There are many ways you can communicate with us.
Questions, comments or ideas are always welcome!

E-MAIL: staffcouncil@smith.edu
THE WEB: www.smith.edu/staffcouncil
CAMPUS MAIL: Send to the Staff Council Box in Central Services.
TELEPHONE OR IN PERSON: See the Staff Council roster above.
STAFF COUNCIL INVITED COMMUNITY EVENTS

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For more information about the discount program, visit
www.smith.edu/staffcouncil/discount_page.html

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Art on the Road
Again Thanks to the Road Staff

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Inside...
Chronicle

To our readers:
Do you have an opinion about this newsletter? If so, please respond to the following questions and or give us additional, general feedback. If you’d like to respond on paper, use the space below, then photocopy or tear off this page and return to the current coeds or Eric Weld or Patty Hayes, in Garrison Hall, or to Kristen Abrams, chair of Staff Council’s Communications subcommittee, in Nelson Library. (If you’d like to respond via e-mail, please contact us at eweld@smith.edu or pahayes@smith.edu.) Thank you!

1. Do you read most printed issues of The Council Chronicle?  □ Yes  □ No

2. Do you find the information useful?  □ Yes  □ No  Interesting?  □ Yes  □ No

3. How often would you prefer to receive a 12-page newsletter?  □ 3 times per calendar year  □ once each semester

4. Would you prefer to receive two pages of information on a monthly schedule?  □ Yes  □ No

5. Is there anything you would like to know about staff or Staff Council that you’re not finding in The Council Chronicle?

6. Would you prefer to see this newsletter published on:  □ the Web only  □ paper only  □ both  Why?

7. Are you interested in writing for The Council Chronicle?  □ Yes  □ No  (If yes, please write your name below.)

8. Are you interested in serving as a coeditor for The Council Chronicle?  □ Yes  □ No  (If yes, please write your name below.)

9. Is there anything else you would like us to know?

Name (optional):

Please respond by June 1, 2002. Your opinion is important to us. Thank you!
What is Staff Council?

"The mission of the Smith College Staff Council is to give members of the administrative, administrative support and service staff a focused and direct involvement in the governance of non-academic affairs and in the life of the Smith College community.

The Staff Council will ensure participation of staff in the policy-making process, promote visibility of staff as valuable members of the Smith community, and facilitate a sense of belonging within the community. The Council will actively seek to involve all segments of the College’s diverse staff in the College’s decision-making process."

Mission Statement, Staff Council Charter

In 1991, elected staff delegates attended the Staff Council Convention. The change in the convention was to draft a staff council charter acceptable to staff and the president. After many drafts and much discussion, the Smith College Staff Council was born with its first elections held in 1992.

Over the years, the charter has been revised to change elected membership to 25. It has introduced staggered two year terms, and reduced the number of original standing committees to five (Steering, Nominations & Elections, Communications, Activities, Personnel Policy). The committees are an exceptional vehicle for dealing with community issues and are composed of elected, appointed and general members.

Staff Council has been involved in the two most recent presidential searches. In 1994, Staff Council was invited to offer staff input in the search process for President Ruth Simmons. Shortly after her arrival on campus in the summer of 1995, members expressed a desire to President Simmons for staff representation on policy-making committees. In 1996, President Simmons asked Staff Council to recommend a staff member for appointment to serve on the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA). Since then, Staff Council has continued to make strides toward further inclusion on college committees, including building planning and project committees, CCCP, mission and priorities, and hiring searches (for a new Human Resources director and ombudsperson). In 2001, two staff members (one who happened to be chair of Staff Council) were invited to serve as full members on the search committee for the new president of Smith College. Staff Council has worked in partnership over the years with the college to encourage such changes as flexible work schedules, discounted medical coverage, family sick leave, long-term care insurance, employee recognition programs and improved collegewide communication about issues that affect employees.

We on the Council look forward to continuing this work with President Carol T. Christ to improve the life of the college.

