or December during the benefits open enrollment period. Smith College benefits and retirement vendors participate in the fair and are available to answer questions and provide information about their products and services. This is a great opportunity to learn more about employee benefits and how to make changes if needed. This year, the fair will take place on November 4 in the Campus Center from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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 (chosen at random from all correct responses) on our virtual bulletin board by December 10.

(We’ll also be posting monthly contests on the bulletin board, so stay tuned for more fun!)

Smith College’s Staff Council Newsletter Fall 2015

Staff Council welcomed new members and bid farewell to outgoing members at their kickoff luncheon on May 27, 2015.
On the Screen with Malcolm Clark

An 80-plus member audience of staff, faculty, students and the community gathered in the Neilson Browsing Room on Friday, September 25 for Academy Award winning director Malcolm Clarke’s presentation of his short documentary, *The Lady in Number 6: Music Saved My Life*.

“I met Malcolm several years ago when our daughters played on the same soccer team,” said Sid Dalby, Associate Director of Admissions and Staff Council member. “After he earned the Academy Award, I thought it was worth a shot to invite him to Smith and was so pleased when he agreed.”

This event was brought about as part of the Staff Council’s *Between the Lines & On the Screen* program and was sponsored by the Issues in Diversity Committee, the Center for Religious and Spiritual Life, The Endowed Lecture Fund and Smith’s departments of Government, Music and Theater.

*The Lady in Number 6* tells the story of 109 year old Alice Herz Sommer, the world’s oldest pianist and Holocaust survivor at the time of the film’s release in 2014. Born in 1903 in Prague into an educated and cultured family, she was a celebrated international concert pianist as a young adult. In the film, she speaks without hostility or bitterness of her mother and her husband being taken away to Auschwitz by the Nazis before she and her son, Raffi, were taken in 1944 to Theresienstadt Concentration Camp. There, they were housed with other musicians and artists to be used in propaganda films. Alice and Raffi survived to see the camp liberated by the Soviets in 1945, and each lived rich lives full of music and travel until Raffi’s sudden death in 2003.

“Music saved my life, and music saves me still,” Alice says in the film. “I have lived through many wars and have lost everything many times – including my husband, my mother and my beloved son. Yet, life is beautiful, and I have so much to learn and enjoy. I have no space nor time for pessimism and hate.”

*The Lady in Number 6* is available to watch on Netflix and on the streaming service, Kanopy (to which Smith has a subscription).

Malcolm Clarke also chose the event to premiere a short film he produced, *Broken Places*. The film will be voted on by the Academy in the short documentary category and the showing at Smith was the first time it’s been viewed by an American audience.

Upcoming Events

On November 17, Staff Council’s Diversity Committee presents *The ADA at 25*: a special screening of the film, “Lives Worth Living,” a documentary chronicling the legislative battles and the groundbreaking work of disability rights activists to secure the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This 30 minute film will be followed by a Q&A session with two people who were intimately involved in the effort: Laura Rauscher, Disability Services Director, and Chris Palames, director of Independent Resources for Living. Neilson Browsing Room, 12 p.m.; a Brown Bag event.

*Between the Lines/On the Screen Program* has select-ed NYT best seller *Redefining Realness* by Janet Mock. Staff members are invited to read the book on their own and then join us for a discussion to be held in March.

The Staff Council Activities Committee will once again host the popular *Soup and Spuds* event in January. Please stay tuned as we will post the date and location soon.

The Staff Council Activities Committee hosted its annual Atkins Cider and Donuts event on October 20.
Did you know?

**Get Fit Smith**

The Get Fit Smith (GFS) program is open to the entire Smith Community on a drop in, first-come basis. With fun and relaxation in mind, they offer workshops in yoga, Pilates, “awesome abs”, strength/conditioning training, personal training, and aerobics. Visit [http://tinyurl.com/getfitsmith](http://tinyurl.com/getfitsmith) for more information.

**Outdoor Adventures**

The Outdoor Adventure program at Smith organizes fun outdoor trips throughout the school year. While some of our trips can be more challenging, most of them require no experience and are usually free. For more information, visit [http://tinyurl.com/Smithoutdoors](http://tinyurl.com/Smithoutdoors).