Over the last three years Staff Council has unanimously voted to return to its roots by promoting diversity as one of our organizational priorities. We have organized specialized diversity/problem-solving/leadership group training for all members. With training, the Council is in a unique position, as a cross-departmental staff group, to act as a resource and partner in building a truly diverse, respectful, engaged, and productive Smith community. This is part of the leadership role of Staff Council.

This is just a short history of Staff Council. The current members celebrate its history and welcome and look forward to working with the Smith community to create a positive future for staff and for the college.

This article was written by Scott Girard, Cindy Rucci, Amy Holch, Bill Sheehan and Patty Kimma.

Time For a Change

For three years as editors of The Chronicle, we have attempted to reflect and comment on the concerns, contemporary issues, achievements and interests of Smith’s diverse and dependable staff members.

From stories on how to best invest your retirement savings and keep safe on campus to interviews with the college presidents and profiles on Smith personnel, we have tried to provide the most interesting and pertinent information possible to the Smith community in a readable, increasingly attractive design. While doing so, we have also concentrated on including people from different segments of the Smith community in writing articles and submitting story ideas for the publication to consistently demonstrate that the newsletter is a community effort.

We hope we have succeeded in anticipating and answering the community’s questions and curiosities while improving the newsletter’s quality as a vehicle for news and information of interest to Smith employees.

Now we feel it’s time to turn over the reins of The Chronicle and give our attention to other projects. It is our hope that in the process, the newsletter, under fresh leadership, will continue serving the needs of Smith’s staff and other readers.

For these last three years, one of the editors of The Chronicle has served as a member of Staff Council and as a member of the council’s communications subcommittee. That arrangement is likely to continue in the coming years. Soon Staff Council will elect new members and will organize new subcommittees. In June the new communications subcommittee will begin discussions about the publication’s future. (Please note the survey on page 11.)

We welcome the opportunity to consult with the new editors of The Chronicle as they take the publication in their own direction and we wish the best of luck to our successors.

Thank you to our readers for their loyalty, their feedback and support during the past three years. Enjoy this, our last edition.
Eventually, You’ll Deal With Her

By SID DALBY

I

t matter what type of event it is, from a jam-packed hip-hop concert in John M. Greene Hall to a quiet meeting of the board of a nonprofit company in an obscure corner room, if it’s on campus, chances are Kathy San Antonio had something to do with it.

Kathy’s is the helpful, cheerful voice you hear when you call extension 2162. Since September 2000, when she joined the Smith community as College Events Coordinator, Kathy has been the one helping us book rooms on campus and plan our events.

As part of her job, Kathy is responsible for taking room reservations for Neilson Browsing Room; Wright and Dewey common rooms; Seeley 207 (Fiscally Lounge); Davis Balfour; John M. Greene Hall; Mary Maples Dunn Conference Room; Emerson Guest Suite; Duckett special dining rooms; and classrooms, including Bass, Jahnke and Seeley 212/411 computer labs, on Tuesday and Friday evenings and on weekends.

For many of us, it’s tough enough to juggle our own appointments and engagements at Smith and at home. Can you imagine making thousands of arrangements a year for rooms, set up and publicity for all academic and administrative departments as well as students?

For Kathy, that means a lot of organization. When not working, Kathy designs beaded earrings, necklaces and bracelets and sells them at the Fall Festival held every October in Ashfield, where she lives. One of her necklaces, and a watercolor and drawing by her, were displayed this year’s Staff Visions art exhibit, which was held last month in the Book Arts Gallery on the third floor of Neilson.

Before coming to Smith, Kathy worked at UMass, in the Office of Commercial Ventures and Intellectual Property, at Beth Israel-Deaconess Medical Center in Boston and as the surgery scheduler at East Bay Surgery Center in Oakland, CA.

When I interviewed Kathy in January, I could tell that she is committed to having a smooth, realistic system in operation. She's passionate about her work and her frustrations seem to stem only from other people's frustrations. So, to minimize those frustrations, here are some tips from Kathy to make the room reservation process go as smoothly as possible:

- Provide clear, accurate information. Before calling or sending email, know the correct date and start/end times of your event, thereby avoiding the need for multiple follow-up messages. Helpful hint: if you leave a message for Kathy requesting that she book Wright Common Room on Friday, March 21, for example, she must get back to you to clarify if you want the room on Thursday, March 21, or Friday, March 22.

From 1942 until she retired in 1965, Griscom retained all three titles, referring to them collectively in a March 4, 1959, letter to President Thomas C. Mendenhall, as “a three-ring circus, and the most exciting job at Smith College!” It was Griscom, with assistance from historian Mary Ritter Beech, who shifted the focus of the Women’s Collection from a literary repository to a women’s history archive.

Griscom worked tirelessly and tactfully, traveling to five continents to meet with key women and to bring back materials for the Sophia Smith Collection. Upon her retirement, the FSCL established the Margaret Storrs Griscom Endowed Fund for the maintenance and development of the Sophia Smith Collection and College Archives. She was awarded the Smith College Medal in 1968, and passed away on December 11, 1997, at age 97.

In the last three decades, the FSCL has continued to provide invaluable support to staff and patrons of the Libraries, helping to fund staff positions and student internships, and providing off-campus training opportunities for library employees through professional development grants. The group has come to the Libraries’ aid in times of crisis, providing replacement books and monetary assistance in 1975, for example, when Neilson Library’s Seeley Reading Room (now the Main Room) sustained heavy fire damage. As the Libraries grew in the 1970s and 80s, the FSCL provided part of the funding to renovate and expand Neilson Library and Alumnae Gymnasium. The Friends has generously purchased special materials and needed equipment, such as the complete works of Shakespeare on CD-ROM, Illiad software used by Interlibrary Loan staff, microfiche readers/printers, the Vert Plus software for the Kurzweil system (allowing visually impaired patrons to have voice-activated access to the online public catalogue) and much more.

An endowed fund established by Anne Morrow Lindbergh ’28 provides fresh flowers for the Browsing Room. The Library Technology Fund, established by Marjorie Lambert ’59 provides the libraries with “the feasibility necessary to respond quickly to changing technologies and provide an optimal learning climate in the 21st century!” The FSCL also funds book purchases in honor of graduating student library workers, exhibitions, poetry readings and other literary events, preservation initiatives, and publication of original materials from the Libraries collection.

To become a member of the Friends of the Smith College Libraries, contact Mary Irwin, executive assistant for Library Gifts and Development, at extension 2903 or mirwin@smit.edu.
Friends of the Smith College Libraries: The First 60 Years

February was Library Lovers’ Month, an annual celebration created by library supporters to recognize the value of libraries and to work toward assuring their continued success. Suitably, that month also marked the 60th anniversary of the Friends of the Smith College Libraries (FSCL), an organization that over the years has helped provide books, archival materials, special equipment and much-needed funding to the four campus libraries and the college's renowned special collections.

In 1934, Grace Fuller, class of 1903 and the serials librarian at Yale University, made an informal suggestion that Smith form a Friends organization. Fuller knew of similar groups at men's universities and other Seven Sisters colleges and thought Smith could benefit by forming its own. Unfortunately for Fuller, the Board of Trustees at the time was only interested in researching a formal business plan for such a group, something she had neither the time nor the inclination to pursue.

Despite gentle but persistent prodding from the college librarian, Fuller did nothing until 1941, when she approached a friend on the Committee on the Resources of the College. The committee met that June and soon the proposal found a champion in President Herbert Davis. Fuller's suggestion to form a Friends group complemented Davis' desire to establish a library "treasure room" to house rare books and manuscripts as well as his interest in starting a special collection of books written by women, all of which Davis proposed to the Alumnae Association.

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Once the Friends was established, Davis decided that it should take on as a special project the collection of women writers. Margaret Storme Gristom '22, who became the college archivist in 1940 after teaching in the philosophy department of the college for a decade, was given the additional appointments of executive secretary of the FSCL and director of the Women's Collection (later renamed the Sophia Smith Collection at her suggestion).

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So when you're ready—when you've gathered all the pertinent information and are ready to move ahead in planning your next event—give Kathy the friendly voice at ext. 2162.

Art on the Road...