**A Day of Public Service for Each Employee (Section 521)**

Each employee may use one regular workday in any twelve-month period (paid by the college) to volunteer in a community service event, project, or activity in Northampton or the city or town in which he/she lives. Your community service day must be scheduled and approved in advance by your supervisor. [http://www.smith.edu/hr/handbook_521.php](http://www.smith.edu/hr/handbook_521.php)

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**Spotlight Awards Highlight Contributions of Staff**

Did you know that you can highlight a colleague for a Smith Spotlight Award at any point in the year?

Already this year, 23 employees have been nominated for a Smith College Spotlight Award. The campus annually celebrates these achievements with a reception in the spring.

The Spotlight Awards were created as a means of acknowledging and demonstrating timely appreciation and recognition for the exceptional contributions of individuals at Smith. All employees, managers, and supervisors are encouraged to nominate staff colleagues—inside or outside their departments—by submitting a Spotlight Award Nomination Form (which can be found on Smith’s Human Resources website).

In addition to recognition from their colleagues, Spotlight Award recipients receive a small monetary bonus and are eligible for a grand prize drawing at the reception in May. The Spotlight Award period runs from April 1 to March 31 each year.

**Items of Note from Staff Council’s Personnel Policy Committee:**

- Open staff searches are posted at [https://smithcollege.hiretouch.com/](https://smithcollege.hiretouch.com/). The page is updated on Fridays.
- HR offers skill/training advice at any time for staff interested in switching or advancing career paths.
- HR’s new training workshops for supervisors will be offered again in the future, open to all employees who currently supervise staff or would be interested in gaining those skills.
- Staff Council encourages all staff to participate in (and show up for!) the regular development workshops. If there’s a topic or skill you’re interested in that isn’t offered, let us know!

**Thanksgiving Match Program Going Strong**

The Office of Student Affairs is inviting all staff to participate in its 6th annual Thanksgiving Day Match program. Through the program, students and hosts are matched-up to share a meal at the staff person’s family gathering on Thanksgiving day. Student Affairs hopes the program will serve as a cultural and educational opportunity for everyone, while filling a need for Smith students who remain on campus during the holiday.

“We enjoyed hosting two students last year,” said Donna Lisker, Dean of the College and Vice President for Campus Life. “It was a snowy Thanksgiving and they got to build a snowman with my daughters! Sharing our traditions and learning about theirs made for a wonderful holiday.”

Vice President for Enrollment Audrey Smith agrees, saying, “We’ve hosted Smith students for several years at our home in Amherst and it always enlivens our holiday celebration. We have college-aged kids home for the holidays, some relatives and friends who stop by and the Smith students have been welcome additions to the somewhat chaotic celebration. It has become a cherished part of our holiday!”

If you would like to participate as a host for the day, please go to: [http://bit.ly/tGlmMN](http://bit.ly/tGlmMN). The submission deadline this year is November 20. For more info, please email Jan Morris at jmorris@smith.edu.
Calling All Poets!

Most poets have day jobs. Wallace Stevens worked in insurance. William Carlos Williams was a doctor. Poetry, while intellectually, emotionally and spiritually rewarding, isn’t always the most lucrative career path.

Poets can be found in many diverse areas of colleges. Yes, some work as teachers, but they also work as librarians, accountants, in foodservice, in tech. Since Spring 2013, Jen Blackburn, Administrative Assistant at the Poetry Center, has hosted a series of poetry readings to showcase faculty and staff poets working on campus.

A number of fine poets have already read, including Gail Thomas, Naila Moreira, Maya Janson, Karen Kukil, Marlene Znoy, and Floyd Cheung. Jen will be reading (for the second time in the series) this year, along with Andrea Stone of the English department.

Whether you have published one collection or several, are working on getting a first book published or have had your poems featured in journals and magazines, or if you write primarily for yourself and your loved ones, Jen wants to hear from you.

If you’re interested in getting involved, please send a 3-5 page sample of your writing to jblackbu@smith.edu, or you can stop by Wright 102 with any questions.

Contact us

Staff Council webpages: smith.edu/staffcouncil
Staff Council Virtual Bulletin Board: smith.edu/staffcouncil/bulletin.php
Facebook: facebook.com/SmithStaffCouncil
Staff Council email: staffcouncil@smith.edu
Chronicle email: chronicle@smith.edu

Sign up for the Staff Listserv: go to http://tinyurl.com/q7w6qdr, click on the blue “Join Group” button, choose your email preferences and click “Join Group.”

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