Continued from page 1

A Tourist in Italy

I departed early in the morning to pick up the drawings at the off-campus warehouse where they were stored, then traveled by truck to the Newark Airport. After the crates of drawings were prepared for loading, I spent the day waiting for the overnight flight to Rome. In Rome, the crates were cleared at the airport (with the assistance of an Italian customs broker) and taken by truck to Florence, three hours away.

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I spent a couple days as a tourist in Florence and a weekend in Rome before returning to Northampton. David returned to Florence in early January for the de-installation and the shipping of the exhibition to its third and final venue, the Fundación "la Caixa" in Madrid, Spain. It opens there in April as a somewhat expanded version with a number of additional drawings.

While the show was in Florence, the Tyrcon Associates, the museum's upper-level membership group, enjoyed a special few days of exclusive museum tours (including a private viewing of the SCMA show), visits to private collections, and festive lunches and dinners. Susannah Fashing participated in this gala excursion.

After ending their respective travels, all the art works will come back to Smith's refurbished galleries for next year's grand reopening. Our collective energy is now focusing on reinstalling the museum, preparing exciting new programs and publications and the gala events that will take place in spring 2003. While we will have enjoyed two-and-a-half years "on the road" with the exhibitions, we will be relieved to have everything—and everyone—safely back home.
Mentoring Program
A Success
BY CAM KELLY '84

At an August 2000 staff retreat, colleagues in advancement brainstormed about how to build community, welcome new staff and keep abreast of each others' efforts in a department that is large, physically fractured and experiences turnover as a norm within the industry. Considering the suggestions that were offered, one stood out as a frequent mention and one that could be initiated immediately. That idea was a mentor/mentee effort.

A small group got together to outline the structure for the program. We decided that the emphasis should be on an opportunity for everyone, regardless of position or years of service, that it was voluntary, and that efforts should be conducted on work time. We pitched it as a pilot program that would be relatively small in scope, but one that could grow and continue over time if it was a success. In order to make the pilot manageable, we offered mentor/mentee opportunities in six "skills" areas: Smith and its Culture (perfect for new employees); Front-line Fund-raising; Strengthening your Writing Skills; Public Speaking; Event Planning; and Surfing the Web.

The pilot was proposed via e-mail and, fortunately, both willing mentors and mentees wanted to participate. We matched those who were willing to share knowledge with those who wanted to be mentored, checking first to make sure that the pairings were appropriate. Some of the areas worked well for one-on-one meetings (i.e. Front-line Fund-raising and Smith and its Culture) while others were approached as a group effort with a single mentor (Public Speaking and Surfing the Web).

After about six weeks, when initial meetings had taken place, we asked for feedback on the pilot to evaluate it and decide whether to continue or expand it. The conclusion was that it was a success so far in:

- introducing colleagues who didn't know each other well
- sharing information on the Smith culture
- welcoming new employees
- and enjoying our work more!

Mentees were effusive in their praise of their mentors, with everyone reporting very positive feedback on what they'd gained so far. The bottom line was that mentors indicated that the effort encouraged them to really think about how they do their work and how to share good ideas and practices.

The unanimous support for this pilot program, the Advancement team plans to continue with a mentor/mentee effort. We hope that the future will bring new skills areas to the program and will continue to appeal to the department broadly.

Of Woolf and Wales
Or How I Spent Last Summer

Last June I presented a paper at the University of Wales at the 11th Annual Conference on Virginia Woolf.

My interest in Woolf, one of the most important figures in modern literature, began with a seminar at Smith in 1990 during my final semester as an Ada Comstock Scholar. I had worked extensively at that time on Woolf's first novel, The Voyage Out, finding myths of immortality and allusions to life beyond death hidden within the text. I always wanted to do something more with my work. But for several years, I had put it aside, literally, relegated to the pile of papers in my bedroom to get back to "someday." Meanwhile, I stayed on a mailing list.

"Someday" came last year with the annual call for papers for the conference, serendipitously called "Voyages Out, Voyages Home." I sent a proposal and was thrilled to receive an acceptance. My former professor, Elizabeth von Klemperer, kindly assisted me with the written paper, my colleague in advancement, Merrilyn Lewis, coached me on the verbal presentation, and my friends served as readers and advisors.

For the first time the conference would be held outside the United States at the University of Wales. Visiting the UK, I wanted to steep myself in as much of Virginia Woolf's life as possible. I flew with friends to London and stayed in Bloomsbury, the neighborhood where Woolf, her relatives and friends—the prominent British artists, writers, intellectuals and radicals known as the Bloomsbury group—had lived, worked and loved. This fascinating neighborhood is filled with bookstores, cafés, pubs, interesting shops and lovely green squares and it is the home of the British Museum. I stood in the doorways of the townhouses that Woolf had lived in, sat on the benches of Gordon Square where she had talked at length with friends and took a train through the magnificent Sussex countryside to visit Monk's House, her country home in the tiny, untouched village of Rodmell. I photographed her house, her gardens, her gravestone and even the River Cucke where Woolf had drowned in 1941, a suicide.

Traveling to Wales for the conference through farmland and along the coast felt magical. Along the way we passed the occasional stone farmhouse or the remains of a castle built in the 12th Century. The country seemed to echo with the sounds of the ancient, mystical Celtic people and the Druids.

Arriving at the University of Wales at Bangor, I met up with two colleagues from home who were also presenting papers: Karen Kukul, associate curator of Smith's Mortimer Rare Book Room; and Marilyn Smith, a Five College Associate. Karen, Marilyn and I also had some good news to announce: Smith College had just approved our proposal to hold the conference on our own campus in 2003.

I delivered my paper on the first day of the conference, trying to convey something of the spiritual essence that I believe Virginia Woolf had felt in writing her first novel. I also presented a new perspective on her death.

My paper was well-received by the community of scholars at the conference, and I've continued my Woolf/Bloomsbury pursuits independently. Karen Kukul and Marilyn Smith both made excellent presentations, and since then we have been working together to bring Bloomsbury to Smith next year through a number of events.

The 13th Annual Conference on Virginia Woolf will be held on campus from June 5 through 8, 2003, showcasing Smith College's extraordinary collections of Virginia Woolf's correspondence and manuscripts, as well as Bloomsbury paintings. Smith's new president, Carol Christ, a Victorian scholar, will open the conference.

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Finally at the Uffizi, we found that the crates were too large for the elevators, so they had to be hand-carried up the museum’s vast flight of stairs. David Dempsey stayed in Florence to oversee the installation; Ann Stevens, who had worked at the Uffizi many years ago, was also on hand and helped overcome the language barrier.

I spent a couple days as a tourist in Florence and a weekend in Rome before returning to Northampton. David returned to Florence in early January for the de-installation and the shipping of the exhibition to its third and final venue, the Fundación "la Caixa" in Madrid, Spain. It opens there in April as a somewhat expanded version with a number of additional drawings.

While the show was in Florence, the Tyrcon Associates, the museum’s upper-level membership group, enjoyed a special few days of exclusive museum tours (including a private viewing of the SCMA show), visits to private collections, and festive lunches and dinners. Suzanne Fanning participated in this gala excursion.

After ending their respective travels, all the art works will come back to Smith’s refurbished galleries for next year’s grand reopening. Our collective energy is now focusing on reinstalling the museum, preparing exciting new programs and publications and the gala events that will take place in spring 2003. While we will have enjoyed two-and-a-half years “on the road” with the exhibitions, we will be relieved to have everything—and everyone—safely back home.
Eventually, You'll Deal With Her

BY SID DALBY

No matter what type of event it is, from a jam-packed hip-hop concert in John M. Greene Hall to a quiet meeting of the board of a nonprofit company in an obscure corner room, if it's on campus, chances are Kathy San Antonio had something to do with it.

Kathy's the helpful, cheerful voice you hear when you call extension 2162. Since September 2000, when she joined the Smith community as College Events Coordinator, Kathy has been the one helping us book rooms on campus and plan our events.

As part of her job, Kathy is responsible for making room reservations for Nelson Browsing Room; Wright and Dewey common rooms; Seeley 207 (Fiscally Lounge); Davis ballroom; John M. Greene Hall; Mary Maple's Dunn Conference Room; Emerson Guest Suite; Duckett special dining rooms; and classrooms, including Bass, Jahnke and Seeley 212/411 computer labs, on Tuesday and Friday evenings and on weekends.

For many of us, it's tough enough to juggle our own appointments and engagements at Smith and at home. Can you imagine making thousands of arrangements a year for rooms, set up and publicity for all academic and administrative departments as well as students?

For Kathy, that means a lot of organization. When not working, Kathy designs bead earrings, necklaces and bracelets and sells them at the Fall Festival held every October in Ashfield, where she lives. One of her necklaces, and a watercolor and drawing by her, were displayed at this year's Staff Visions art exhibit, which was held last month in the Book Arts Gallery on the third floor of Nelson.

Before coming to Smith, Kathy worked at UMass, in the Office of Commercial Ventures and Intellectual Property, at Beth Israel-Deaconess Medical Center in Boston and as the surgery scheduler at East Bay Surgery Center in Oakland, CA.

When I interviewed Kathy in January, I could tell that she is committed to having a smooth, realistic system in operation. She's passionate about her work and her frustrations seem to stem only from other people's frustrations. So, to minimize those frustrations, here are some tips from Kathy to make the room reservation process go as smoothly as possible:

- Provide clear, accurate information. Before calling or sending email, know the correct date and start/end times of your event, thereby avoiding the need for multiple follow-up messages. Helpful hint: if you leave a message for Kathy requesting that she book Wright Common Room on Friday, March 21, for example, she must get back to you to clarify if you want the room on Thursday, March 21, or Friday, March 22.

From 1942 until she retired in 1965, Grierson retained all three titles, referring to them collectively in a March 4, 1959, letter to President Thomas C. Mendenhall, as "a three-ring circus, and the most exciting job at Smith College!"

It was Grierson, with assistance from historian Mary Ritter Becht, who shifted the focus of the Women's Collection from a literary repository to a women's history archive.

Grierson worked tirelessly and tactfully, traveling to five continents to meet with key women and to bring back materials for the Sophia Smith Collection. Upon her retirement, the FSCL established the Margaret Storr Grierson Endowed Fund for the maintenance and development of the Sophia Smith Collection and College Archives. She was awarded the Smith College Medal in 1968, and passed away on December 12, 1997, at age 97.

In the last three decades, the FSL has continued to provide invaluable support to staff and patrons of the Libraries, helping to fund staff positions and student internships, and providing off-campus training opportunities for library employees through professional development grants. The group has come to the Libraries' aid in times of crisis, providing replacement books and monetary assistance in 1975, for example, when Nelson Library's Seeley Reading Room (now the Main Room) sustained heavy fire damage. As the Libraries grew in the 1970s and '80s, the FSCL provided part of the funding to renovate and expand Nelson Library and Alumni Gymnasium. The Friends has generously purchased special materials and needed equipment, such as the complete works of Shakespeare on CD-ROM, ILIAD software used by Interlibrary Loan staff, microfiche reader/printers, the Vert Plus software for the Kurzweil system (allowing visually impaired patrons to have voice-activated access to the online public catalogue) and much more.

An endowed fund established by Anne Morrow Lindbergh '28 provides fresh flowers for the Browsing Room. The Library Technology Fund, established by Marjorie Lemberg '59 provides the libraries with "the feasibility necessary to respond quickly to changing technologies and provide an optimal learning climate in the 21st century." The FSCL also funds book purchases in honor of graduating student library workers, exhibitions, poetry readings and other literary events, preservation initiatives, and publication of original materials from the Libraries' collection.

To become a member of the Friends of the Smith College Libraries, contact Mary Irwin, executive assistant for Library Gifts and Development, at extension 2903 or miswin@smith.edu.
What is Staff Council?

The mission of the Smith College Staff Council is to give members of the administrative, administrative support and service staff a focused and direct involvement in the governance of non-academic affairs and in the life of the Smith College community.

The Staff Council will ensure participation of staff in the policy-making process, promote visibility of staff as valuable members of the Smith community, and facilitate a sense of belonging within the community. The Council will actively seek to involve all segments of the College’s diverse staff in the College’s decision-making process.

Mission Statement, Staff Council Charter

In 1991, elected staff delegates attended the Staff Council Convention. The change of the convention was to draft a staff council charter acceptable to staff and the president. After many drafts and much discussion, the Smith College Staff Council was born with its first elections held in 1992.

Over the years, the charter has been revised to change elected membership to 25. It has introduced staggered two-year terms, and reduced the number of original standing committees to five (Steering, Nominations & Elections, Communications, Activities, Personnel Policy). The committees are an exceptional vehicle for dealing with community issues and are composed of elected, appointed and general members.

Staff Council has been involved in the two most recent presidential searches. In 1994, Staff Council was invited to offer staff input in the search process for President Ruth Simmons. Shortly after her arrival on campus in the summer of 1995, members expressed a desire to President Simmons for staff representation on policy-making committees. In 1996, President Simmons asked Staff Council to recommend a staff member for appointment to serve on the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA). Since then, Staff Council has continued to make strides toward further inclusion on college committees, including building planning and project committees, CCCP, mission and priorities, and hiring searches (for a new Human Resources director and ombudsman). In 2001, two staff members (one who happened to be chair of Staff Council) were invited to serve as full members on the search committee for the new president of Smith College. Staff Council has worked in partnership over the years with the college to encourage such changes as flexible work schedules, discounted medical coverage, family sick leave, long-term care insurance, employee recognition programs and improved collegewide communication about issues that affect employees. We on the Council look forward to continuing this work with President Carol T. Christ to improve the life of the college.

Over the past three years Staff Council has unanimously voted to return to its roots by promoting diversity as one of its organizational priorities. We have organized specialized diversity/problem-solving/leadership group training for all members. With training, the Council is in a unique position, as a cross-departmental staff group, to act as a resource and partner in building a truly diverse, respectful, engaged and productive Smith community. This is a part of the leadership role of Staff Council.

This is just a short history of Staff Council. The current members celebrate its history and welcome and look forward to working with the Smith community to create a positive future for staff and for the college.

This article was written by Scott Girard, Cindy Rucci, Amy Holch, Bill Shehan and Patty Kimura.

Time For a Change

For three years as editors of The Chronicle, we have attempted to reflect and comment on the concerns, contemporary issues, achievements and interests of Smith’s diverse and dependable staff members.

From stories on how to best invest your retirement savings and keep safe on campus to interviews with the college presidents and profiles on Smith personnel, we have tried to provide the most interesting and pertinent information possible to the Smith community in a readable, increasingly attractive design. While doing so, we have also concentrated on including people from different segments of the Smith community in writing articles and submitting story ideas for the publication to consistently demonstrate that the newsletter is a community effort.

We hope we have succeeded in anticipating and answering the community’s questions and curiosities while improving the newsletter’s quality as a vehicle for news and information of interest to Smith employees.

Now we feel it’s time to turn over the reins of The Chronicle and give our attention to other projects. It is our hope that in the process, the newsletter, under fresh leadership, will continue serving the needs of Smith’s staff and other readers.

For these last three years, one of the editors of The Chronicle has served as a member of Staff Council and as a member of the council’s communications subcommittee. That arrangement is likely to continue in the coming years. Soon Staff Council will elect new members and will organize new subcommittees. In June the new communications subcommittee will begin discussions about the publication’s future. (Please note the survey on page 11.)

We welcome the opportunity to consult with the new editors of The Chronicle as they take the publication in their own direction and we wish the best of luck to our successors.

Thank you to our readers for their loyalty, their feedback and support during the past three years. Enjoy this, our last edition.
News and more for the Smith College community

The Council Chronicle is funded by the Smith College Staff Council and is published two times a year, in the fall and spring, by and for the staff of Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts. The Chronicle is distributed to staff, faculty and college trustees.

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DESIGN PATTY HAYES
PRINTING CENTRAL SERVICES

Editors:
PATTY HAYES
phayes@email.smith.edu
Garrison Hall, ext. 2370

ERIC WELD
eveld@email.smith.edu
Garrison Hall, ext. 3170

Staff are encouraged to contact the editors to offer story ideas and/or writing services. Copy deadlines are set on an assignment basis. Letters-To-The-Editor are also encouraged and should include name and campus address. The Chronicle reserves the right to edit material for clarity and length.

For more information about Staff Council, or the Smith College discount program, visit
www.smith.edu/staffcouncil

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Survey

To our readers:
Do you have an opinion about this newsletter? If so, please respond to the following questions and/or give us additional general feedback. If you'd like to respond on paper, use the space below, then photocopy or tear off this page and return to the current coordinators, Eric Weld or Patty Hayes, in Garrison Hall, or to Cristen Abrams, chair of Staff Council's Communications Subcommittee, in Neilson Library. (If you'd like to respond via e-mail, please contact us at eweld@email.smith.edu, phayes@email.smith.edu and/or cabrams@email.smith.edu.) Thank you!

1. Do you read most printed issues of The Council Chronicle? □ Yes □ No

2. Do you find the information useful? □ Yes □ No □ Interesting? □ Yes □ No

3. How often would you prefer to receive a 12-page newsletter? □ 3 times per calendar year □ once each semester

4. Would you prefer to receive two pages of information on a monthly schedule? □ Yes □ No

5. Is there anything you would like to know about staff or Staff Council that you're not finding in The Council Chronicle?

6. Would you prefer to see this newsletter published on: □ the Web only □ paper only □ both Why?

7. Are you interested in writing for The Council Chronicle? □ Yes □ No (If yes, please write your name below.)

8. Are you interested in serving as a coeditor for The Council Chronicle? □ Yes □ No (If yes, please write your name below.)

9. Is there anything else you would like us to know?

Name (optional):

Please respond by June 1, 2002. Your opinion is important to us. Thank you!
Art on the Road Again
Thanks to the Efforts of the Museum Staff

Long before the museum closed at the end of 1999 for renovations and expansion as part of the fine arts complex construction project, planning was under way for tours of their collections to be displayed in museums in the United States and abroad. Several staff and faculty members have combined efforts to make possible an extensive tour of some of the museum’s best pieces. Suzannah Fabyng, director of and chief curator at the Museum of Art, and Linda Muellig, curator and associate director, first spent three months corresponding with their colleagues at other museums. Their work resulted in an ambitious travel schedule for many of Smith’s best-known and most-loved works of art.

Some of the finest American prounes and sculpture have toured during the past two years as part of American Spectrum: Paintings and Sculpture from the Smith College Museum of Art, which opened at Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa, in February 2000. Since then, it’s been to New York City, Houston, Palm Beach, Philadelphia, and Rochester, New York.

Come to Picazzo: European Masterworks from the Smith College Museum of Art, which includes some of the museum’s most famous paintings, by Monet, Degas, Picasso and Seurat, also began its travels in February 2000 at the Indianapolis Museum of Art. It’s since traveled to Iowa, Florida, California and Texas. It’s tour will conclude in Seattle late this summer.

Each host venue has hosted museum events, receptions, openings, lectures and gallery talks in conjunction with the exhibitions. Fabing has attended many of the events and Muellig has virtually become an ambassador for the college, traveling to the venues, speaking on the exhibitions and meeting alumnae. Also, John Davis, Alice Pratt Brown Professor of Art, has lectured in conjunction American Spectrum in several cities.

Louis Laplante, registrar at the museum, has supervised the complicated shipping arrangements of art works. When an exhibition closes at each museum, for example, Laplante or another staff member must present to check the condition of the works and oversee packing.

Last summer, the third major traveling exhibition, Master Drawings from the Collection of the Smith College Museum of Art, kicked off. It opened at the Frick Collection in New York in June, where former assistant curator Ann H. Sievers, the principal author of the recent catalogue of Smith’s master drawings, lectured. A special event at the Frick for Smith alumnae, at which Fabing lectured, drew a sellout audience in July.

The drawings show traveled to the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, Italy, in the fall. David Dempsey, associate director of museum services, left with part of the exhibition in early October; I left the next day with the rest.

continued on page 5